

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held May 29, 2024

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; Tim George, Assistant City Manager; Bertha Gaymon, City Treasurer; Brian Kim, Acting Director of Public Works; Brain Townsend, Assistant Director of Public Works – Parks; Jaimee Fearer, Assistant Director of Planning; Chief Richard Bowers and Deputy Chief Timothy White, Greenbelt Police Department; and Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of resident Wendy Osborne and former resident Johnathan Cohen. Ms. McKinney then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Michael Hartman, 2 Court Gardenway, on behalf of Emerald City Pride, invited Council to the upcoming Pride Parade on June 15th and the Pride Prom on June 14th.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelt resident, requested that Council adhere to its standard rules by allowing petitioners five minutes to state their request. He also sought information and clarity on Council's closed meeting to authorize a bonus to the former Interim City Manager. He requested an apology from Council for acting in a closed session regarding a statement issued regarding a Public Safety Advisory Committee correspondence. Mr. Salmerón mentioned that staff will issue a written correspondence to Mr. Orleans regarding his petitions. Ms. Weaver and Ms. Pope advised that staff has already responded to Mr. Orleans's petitions verbally and via written correspondence.

Konrad Herling of 11 B Ridge Road reported that he has been serving as an alternate on the Reparations Commission and asked about the current opening on the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Jordan removed #24 Approval of Five-Month Electric Contract Extension with WGL Energy Services for 100% Green Electricity from the consent agenda to be discussed further on the agenda. It was moved by Mayor Jordan and seconded by Ms. Weaver that the consent agenda be approved with this amendment. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session – July 5, 2023
Special Meeting/Closed Session – July 7, 2023
Work Session – August 7, 2023
Regular Meeting – August 14, 2023
Work Session – August 23, 2023
Work Session – August 28, 2023
Work Session – August 30, 2023

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

Authorization for City Manager to execute purchase of elderly-friendly and storable furniture

for CARES from Office Furniture 2 Go: Council approved.

Meeting List: Council approved.

Stakeholders List: Council approved.

Reappointment to Advisory Board/Committee: Council approved the reappointment of Konrad Herling to the Reparations Commission.

Approval of Sponsorship for screening of “Join or Die” at Greenbelt Cinema to promote civic engagement and community resilience: Council approved.

Approval of ARA Grant awards for Workforce Development and Entrepreneur Lab initiatives: Council approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Jordan requested adding #26 Maryland Municipal League Legislative Action Request to the agenda. It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Knesel to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan declared May as Jewish American Heritage Month. Ms. Kare Knee accepted the proclamation and provided an overview of upcoming activities at the Mishkan Torah.

Chesapeake Bay Awareness Proclamation: Mayor Jordan declared the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll accepted the proclamations and provided an overview of upcoming activities in the City.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed FY 2025 Budget: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. He then announced the meeting was recessed for the public hearing at 7:51 pm.

Bill Orleans, a resident of Greenbelt, requested that after each budget work session, the staff provide an updated summary that explains all the changes made due to errors. He also asked that staff give an overview of past budgets to compare the increases and decreases in different departments.

Kevin Lockhart from Greenbelt West asked Council to consider the Greenbelt Sity Stars’s proposed request for assistance with equipment, practices, and the trip for the team to Japan.

Dr. Catlin McGrath, Greenbelt Cinema, thanked Council for considering increasing the Cinema's subsidy.

Michael Hartman, 2 Court Gardenway, thanked Council and staff for putting the budget together.

Mr. Salmerón addressed Mr. Orleans's concerns, explaining the challenges of creating an updated summary sheet after each budget work session. He also mentioned that page 88 of the Proposed FY 25 Budget summarizes department changes over three years.

The meeting reconvened at 8:04 pm.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Salmerón provided an update on the Aquatic and Fitness Center pool remediation. He mentioned that Freddie Mac has acquired Charlestowne North and that the building has been inspected. The City has granted a rental license for the property through August 2024. Mr. Salmerón also noted that the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Student Awards was well attended and that the former Greenbelt High School has been designated as a County Historic site. Lastly, he mentioned that staff has been working on the street light project in preparation for the upcoming Pepco Streetlight Work Session on June 12th. Staff is also working with Congressman Glenn Ivey's office on a gun violence preventing event scheduled for June 29th. Ms. Pope thanked Mr. Salmerón for the update on the pool remediation and requested that the information be shared on social media and in the Greenbelt News Review. In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Mr. George confirmed that there is currently \$50,000 left in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Grant for scholarships for Greenbelt residents.

LEGISLATION: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Award of Purchase Police Radios: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope moved that Council approve the purchases of 30 Motorola APZ N70 radios under PG County Contract #34655 from Motorola Solutions Inc. Ms. Pompei seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Award of Purchase – License Plate Reading Camera System: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Pope moved that Council approve the purchase of 14 cameras from Alliance Technology Group for a total cost of \$174,498.70. Mayor Jordan seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 4-3 (Ms. Knesel, Ms. McKinney, and Mr. Roberts).

Replacement Trucks 264 Refuse Compactor and 112 Rollback: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mayor Jordan moved that Council approve one (1) 2025 International MV 607 Rollback using State of Maryland statewide contract BPO #001B1600501 from Beltway International, LLC; one (1) 2025 Mack Refuse Packer using State of Maryland statewide contract BPO #001B4600147 from Potomac Truck Center; and outfitting both vehicles with warning lights and City stickering. Ms. Pope seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Roberts).

Authorization for City Manager to Execute Contract with Next Day Concrete for Headwall and Pipe Culvert Repairs on Crescent Road: Mayor Jordan read the comments. Ms. Pope moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the contract with Next Day Concrete, total cost of \$33,800. Ms. Knesel seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Supplemental Environmental Assessment: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Weaver moved that Council transmit a letter to the USACE that summarizes the outstanding items of concern as discussed on staff's memo and restates the City's overall opposition to the project. Ms. McKinney seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

ARPA Status Update: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. There was discussion. No action was taken.

Approval of Five-Month Electric Contract Extension with WGL Energy Services for 100% Green Electricity: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Weaver moved that Council authorize the execution of the extension of the contract. Ms. Pope seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Maryland Municipal League Legislative Action Requests: Mayor Jordan requested that this item be added to the agenda. There was discussion. Mayor Jordan moved to submit Property Tax Abatement – Improved Information Flow to the Maryland Municipal League as one of the City's three Legislative Action Requests. Ms. Pope seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 7-0. Ms. Pope moved to submit the Enabled Legislation Zoning Authority for Local Municipalities as the second of the City's three Legislative Action Requests. Ms. McKinney seconded. There was discussion. The motion failed 2-5 (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Knesel, Ms. Pompei, Mr. Roberts, and Ms. Weaver). Mayor Jordan moved to submit Homeowner (Homestead) Tax Credit Extension and Retroactive Claims to the Maryland Municipal League as the second of the City's three Legislative Action Requests. Ms. Pope seconded. There was discussion. The motion passed 5-2 (Ms. Pompei and Ms. Weaver). Ms. Pompei moved to submit Juvenile Justice Reform – Appropriation and Socio-Economic Support to the Maryland Municipal League as the third of the City's three Legislative Action Requests. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

- MML Lunch and Learn: MML Digital Library (Ms. Weaver)
- Coffee with a Cop (Ms. Weaver)
- Transportation Planning Board meeting (Ms. Weaver)
- Prince George's County Municipal Association meeting (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Weaver)
- Bike to Work Day (Mayor Jordan, Ms. McKinney, Ms. Pompei, Ms. Pope, and Ms. Weaver)
- Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee meeting (Ms. Pompei)
- Choreography Club Showcase (Ms. McKinney, Ms. Pompei, and Ms. Weaver)
- Arts Advisory Board Happy Hour (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Pompei, and Ms. Weaver)
- Connection Across Greenbelt – Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Knesel, Ms. McKinney, Ms. Pompei, and Ms. Weaver)
- St. Hugh's Afternoon Tea (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pope)
- Mishkan Torah Open House (Ms. Pompei and Ms. Weaver)

- PGCMA Legislative Committee meeting (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pompei)
- “The City” Screening and Greenbelt Community Orchestra performance (Ms. Knesel, Ms. Pompei, Ms. Pope, and Ms. Weaver)
- Metro Washington Air Quality Committee meeting (Ms. Weaver)
- Greenbelt Business Alliance Happy Hour (Mayor Jordan and Ms. Pompei)
- MNCPPC Historic Preservation Reception (Mayor Jordan)
- Maryland Black Mayors Association meeting (Mayor Jordan)
- Invasives Removal – Bush Honeysuckle (Ms. Pompei)
- Greenbelt Animal Shelter Public Open Hours (Ms. Pompei)
- American Legion Picnic (Ms. Pope)
- American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony (Mayor Jordan, Ms. Pompei, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Roberts)
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability 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 May 24, 2024, at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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 May 29, 2024.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor