WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Wednesday, December 11, 2024

DISCUSSION: Traffic Ordinance

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 p.m. On site Council Chambers via Zoom.

In attendance were**:**	Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompi, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver; and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.
City Staff**:**	Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.
Others present:	Bill Orleans

Mr. Salmerón shared adopting ordinances involves two components:

- Establishing school zones and authorizing stop signs. He emphasized that part of the process requires the City to request authorization from County regarding the placement of the stop signs.
- He also mentioned that other issues raised by Council have been related to EV parking ordinance.

EV Charging Space Ordinance Discussion

Chief Bowers presented a PowerPoint on EV charging spaces, highlighting concerns about unrestricted parking behind the library and city parking areas. Council discussed implementing a 2-hour parking limit, extendable to 4 hours for Level 2 chargers, and challenges of enforcing such restrictions, particularly on private property. They agreed to consult stakeholders, including GHI members and considered marking EV charging spaces similarly to handicap spaces for enforcement.

EV Charging Time Limits and Fines

Council emphasized the need for time limits to improve EV charger availability, agreeing on a 2-hour limit while acknowledging it could be circumvented. They discussed towing for excessive parking times but opted to review existing towing provisions. Clear signage with a consistent fine of $50 for violations was recommended.

Speed Monitoring System Cost Concerns

The Council addressed rising costs for speed monitoring systems, with vendor fees increasing from $5,000 to $7,000 per site monthly. To maintain cost neutrality, options included reducing sites, adjusting program parameters to focus on residential zones, or removing low-citation sites. Council agreed to review sites and citation data.

Speed Camera Placement and Effectiveness

Discussions focused on optimizing camera placements to address ongoing speeding issues and rotating cameras to maximize impact. Concerns were raised about driver complacency at known locations. Council explored using accident data to evaluate effectiveness and considered decoy cameras as a deterrent.

Discussing Site Removal and Upgrades

The Council discussed removing three underperforming speed camera sites while leaving infrastructure in place. They addressed the need for public hearings and council approval for changes and considered upgrading equipment to reduce labor. A potential shift to residential zone enforcement was also explored.

Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program

Council discussed implementing stop sign monitoring cameras in school zones, with a $40 civil penalty for violations. They agreed on a warning period to assess impacts and stressed the need for a clear standard for a complete stop. Plans include public hearings for proposed locations and designating school zones.

School Zones and Traffic Safety Measures

Council reviewed school zones, particularly Magnolia School, consulting the city attorney on jurisdiction. They discussed flexible zone shapes and focusing on intersections with high violations and pedestrian traffic. Movable cameras were proposed for a pilot program, alongside permanent installations, including a speed camera for Spring Hill Drive.

Stop Sign Monitoring Cameras Implementation

Council confirmed stop sign cameras would be operational within 30 days, with votes on legislation in January. Avio, the approved vendor for Prince George's County, is managing installation. Discussions included creating a public dashboard for recorded violations and communicating updates to residents, with full implementation expected by late spring or early summer.

Camera Deployment and Revenue Concerns

Council emphasized that camera programs should be cost-neutral and not solely revenue-driven. Questions arose about the effectiveness of speed cameras and violations processed through court. Concerns included South Wind Ridge's camera location and broader program transparency.

Basketball Game and Fire Department Funds

Council highlighted a community basketball game at Spring Hill Lake Rec Center led by Officers Alvarez and Rahman. They also discussed supporting Berwyn Heights' request for $100,000 to fund fire services, recognizing its contributions to staffing engines and ambulances. The work session ended at 9:01 pm.

Special Meeting/Closed Session

Mayor Jordan called to order a Special Meeting of Council.

ROLL CALL: All present

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Weaver moved Council to go into a closed session in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) 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.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) City Manager's Evaluation.

Ms. Knesel seconded.

ROLL CALL: All present, Mr. Roberts (Absent).

The meeting ended at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bonita Anderson

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk