

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Discussion -- Pepco Street Lights/Legislative Priorities and Bond Bills

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

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

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Tim George, Assistant City Manager; Dawane Martinez, Human Resources Director; Dr. Luisa Robles, and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Others present: Daryl Carrington and Carrington Associates and others.

Pepco Street Lights

Mr. Salmerón shared that a recent assessment revealed the city had been overbilled by Pepco for streetlights, leading to a credit of \$87, 289.14. The Council is considering acquiring the lights upgrading to LEDs and exploring maintenance responsibilities. Options discussed included dimming, motion sensors, and intelligent lighting systems. Further discussion will continue at the Four Cities meeting on October 24, 2024. The Council noted that acquiring the lights would make the city responsible for their maintenance.

Resident concerns were raised about library lights and issues on Ridge Road. Mr. Salmerón will provide contact information for Pepco to report outages. The benefits of LED conversion were also discussed, with a decision pending on Pepco's tariff application.

Legislative Priorities and Bond Bills

The Council discussed legislative priorities and bill updates. Daryl Carrington noted that the Stop Sign Monitoring bill is now an emergency measure and proposed an Advocacy Day for Greenbelt and Upper Marlboro. He highlighted key issues like noise abatement and compostable utensils for future legislation.

Ms. Weaver raised concerns about shopping carts theft bill impact on small businesses. The Council agreed to draft a letter to its sponsor, proposing amendments and stressing the need for business input. Mr. Carrington advised on timelines for the upcoming legislative session and the importance of prioritizing funding within budget constraints.

Mr. Salmerón emphasized the need for municipalities to collaborate on funding critical infrastructure. The Council discussed key priorities, including the ban on gas-powered blowers, juvenile justice reform and business regulations. They agreed to monitor these issues. The Council focused on legislative priorities like Juvenile Justice Reform and

Affordable Housing, prioritizing the renovation of the Community Center elevator and Springhill Lake Recreation Center office space.

Mayor Jordan proposed joint Bond Bill requests from the Four Cities Coalition.

Informational Items: Council Discusses Case Dismissal and Evaluation

Mr. Salmerón discussed the dismissal of the City's case in court which frustrated the Council.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Weaver addressed the need for a closed session regarding the City Manager's evaluation. Ms. Pompei reported on her meeting with the Friends of the Greenbelt Library. The Council scheduled a work session for November 4, 2024 to discuss Local Legislative Priorities and Economic Development Strategies also considering a special meeting for urgent matters.

Ms. Weaver moved Council into a Closed Session (in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland) to discuss, the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over who it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matters that affects one or more specific individuals.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL	Ms. Knesel	-	Yes
	Ms. McKinney	-	Yes
	Ms. Pompei	-	Yes
	Ms. Pope	-	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	-	No
	Ms. Weaver	-	No
	Mayor Jordan	-	Yes

The motion passed 5-2 (Mr. Roberts and Ms. Weaver). Ms. Weaver announced that Council will not return to the open session after closed session.

The meeting ended at 10:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

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Deputy City Clerk