

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held April 28, 2025.

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

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of Pope Francis and Brantley Tilman Jolly. Ms. Weaver then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mayor Jordan recited the Greenbelt Community Pledge.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

- John Campanile, a Greenbelt resident, submitted an email requesting that a bicycle parking racks be considered for the Roosevelt Center.
- Sonya Park, University Square Apartment, requested assistance with reference to an incident that occurred at Buddy Attick Park the day before. She stated that she was threatened by a group of teenagers and when she contacted the police for assistance, police victim shamed her.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Knesel to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Meeting – May 11, 2020
Regular Meeting – June 8, 2020
Regular Meeting – June 3, 2024
Regular Meeting – July 8, 2024
Regular Meeting – October 28, 2024
Regular Meeting – December 9, 2024
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2025-01 – Signage at Northway Entrance to the Forest Preserve: Council accepted this report.

Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report #2025-02 – Solid Waste Disposal Options: Council accepted this report.

MEETING LIST: Council approved the meeting schedule.

STAKEHOLDER LIST: Council approved the stakeholder list.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council appointed Troi Dixon to the Advisory Committee on Education.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council accepted Adriene Lim resignation from the Arts Advisory Board.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council reappointed Alison Gary to the Board of Elections.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Ms. Pompei and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0

PRESENTATIONS:

National Volunteer Month: Mayor Jordan proclaimed the month of April as National Volunteer Month. Christal Batey, Assistant Director of CARES, and the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) volunteers were present to accent the proclamation.

2025 Legislative Session Wrap-up: Briefing with State Legislators: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. State Senator Alonzo Washington and Delegates Nicole Williams and Anne Healey provided an overview of the recently completed 2025 General Assembly session. Senator Washington noted that the session began with a \$3 billion budget deficit, but diligent efforts allowed the state to balance the budget at \$66.9 billion. Key allocations included \$500 million for transportation, \$100 million for climate initiatives, and \$2.4 billion for the rainy-day fund. He summarized important legislation passed, such as measures supporting the FBI Headquarters relocation to Greenbelt and several environmental acts.

Delegate Nicole Williams reported that over 1,500 bills were introduced, with more than 800 passing, including the installation of speed cameras on Route 210. She highlighted non-interest-bearing loans for laid-off federal employees and secured over \$180 million in capital funding for Prince George's County, with significant investments in educational and healthcare facilities, as well as infrastructure improvements in Greenbelt.

Delegate Anne Healey commented on the budget discussions that limited new legislation but noted the preservation of critical education initiatives and the maintenance of telehealth services. She also mentioned resubmissions for sidewalk and bike path projects under the Vision Zero Program. Mayor Jordan emphasized priorities from the Maryland Municipal League, including allowing trained civilian staff to certify speed camera tickets and expanding municipal revenues through specific taxes.

Mayor Jordan moved to Special Order 2025 Legislative Wrap-up: Briefing with Carrington & Associates. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion, during which Ms. Pompei pointed out the time and emphasized that two public hearings were scheduled, and that the Council should hear from the public before proceeding with the 2025 Legislative Wrap-up: Briefing with Carrington & Associates. The motion passed 6-1 (Ms. Pompei).

2025 Legislative Wrap-Up: Briefing with Carrington & Associates: Mayor Jordan read the agenda

comments. Darrell Carrington from Carrington & Associates expressed that they are eager to provide the Council with next year's calendars and discuss some executive orders that affect the City of Greenbelt. He also mentioned looking forward to an in-person discussion about the priorities of the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

Public Hearing – Proposed FY 2026 Budget: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. He then announced the meeting was recessed for the public hearing at 8:47 pm.

Bob Rand, 19 T Ridge Road, requested that the Council fund the Phase 3 Comprehensive Study with Tribsey. He proposed that the Council consider fully funding the contract in the next fiscal year and negotiate a reduction in the cost from \$38,000 to \$15,000 for this current fiscal year.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt resident, suggested that copies of the updated budget changes should be available at the next work session for the public to reference.

Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt resident, inquired how a resident can participate in the budget sessions if the residents attended all the work sessions and haven't read the 300-page proposed budget. Mayor Jordan explained that the proposed budget could be downloaded from the City's website, all of the work sessions have been recorded and posted on the City's website.

There were no other public comments on the proposed budget. The public hearing on the proposed budget ended at 8:47 pm.

Public Hearing – Charter Amendment Resolution to Amend Section 3, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. He then announced the meeting was recessed for the public hearing at 8:50 pm.

Bill Orleans, Greenbelt resident, stated that Council has reduced the number of meetings, been meeting in more closed sessions and has limited the public to speak. He stated that Council shouldn't get an increase. However, he suggested an independent of residents can make an analysis on Council to determine if an increase is merited.

Judith Davis, Greenbelt East, explained that the City Council attend meetings and work sessions, they also reach the community by attending banquets, luncheons, farmers markets, and events. She stated that the work of Councilmembers is not just centered around Council meetings and the increase is deserved.

There were no other public comments on the Charter Amendment Resolution to Amend Section 3, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council ended at 8:54 pm.

Mayor Jordan moved to Special Order, Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend Section 4 “Creation; Qualifications; Compensation” of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pope. There was brief discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

LEGISLATION

Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend Section 4 “Creation; Qualifications; Compensation” of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the Council: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope introduced the resolution for second reading and moved its adoption. Ms. Weaver seconded the motion. There was brief discussion.

