

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Meeting: City Manager's Quarterly Update

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 pm., held in the Council and virtually via Zoom.

In attendance: Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel (7:47 p.m.), Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Rodney M. Roberts (7:40 p.m.), Kristen L.K. Weaver; and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Silke I. Pope (travel).

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Tim George, Assistant City Manager; Dawane Martinez, Director of Human Resources; Tyra Smith, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; Brian Kennell, Acting Director of Information Technology; Brian Kim, Acting Director of Public Works; Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development; Greg Varda, Director of Recreation; Chief Richard Bowers, Greenbelt Police Department; Cary Eure, Grant Coordinator (virtual); and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Others present: Bill Orleans, Michael Hartman, and others.

Mr. Salmerón presented a PowerPoint highlighting departmental achievements and ongoing efforts to address various crises, including strategic planning and policy review. He reported successful budget management, strong communication, and active engagement with constituents, especially regarding the Charleston North apartments. He also emphasized key issues, such as fire and EMS services, the ARPA initiative, and infrastructure challenges. The Council discussed and reviewed each department's accomplishments.

Public Works Department

Mr. Salmerón highlighted renovations at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, new equipment acquisitions and storm drainage upgrades. Mayor Jordan noted the signs at McDonald Field and Schrom Hills Park needed repainting and that the Council Chambers required new speakers. Mr. Kim added that staff was waiting for a medallion to fix the Schrom Hills Park sign.

Human Resources Department

Mr. Martinez highlighted key achievements in the Human Resources Department, including the hiring of a new Clinical Supervisor and Community Mental Health Counselor as well as updates to the Leave Policy. He addressed the status of open positions and the latest Human Resources Information System. Mayor Jordan requested a workforce demographic breakdown.

Finance

Ms. Gaymon highlighted Finance Department's key achievements including completing the FY25 budget; submitting ARPA fourth-quarter report; preparing for the FY24 audit; applying for

the GFOA award for the FY23 CAFR and setting up an online account for energy rebates from electric vehicle purchases.

Public Information Office

Mr. Salmerón highlighted Public Information Office's achievements, particularly Ms. Andrews' coordination of a feature on Buddy Attick Park; a live WPGC interview for the American Red Cross Blood Drive and first Hotel Roundtable discussion with President/CEO Leslie Graves. The Council applauded her efforts and noted growth in email subscribers and social media followers, stressing the need for better email analysis and website customization. Mr. Salmerón also addressed legal issues related to Fire Department and EMS in response to a question from resident Bill Orleans.

Economic Development

Mr. Salmerón highlighted the department's achievements, including a roundtable discussion with small businesses, an RFP for the Economic Development Marketing Plan, a business roundtable for hoteliers, and seed funding for Greenbelt's Jobs and Workforce Center and the Entrepreneur Lab at Beltway Plaza.

Planning and Community Development

Ms. Hruby summarized the Planning and Community Development department's recent achievements, including oversight of the Royal Farms site set to open on August 19, 2024 reviewing a Special Exception for LOL Child Care Center, and managing the WSSC standpipe project. She also discussed the next steps for the Connecting Trail Project, which involves consultant engagement and procurement. Ms. Weaver requested a project summary for the September Greenbelt Station HOA meeting. A brief discussion on Code Enforcement and annual inspections followed.

Police Department

Chief Bowers highlighted the Police Department's recent achievements, including community events, critical incident responses, and the expansion of the Crisis Response Team. He announced that two new officers will graduate from the Police Academy on August 30, 2024. In response to Mayor Jordan's question, he mentioned that the department is hiring for the November Academy and that their Retention Program is successful. An update on the License Plate Reader Program will be provided at the August 12, 2024 meeting.

Recreation Department

Mr. Varda outlined the Recreation Department's achievements, including new pickleball courts and shade structures, and staff training in inclusion. The Springhill Lake playground renovation is set to start in August after summer camp, while the Field Renovation Project will begin on the Tuesday after Labor Day. Regarding joint facilities with the Prince George's County School Board, Mr. Varda is in contact with the principal about a Memorandum of Understanding for a partnership with Greenbelt Middle School. The Council expressed satisfaction with the summer camps.

Information Technology

Mr. Kennell highlighted the accomplishments in the Information Technology Department, which included the completion of the Fiber project, switch upgrade, implementation of email multi-factor authentication, installation of the Schrom Hills Comcast connection brought online and upgrade of camera system.

CARES

Dr. Park highlighted the CARES Department's achievements, including the relocation of CARES staff to the first floor of the Municipal Building and GAIL staff to the Community Center Ground Floor East. The department has held CIT meetings to support senior care, is running a community nursing program, and plans to modify the building for better service. Mr. Roberts left the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

GRANTS

Mr. Salmerón reported that the Grants Department secured over \$7.4 million in grants, including a federal earmark of \$2.4 million. Mayor Jordan suggested quarterly reviews of pending applications and Ms. McKinney asked about resident support for grant writing. Mr. Salmerón mentioned plans for a Development Department to enhance programs and revenue. Claudia Jones, a Greenbelt resident urged the City Council to adopt a proactive approach in planning for the Grants program and improving social media collaboration with staff.

Informational Items

Mayor Jordan suggested partnering with the Rotary Club to honor Mr. Kapastin. Ms. Weaver will attend the Rotary meeting tomorrow. Mr. Salmerón updated the Council on legal issues related to Fire and EMS. They discussed a community event to address these concerns and invited Fire Chief Green and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, despite the County's preference for closed-door meetings. They aim to schedule the event around August 13, 2024.

The meeting ended at 10: 17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

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Deputy City Clerk