

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Held Wednesday, April 9, 2025

**Discussion: Planning and Community Development, FY 2026 Proposed
Budget and to discuss the Legislative initiatives.**

Mayor Jordan started meeting at 7:30 p.m., held in Council Chambers and virtually via Zoom.

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

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, Treasurer; Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development; Gilberto Cabrera, Assistant Director of Community Development; Jaime Fearer (8:24 p.m.), Assistant Director of Planning and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Others present: Bill Orleans, Judith Davis and others.

Budget Work Session – Planning and Community Development

Mayor Jordan explained that Council is halfway through reviewing the proposed FY 2026 budget Mr. Salmerón presented on March 24, 2025, and will be the first of two public hearings at Regular Meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025. He stated that Council reviews each section of proposed budget to streamline the budget and maintain the essential services for residents. Mr. Salmerón addressed closing over \$4 million deficit, which included having a contingency plan regarding property abatements and thirteen (13) positions have been reduced.

Ms. Hruby provided Council with an overview of the department's performance measures, which included inspecting over a thousand single-family homes. Over three thousand property maintenance apartment units were checked, and the commercial licensing fees are currently \$76,000 over what was anticipated. She shared the Planning Department's projects that are on the horizon, which included publishing an RFP for the art request for proposals for Hanover Parkway and building new bus shelters.

Ms. Pompei, Mayor Jordan and Ms. Hruby shared that she would bring before Council an ordinance to restructure the infraction fees due to the newly passed legislation. She noted that staff could provide Council with quantitative data by subdivision regarding violations.

There was a discussion regarding inspecting the heating and cooling system. Mr. Cabrera explained that staff will be requested to review the boiler certificates and reports three months before going online for the heating season, which starts on September 15th.

Mr. Cabrera provided Council with an overview of the complaint process, which included the initial complaint, infractions, enforcement, and follow-up inspections. Mayor Jordan inquired about security camera system requirement from Prince George's County. Ms. Hruby noted that

the County implemented the program and will follow up with the Council with additional information. Mr. Salmerón added that he had discussions with management of Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station and was advised that the apartment complex had negotiated arrangements with the County. The Council reviewed the Planning and Community Development Department's proposed budget section.

Judith Davis, Greenbelt East, on page 143, pointed out a missing dollar sign symbol on the last column.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, suggested correcting and updating proposed budgets at each budget work session. He inquired how much the city spends on on-call consultants. Ms. Hruby explained that the on-call engineering services are on an as-needed basis and are funded in the professional services out of the proposed Community Development budget.

Ms. McKinney and Mr. Cabrera discussed the follow-up process for complaints as follows:

- Communicating with tenants and property manager for the reinspection date.

Ms. McKinney also noted City's hotel licensing fees other jurisdictions have a charge per room, and the city only charges a flat fee.

Ms. Hruby stated that she would research and follow up with Council. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Hruby provided an overview of the Planning Work Program and Capital Projects. Mr. Orleans and Ms. Hruby talked about staff lack of receipt in advance for notice from property managers regarding eviction schedules. The staff is not involved in the eviction process. Mr. Cabrera added that staff notified property manager that they had 48 hours to remove the items from curb. Ms. Pompei inquired if the city could have Carrington & Associates pursuing county legislation.

Legislative Initiatives

There was discussion regarding the legislative initiatives that were on Monday, April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting agenda that was deferred, which included a resolution to increase solid waste rates, adoption of new recycling regulations for city, updates to the city's Zoning Code per state requirements, and development and adoption of rent stabilization regulations. Mayor Jordan noted that some of the initiatives have staff resources necessary to implement, some of these initiatives must be submitted as referrals to advisory boards, and others would need time for city's legal counsel to review. Ms. Pompei explained that she wanted to put forth city's legislative priorities early to have the delegates and senators sponsor them, and it is good to consider the prorates as we review the proposed FY 2026 budget. Ms. Weaver shared that there were four missing prorates, which were the adoption of a new city code following Council-authorized recodification initiative, placement of advisory questions on the ballot for the upcoming election, Council referrals to the Board of Elections regarding ranked-choice voting, and Council referrals to the Board of Elections regarding district or ward representation on Council. Ms. McKinney noted that there needs to be a legislative issue tracking document. Mayor Jordan stated he wasn't prepared to submit additional priorities and would provide his list. Mr. Salmerón shared he would rearrange the Council's legislative initiatives by the following categories:

- Referrals

- time-sensitive
- and others,
- and the list will be on the April 28, 2025, Regular Meeting for Council's discussion.

Informational Items

The Council reviewed their upcoming schedule and coordinated attendance at overlapping events over the next few weekends. The meeting ended at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

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Deputy City Clerk