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

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 2116, Book 8)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Salmerón highlighted several successful events in the City, which included Earth Day activities, Touch-a-Truck event with voter engagement activities, and a Financial Literacy workshop. He stated the City is transitioning from Mission Square to Nationwide and is currently working on an announcement and also will be hosting a health fair. There also will be a workshop for the retirees regarding the transition. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) deadline is April 30th has met all the benchmarks. Staff are in the process of transferring 30 out of 120 cellphone lines from Verizon to T-Mobile. The CARES and Economic Development teams are preparing for the upcoming Job Fair on May 17th and currently there are 95 participants registered. The Planning and Public Works teams have installed the new flashing stop signs and in addition, staff will reevaluate numerous stop signs intersections to see if the new flashing stop signs have an impact on driving behavior.

Based on a question asked by Mayor Jordan, Mr. Salmerón provided Council with an update on the fire that affected two apartment units on Crescent Road and displaced one family. He stated that he would follow up with the CARES department regarding the residents that were displaced in Franklin Park Apartments regarding a previous fire. Mayor Jordan stated he received a complaint from a constituent regarding the condition of the Greenbelt Post Office, which included the exterior door needed paint and the other door was inoperable for several months. Mr. Salmerón stated that staff will send a letter to the postmaster.

Ms. Weaver inquired on the balance of the Round-Up fundraiser that the Co-Op has that benefit the Emergency Fund. Mr. Salmerón answered that he would follow-up with the CARES

Department on the City's balance and follow-up with the Co-Op on their balance.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Proposal for Use of Space at the Armory Site for Composting: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts moved that Council allow staff to expand the City of Greenbelt's Curbside Composting Program to use additional space at the Armory site (Southway and Greenbelt Road). The motion was seconded by Ms. Weaver. There was a brief discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion on Legislative Priorities and Actions: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. There was discussion. Mr. Salmerón advised staff can schedule a tour of the recycling center for Council. Ms. Pompei suggested having a legislative retreat with Darrell Carrington from Carrington & Associates. Ms. Pompei moved that the potential advisory ballot questions be referred to the Board of Elections regarding rank choice voting, district or ward representation on Council and allow 16-year-olds to work as poll workers. Mayor Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Roberts). It was moved by Mayor Jordan and seconded by Ms. Pope to refer the Board of Elections regarding four-year term limits for Council. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Roberts). Ms. Pompei requested that the discussion of local legislative initiatives be held at the June 4th work session.

Acceptance of Report and Results of 2023 Community Questionnaire: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. It was moved by Ms. Weaver and seconded by Ms. Pompei to table the acceptance of the 2023 Community Questionnaire report and results until next Regular Meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Events between April 15th and April 28th, 2025:

April 15: National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee (Ms. Weaver)

April 15: Armory Public Engagement Meeting (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)

April 15: GATe Board Meeting (Ms. Knesel)

April 16: Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting (Ms. Weaver)

April 17: Prince George's County Municipal Association (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, and Ms. Pompei)

April 18: The SPACE Laser Cutter Demo (Ms. Weaver)

April 19: Greenbelt Egg Hunt (Ms. Weaver and Ms. McKinney)

April 19: Senator Washington Town Hall and Anti-Maglev Rally (Ms. Weaver, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)

April 19: Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition Earth Day Event (Ms. Weaver)

April 19: Greenbelt Grows meeting (Ms. McKinney)

April 19: Hands Off! In Greenbelt Rally (Ms. Weaver)

April 20: Mary Lou Williamson's Garden Party (Ms. Weaver and Ms. Pompei)

April 21: Four Cities Mayor Discussion with Chief Green (Mayor Jordan)

April 22: Celebration of Life Kap Kapstin (Ms. Weaver)

April 22: Armory Public Engagement Meeting (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)

April 22: Greenbelt Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability (Ms. Weaver)

April 22: Advisory Committee on Education (Ms. Pompei)

April 23: Invasive Celandine Walk (Ms. Weaver and Ms. McKinney)
April 24: Invisible City Photography Talk and Art Reception (Ms. Weaver and Ms. Pompei)
April 24: Greenbelt Rotary Club (Ms. Weaver)
April 25: Youth Advisory Committee Teen Event (Ms. McKinney)
April 25: Cookies at the Bridge (Ms. Weaver)
April 25: Greenbelt Collaborative Opportunities for Resilience and Enduring Solutions (CORES) Task Force Meeting (Ms. Weaver and Ms. Knesel)
April 26: Earth Day Community Service Workday (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. Knesel, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)
April 26: Dora Kennedy Clean-up and STEM Fair (Mayor Jordan)
April 26: Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League Opening Day Ceremony (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)
April 26: MarkerSpace Repair Café (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Weaver)
April 26: Touch-a-Truck event (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)
April 26: Autism Awareness Month Presentation (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, and Ms. Pompei)
April 26: Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, and Ladies Auxiliary Awards Banquet (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Weaver, Ms. Knesel, Ms. McKinney, and Ms. Pompei)
April 27: Book Talk and “Bill W.” Free Film Screening (Ms. Weaver)
April 28: Agenda Planning with City Manager (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Weaver)
April 28: National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee Meeting (Ms. Weaver)

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Pompei and seconded by Ms. Pope. The motion carried 7-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of April 28, 2025, at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Deputy 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 April 28, 2025.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor