

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 25, 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development; Robert Manzi, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti and for the workers who have been rendering assistance. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session #2, October 14, 2009

Interviews, January 11, 2010

Work Session, January 13, 2010

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Report #09-4 (Change in Contribution/Recognition Groups Budget Form and Review Process): Council accepted this report and requested a work session with the Park and Recreation Advisory Board be scheduled.

Advisory Committee on Trees, Report #2010-1 (Tree Damage from Labor Day Festival):

Council accepted this report and agreed to place it on the agenda of a future meeting. They also requested a copy of the report be forwarded to the Labor Day Festival Committee.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on their respective advisory groups:

Steven Gilbert	Board of Elections
Pamela Gregory	Board of Elections
Donna Hoffmeister	Forest Preserve Advisory Board
Franklin Noll	Forest Preserve Advisory Board
Betty Timer	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Leah Warner	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested "Council Reports" and "Secondary School Reform and Boundary Hearings" be added to the agenda. Ms. Mach requested "Earth Hour" be added to the agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Census 2010 Briefing: Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, briefed Council on recent meetings with the U.S. Census Bureau and the organization of the Greenbelt Complete Count Committee to help with outreach to the community for a complete census count. She explained the Complete Count Committee will provide assistance in a variety of ways including: hosting a census assistance center where census employees are available to help residents with census forms; helping local schools promote the census with the Census in Schools program; posting information advertising the upcoming census in public buildings and on the City website; identifying hard to count populations; and including short census presentations during meetings.

Ms. Craze stated that all households will receive the same census form, which has only 10 questions and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. She emphasized the importance of obtaining a complete census count, not only for legislative districting purposes but for the distribution of monies to the City and other levels of governments.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Executive Session of January 6, 2010: Mr. Jordan moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, January 6, 2010, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:47 p.m. in the MultiPurpose Room of the Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a)(7) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland* to consult with legal counsel regarding Greenbelt Station North Core. Mr. Pope seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Mach commented on the Maryland Municipal League and District 22 legislative receptions in Annapolis.

Mr. Herling provided a report on the status of the 4-Cities task force on homelessness.

Mayor Davis commented on the rededication ceremony at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the MML staff orientation presentation for new councilmembers for the City of College Park, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair at Greenbelt Elementary School, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown's press conference announcing grants, and the Prince Georges County Municipal Association meeting in Greenbelt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Utopia Community Development Software for the Department of Planning and Community Development from Perconti Data Systems, Incorporated, of St. Petersburg, Florida, at a cost not to exceed \$21,000

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for second reading and moved its adoption. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

Mr. Jordan questioned the \$4,000 reoccurring annual maintenance fee which provides for full phone support and five hours of custom reporting a month and updates. He asked if there were other levels of service available at different costs. Ms. Craze said she would review the available annual maintenance options and provide an answer, but noted the annual maintenance fee was not part of this resolution. Ms. Mach asked about the reports the new software would provide. Ms. Craze said the new software allows for cross database management, has the capability to sort information, and can provide a wide variety of reports.

David Abraham, 5995 Springhill Drive #304, asked if underlying database mechanisms of the software are standard. Ms. Craze said Dale Worley, Information Technology Manager for the City, had reviewed the software and recommended the purchase. She suggested Mr. Abraham contact Mr. Worley for this information. Mr. Abraham requested Council delay the vote until this information is obtained. Mayor Davis thanked Mr. Abraham for his concern, but said the Council has confidence in the recommendation provided both by Ms. Craze and Mr. Worley.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, asked if the software was adaptable for use by current or future employees with disabilities. Mayor Davis said the City works with employees to accommodate their needs on a case by case basis.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Herling	-	yes
	Mr. Jordan	-	yes
	Ms. Mach	-	yes
	Ms. Pope	-	yes
	Mr. Putens	-	yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	yes
	Mayor Davis	-	yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 1058, Book 8)

GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, REPORT #2010-01 (THREE SISTERS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT): Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Maggie Cahalan, member of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and the Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS), provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Three Sisters Demonstration Project.

