

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Monday, October 21, 2024

DISCUSSION: The City Manager's Update

In attendance were: Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney (virtual), Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver; and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Tim George, Assistant City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; Liz Park, CARES Director; Brian Kim, Acting Public Works Director; Brian Kennell, Acting Information Technology Director; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; Terri Hruby, Planning and Community Development Director; Greg Varda, Recreation Director; Tyra Smith, Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer, Cary Eure, Grants Coordinator (Virtual); Bonita Anderson, City Clerk. Dawane Martinez, Director Human Resources and John Mason, Economic Development (Absent).

Others present: Bill Orleans.

The City Manager's presentation highlighted key accomplishments and strategic advancements across various areas, demonstrating City's ongoing progress and future initiatives. A significant focus was on team building and aligning the City's operations with Council's framework. He noted that senior staff engaged in a retreat to operationalize these plans, and the FY2025 budget execution is well underway, guided by clearly defined goals and management by objectives (MBOs).

Mr. Salmerón mentioned that City has made considerable strides in its records management and legal framework.

- A comprehensive review of records retention policies were completed with staff trained by the Maryland State Archives.
- The recodification of the City Code, a complex 18-month project, is in its final stages, with legislative processes completed and legal review ongoing. This initiative aims to modernize and streamline city governance.

Mr. Salmerón highlighted the progress of several major strategic projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) including upgrades to playgrounds at the Silver Hill Local Recreation Center (SHLRC) and Buddy Attick Park, as well as initiatives aimed at enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety. Additionally, improvements to police radios are in progress, and the development of streetlight projects in collaboration with Pepco is actively underway. The city has also made significant property acquisitions, notably Parcel 84 and the Greenbelt Armory, which have expanded its portfolio of assets and will contribute to future development efforts.

Mr. Salmerón announced significant growth in communication and engagement with the community, noting that the city's email subscriber base has expanded to 19,681, with an impressive engagement rate of 56.1%. He highlighted his participation in community outreach initiatives, including walkthroughs and meetings with police in neighborhoods such as Franklin Park and Greenbelt Station,

which have strengthened relationships with residents. Additionally, events like National Night Out have played a crucial role in fostering deeper connections between city officials and the public, enhancing the overall sense of community involvement and collaboration.

Mr. Salmerón emphasized that public safety and services are top priorities for the city, highlighting the acquisition of new AEDs for municipal buildings and police vehicles and additional support for local fire stations. The city has reallocated ARPA funds to focus on "People First Initiatives" and is actively advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) through dedicated action teams and the completion of a Phase II audit. Infrastructure challenges, including storm drainage and road resurfacing, are being addressed, while future plans involve redesigning the city website, launching new planning projects, and implementing a CRM system to enhance economic development efforts.

Mayor Jordan called to order a Special Meeting of the Greenbelt City Council.

ROLL CALL: All present

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Weaver moved that Council go into a closed session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, to:

- 1) to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and
- 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: All present Mr. Roberts (Absent). The meeting ended at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson

Bonita Anderson,
City Clerk