

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, January 29, 2014, for the purpose of a City Manager Update.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:03 p.m. It was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager, Jeff Williams, City Treasurer and David Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Molly Lester and Bill Orleans.

December Monthly Financial Report

Mr. McLaughlin stated that revenues for Fiscal Year 2014 were running a little behind and expenses were running a little ahead of last year. The main cause for the lower revenues was lower property tax receipts. There was discussion of abatements and Mr. McLaughlin noted that to date, there had not been significant abatements. He noted that income tax receipts were up slightly.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that expenditures were being driven by retirement payouts and police cars. There was discussion of the fund balance. Council asked about the retirement payouts and requested more information on retirement payouts. Several Council Members wanted to be careful about making any changes to employee benefits.

Monthly Capital Projects Update

Ms. Pope asked about the Belle Point playground project. Mr. Moran responded that the grant application had been submitted and this was a Fiscal Year 2015 project. In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Mr. Moran provided an update on the Springhill Lake Recreation Center renovation project.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Preview

Mr. McLaughlin stated there was good news on Highway User Funding because the Governor's proposed budget had the same funding level as Fiscal Year 2014. He noted that this was the 2nd year of the triennial assessment process and revenues were likely to remain flat. Mr. McLaughlin expected there to be pressure on the Capital Funds budget due to several significant projects (theater renovation, lake dam repair phase 1, pedestrian/bike plan recommendations).

Mayor Jordan noted shifts in the office park tenants and asked about the vacancy rate. Mr. McLaughlin was hopeful that the office vacancy rate would be down and cited Capital Office Park's recent success as an example.

Mr. Putens asked if there was something the City could do to help a vacant office building such as a short-term tax exemption.

Ms. Mach suggested that the City seek State bond bill funding for the lake dam repair project.

Council Action Request Update

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the memo dated 1/22/14 with Council. Council was updated on the status of each item.

Goals/Priorities from 1/15/14

Council reviewed the listing of goals they identified at the January 15, 2014 work session. These will be considered in preparation of the FY 2015 Budget.

Top Ten List

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed this list with Council.

Informational Items

Mayor Davis asked about her budget suggestions distributed at the final budget work session last May. Mayor Jordan reminded Council about the 4-Cities meeting on January 30.

The meeting ended at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*