Mr. Roberts asked if there were plans to expand the project in the future. Ms. Cahalan said expansion could be considered, but noted the hope is that other groups will start new gardens on their own, or through a partnership with CHEARS. Mr. Roberts mentioned there were many ideal locations for gardens within the Empirian Village community.

Mr. Jordan asked if there would be a review process in place to determine whether the project should be continued each year. Ms. Cahalan said yes, the project would be reviewed.

Ms. Mach requested the project include youth from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Camp Fire, etc. Mayor Davis requested the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee also be included in the project.

Mr. Herling moved to approve the Three Sisters Demonstration Garden Project with the following conditions.

1. Each garden shall be no more than approximately 200 square feet in planting area.
2. All short term and long term installation and maintenance will be accomplished by volunteers supporting the Three Sisters Project.
3. The sites suggested for installation are Schrom Hills Park, the Community Center and the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Other sites could be considered. The City will make the final decision on the location following consultation with the proposers.
4. No fencing or any obstructions of the demonstration gardens will be allowed.
5. The City will offer assistance in design and plant material selection.
6. If the gardens fail, it will be the sole responsibility of the Three Sisters Garden Project coordinators to return the garden sites to their original state.
7. If available, the City will offer support by allowing the use of water for establishing the gardens from sources on or around City buildings.
8. The City will not be responsible for any plants, art or hardscapes that are damaged or vandalized.

Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 5-0. (Ms. Mach and Mr. Jordan abstained, noting their positions on the Greenbelt Community Foundation Board.)

Mayor Davis requested a report on the Three Sisters Demonstration Project be provided to Council in the fall.

RECYCLING REPORT – ROLLING CART PILOT PROGRAM: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator, provided an update on the success of the Rolling Cart Pilot Program for collection of residential recyclables. She said the carts had been distributed to 50 homes in Boxwood in March 2009 and a survey distributed to residents in the pilot area last fall indicated they are very pleased with use of the carts.

Ms. Robles reported 60 additional rolling carts have been received and will be distributed to the remaining homes in Boxwood. She said the next neighborhood to receive the rolling carts would be Greenspring I. Ms. Robles commented that the program will be expanded to all single family homes as funds become available.

POLICE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council approve the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for law enforcement assistance currently in place between the Towns of Bladensburg and Riverdale Park and Cities of Laurel, Mount Rainier, Hyattsville and Greenbelt, to the Towns of University Park and Edmonston. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS REFORM AND BOUNDARY ISSUES: Mayor Davis reported three public hearings had been scheduled by Prince George's County Public Schools regarding Secondary School Reform and Boundary issues. Since none of the hearings were in the Greenbelt area of the County, Mayor Davis requested that Council send a letter to Dr. Hite, School Superintendent, requesting a hearing in the Greenbelt area. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

EARTH HOUR: Ms. Mach reported that Earth Hour 2010, a global event to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change, will be held on Saturday, March 27. She noted that the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) sponsored a walking tour of Greenbelt using flashlights for Earth Hour 2009 but suggested that more could be done to promote Earth Hour 2010. Ms. Mach moved that the City participate in Earth Hour 2010 and send a referral to Green ACES requesting ideas on how to promote the event and encourage residents to participate. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council provided information from the following meetings they had attended at the Council of Governments:

Mr. Herling	- Metropolitan Development Committee
Mr. Roberts	- Transportation Planning Board
Ms. Mach	- Clean Air Partners meeting
Mayor Davis	- Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Board of Directors

Mayor Davis reported the COG Board of Directors had approved the Region Forward plan and will be asking for member support in the next few months. She suggested the plan be reviewed by staff to determine if a work session would be necessary prior to the item being placed on a future agenda for action.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 25, 2010, at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 25, 2010."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor