

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 6, 2014, for the purpose of Interviewing Economic Development RFP Respondents and Review of Council Stakeholder Meeting Schedule and Council Meeting Schedule for 2014.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:02 p.m. It was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

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; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Frank Gervasi, Molly Lester and William Orleans.

Interview of firms to assist City develop an Economic Development Strategy

Mr. McLaughlin explained the City had sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to assist with the development of an Economic Development Strategy. He advised nine proposals had been received and he, along with Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning, had reviewed the nine proposals and invited their top five firms in for an interview. After the interview process, the selections were narrowed down to three firms who will be interviewed by Council this evening. Mr. McLaughlin said he and Ms. Hruby were confident that any of these three firms will provide professional and quality work although each brings a slightly different perspective to the process.

Council interviewed the following firms:

*Sage Policy Group
Mr. Anirban Basu, Chairman and CEO*

*The Riddle Group/Econsult Solutions
Ms. Catherine Timko, Principal/CEO - The Riddle Group
Mr. Peter Angelides, Vice President and Director – Econsult Solutions*

*Hyattsville Community Development Corporation
Mr. Stuart Eisenberg, Executive Director*

After completion of the interviews, Council indicated they were very satisfied with staff's selection of the three applicants. They recommended an executive session be scheduled to discuss the applicants in further detail then take action at a future meeting.

Ms. Lester, 6-H Hillside, expressed concern that the Sage Group's approach would not engage the entire business community. She commented that it would be helpful to see results from some of their previous work.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, expressed concern that the applicants view Greenbelt as a market and not as a place.

Frank Gervasi, Ridge Road, noted all the applicants were good.

Discussion of Stakeholder Group Meeting Schedule

Council reviewed its current schedule of Annual, Biennial and Other/As Needed stakeholder meetings. After discussion of the many meetings they regularly hold, the following changes were recommended.

Remove GATE from Schedule

Combine all Utilities (Pepco, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Washington Gas Light) to Annual with notation "meet if necessary"

Move M-NCPPC/Planning Board from Biennial to Other/As Needed

Move State Highway Administration from Annual to Biennial

Combine Commercial Areas (Beltway Plaza and Greenway Center) to Biennial

Combine Beltsville Agricultural Research Center with National Park Service/Greenbelt Park to Biennial

Combine Business Parks (Capital Office Park, Maryland Trade Center, Golden Triangle, Hanover Parkway, Belle Point, Edmonston Road, etc.) to Biennial

Add Business Coffee (semi-annual) to Other/As Needed

Add Roosevelt Center Owner to Other/As Needed

Review of City Council's 2014 Meeting Schedule

Council reviewed its 2014 meeting schedule. After discussion, Council recommended the following changes:

Reschedule Monday, April 14th Regular Meeting to Monday, April 7th and schedule no work sessions on April 14th and 21st. (Due to Passover and Easter Monday)

Reschedule Monday, June 9th Regular Meeting to Wednesday, June 4th (Due to Maryland Municipal League Conference June 8-11 and the absence of two councilmembers on June 2nd)

Schedule no work session on Wednesday, September 24th (Due to Rosh Hashanah)

Informational Items

Councilmembers mentioned the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Reception was scheduled for Wednesday this week.

The meeting ended at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*