

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held March 24, 2025.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel (left at 10:41 pm), Danielle P. McKinney, Jennifer A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; Terri Hruby, Planning Director; Jaime Fearer, Assistant Planning Director; John Mason, Economic Development Manager; Jamarie Spencer, Public Information Producer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan requested a moment of silence in honor of those who had passed away since the last meeting: Harry Fendley, Keith Chernikoff, and Shirley Yvonne Neufeld.

Ms. Weaver then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Jordan read the Greenbelt Community Pledge.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Alexander Barnes, a resident, requested additional options for candidate selection in city elections.

Bill Orleans, a resident, inquired about the statue allowing the Council to allocate funding in a closed session.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Pope moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Weaver seconded. The consent agenda was approved 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Planning Board Report #2025-01: WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network – P20/P21 Proposed New Stops on Crescent Road: Council accepted the report.

MEETINGS: Council approved the meetings list.

STAKEHOLDER LIST: Council approved the stakeholder list.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council accepted Xavier Courouble's resignation from the Advisory Committee on Trees.

Tribesy Phase 2 Audit Report: Council accepted the Phase 2 Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Community Engagement Report

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Weaver moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Prince George's County Office of Human Rights: Tiana Davis, a representative from the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, gave a brief presentation on their work investigating discrimination and human trafficking.

SPECIAL ORDER: Ms. Pope moved to special order #15, Acceptance and Presentation of the FY2024 City Annual Audit. Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Acceptance and Presentation of the FY2024 City Annual Audit: Dan Kenney, Engagement Partner with Michell Titus Auditing Firm, presented the results of the annual financial audit, reporting no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Proposed FY 2026 Budget Preparation: Mr. Salmerón submitted to Council the proposed budget for FY 2026. The City Manager presents the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, highlighting key points and challenges. The budget includes capital projects for street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, and electric vehicle charging stations. Building improvements are planned for air handlers, the indoor pool deck, and community center elevators. The budget uses ARPA funds strategically to leverage additional funding for projects. The City Manager emphasizes the teamwork involved in creating the budget and thanks staff for their efforts. Council members acknowledge the difficult financial year ahead and the need to make tough choices, possibly including additional cuts. The Council will review the budget in detail over the next 8 weeks, including public hearings. It was noted that Council will hold work sessions on each department's budget and two public hearings on the proposed budget.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Salmerón reported that families displaced by the recent fire at Franklin Park have been temporarily moved to other units on site. He noted that staff is coordinating both the upcoming Touch a Truck event and the Naturalization Ceremony scheduled during Greenbelt Day Weekend. Mr. Salmerón also announced that road resurfacing on Cherrywood Lane has been completed.

SPECIAL ORDER: Mayor Jordan moved to special order #16, WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network – P20/P21 Proposed New Stops on Crescent Road. Ms. McKinney seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network – P20/P21 Proposed New Stops on Crescent Road: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Jamie Fear presented the plan, which includes new routing for the P20 and P21 buses (formerly G14 and G16) through University Square, near the Community Center and Library. The plan, approved by WMATA's Board in November 2024, requires the city's approval to install two new ADA-compliant bus stops on Crescent Road by June 2025. If approved, the city would be responsible for installation costs, estimated at \$4,000, and the removal of three parking spaces. William Jones from WMATA provided additional context on the timeline, implementation process, and route renumbering scheme for the new network. Ms. Weaver moved that Council not support the funding for the installation of the two bus stops on Crescent Road to accommodate the adopted new routes. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed 6-1 (Ms. Knesel)

SPECIAL ORDER: Mayor Jordan moved to special order #17, Briefing on MWCOG's Updates to Regional Activity Centers in the City of Greenbelt. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Briefing on MWCOG's Updates to Regional Activity Centers in the City of Greenbelt: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Jaime Fearer proposed updates to the regional activity centers in Greenbelt, including new assessment zone boundaries for Beltway Plaza, Greenbelt Station, Golden Triangle, and Greenway Center. No action was taken.

SPECIAL ORDER: Mayor Jordan moved to special order #18, Review of State/County Legislation. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Review of State/County Legislation: Darryl Carrington of Carrington & Associates briefed the Council on the State Budget, announcing that the House recently approved HB350, the Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2026. He also highlighted \$2.3 billion in cuts to the budget and listed taxes that will remain unchanged.

Mayor Jordan moved that the Council support increasing the Municipal Infractions threshold from \$1K to \$5K, SB820, and send a letter of support. Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion was approved 6-1. (Mr. Roberts)

Ms. Pompei moved to support HB676 (Real Property – Landlord and Tenant – Procedures for Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, and Tenant Holding Over) and send a letter of support. Ms. McKinney seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Ms. Pope)

Ms. Knesel left at 10:41 p.m.

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 of the City of Greenbelt Code to Codify General Orders 675: Mayor Jordan reviewed the agenda comments. Ms. Pompei introduced the ordinance for first reading.

An Ordinance to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Retiree Prescription Subsidy for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, in the Amount of sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000): Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Weaver moved to the ordinance first reading and suspension of the rules. Ms. Pope seconded.

Roll Call:	Ms. Knesel	–	Absent
	Ms. McKinney	–	Yes
	Ms. Pompei	–	Yes
	Ms. Pope	–	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	–	Yes
	Ms. Weaver	–	Yes
	Mayor Jordan	–	Yes

Ms. Weaver introduced the ordinance for second reading and adoption. Ms. Pope seconded.

Roll Call:	Ms. Knesel	–	Absent
	Ms. McKinney	–	Yes
	Ms. Pompei	–	Yes
	Ms. Pope	–	Yes
	Mr. Roberts	–	Yes
	Ms. Weaver	–	Yes
	Mayor Jordan	–	Yes

The ordinance was declared adopted (Ordinance No. 1401-1, Book 12)

A Resolution to Establish School Zones on Municipal Roads in the City to Implement an Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program Within the Established School Zones: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pompei introduced the resolution for first reading.

An Ordinance to Amend the City of Greenbelt Code to Authorize the Operation of Sign Monitoring Systems in School Zones, Establish Associated Fines and Fees, and Provide for the Enforcement of Violations: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope introduced the ordinance for first reading.

Authorize City Manager to Execute Contract for Master Preservation Plan for Greenbelt's Three Historic Cemeteries: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Hruby provided the Council with a brief overview of the master preservation plan for the Greenbelt historic cemeteries. Mayor Jordan moved that the Council authorize the City to sign the contract for the Master Preservation Plan for Greenbelt's Three Historic Cemeteries with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT) at a cost not to exceed \$68,898.18. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 5-1 (Mr. Roberts).

Letter to Superintendent House and PGCPs on Temporary Structures at Historic GMS for SLES Students: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. The council discussed a draft letter to the Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools regarding the temporary relocation of Spring Hill Lake Elementary students to the historic Greenbelt Middle School. They considered important points for the letter, such as safety concerns, the need for a plan to house the students, and the potential impact of the Beltway Plaza development on school enrollment. The council agreed to ask staff to revise the letter, incorporate their feedback, and request a detailed plan from the school system on how they intend to safely accommodate the students at the current facility.

Budget Worksession Process recommendations: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. the council discussed recommendations for improving the budget work session process. Ms. McKinney proposes that council members submit questions 48 hours in advance, hold a town hall for public engagement, and limit public questions during work sessions. Other council members have mixed opinions, with some supporting the submission of earlier questions and weekend sessions, while others oppose restricting public input. The city manager explains they will provide an online system for tracking editorial and substantive budget changes. The council agrees to consider the suggestions but does not make any firm decisions regarding changes to the process. No action was taken.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: The Council briefly reviewed its list of activities.

Events between March 13 and March 24, 2025

13 March: Greenbelt Rotary Club (Weaver)

13 March: Judging for "If I Were Mayor ..." Fourth Grade Essay Contest (Weaver)

14 March: The SPACE Pi Day Celebration (Jordan, Weaver)

14 March: Metro Washington Council of Governments Farm and Agriculture Regional Member Committee retreat (McKinney)

15 March: Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service Annual Meeting (Jordan)

20 March: Greenbelt Rotary Club (Weaver)

20 March: Women's History Month Celebration at Springhill Lake Elementary School (Pope, Weaver)

20 March: Prince George's County Municipal Association (Jordan, Pompei, Weaver)

The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of March 24, 2025, at 11:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held March 24, 2025.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor