

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held November 18, 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 (virtual), Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristen L.K. Weaver could not attend the meeting due to travel.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; Terri Hruby, Planning and Community Development Director; Jamie Fearer, Assistant Planning Director; Greg Varda, Recreation Director; Anne Oudemans, Assistant Recreation Director; Brian Kim, Acting Public Works Director; Chondria Andrews, Public Information Officer; Jamarie Spencer, Public Information Producer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of John Hall Sr., Theresa Crowley, Gary Barbour, Ralph E. Webb, Jane Smidinger, Louvain Townsend, and Bill Norwood.

Mr. Roberts then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Germaine Timmermans, a resident, requested that Council and staff improve responsiveness of the City's main phone line and address litter concerns along MD 193 West to MD 202 North. She would like to donate 60 daffodil bulbs (40 Dutch Master and 20 Re Devon narcissus) for planting near the Lakeside Drive bus shelter by Legion Way. Additionally, the petitioner proposed that the Mayor issue a proclamation recognizing November as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and suggested an increase in Councilmember salaries up to \$15,000.

Bill Orleans, a resident, inquired about the JEDI Action Team membership and whether the members agreed to the memorandum titled Addressing Adverse Behavior from Council Members During Council Meetings. He requested the email correspondence between Ms. Weaver and City management regarding the inclusion of this item on the agenda for the Council meeting on October 28.

Stephanie O'Brien, a resident, inquired about the status of a Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) request concerning the membership of the JEDI Action Team.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Pope moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, August 31, 2022
Work Session, November 30, 2022
Regular Meeting, November 27, 2023
Regular Meeting, December 11, 2023
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Report #24-02: Grant Report: Council accepted the report.

MEETINGS: Council approved the meetings list.

APPROVAL OF NON-PROFIT GRANT AWARDS: Council approved funding the Rotary Club non-profit application of \$20,000.

STAKEHOLDERS LIST: Council approved the stakeholders list.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY: Council approved the floating holiday for employees.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council appointed Ms. Jefferson to SCAC, Ms. Ahearn to Green ACES, and Ms. Lambert and Ms. Rakhyshova to ACE.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH CHARLES P. JOHNSON AND ASSOCIATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A STORM DRAIN EASEMENT FOR THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF 4 WOODLAND WAY AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$11,400: Council approved the contract with CPJ.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE RENEWAL OF THE FIRE STATION LEASE: Council approved the lease renewal and authorized the City Manager to execute the lease agreement.

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING MAINTENANCE VEHICLE: Council authorized the City Manager to execute the following purchase:

One (1) Ford Transit Passenger Van per Howard Count contract #440004546 from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc., 1427 Bay Road, Milford, DE 19963 for \$53,842.00, with stickering from Suburban Signs Inc., 10800 Hanna St. Beltsville, MD. 20705 for \$425.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Jordan requested to move Item #17, "Legislative Issue Tracking," to the next meeting agenda. Ms. Pope seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Municipal Government Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan proclaimed November as Municipal Government Month. Chondria Andrews and Greg Varda accepted the proclamation.

Maryland Municipal League – Municipal Achievement Award: On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Jordan presented the Municipal Achievement Award to the Recreation Department. Greg Varda, Recreation Director, and Anne Oudemans, Assistant Recreation Director, accepted the award.

Presentation on Stop Sign Cameras Program: Chief Bowers delivered a presentation to Council on the pilot implementation of automated stop sign enforcement cameras in school zones. Currently installed at five locations, with two additional sites planned, the system will collect data to evaluate its effectiveness and determine potential program expansion.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Salmerón provided updates on key initiatives, including the shortlist of finalists for the City's website redesign and coordination efforts for the District 22 legislative dinner. He highlighted the Economic Development Office's recent hosting of the County's Municipal Economic Development Directors meeting and the production of a podcast showcasing Greenbelt's economic development initiatives. Additionally, Mr. Salmerón discussed with Council the coordination of testimony and participation in the County's public hearing on the fire staffing reallocation plan.

LEGISLATION: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion on Filling City Council Vacancy Legislation: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Council reviewed the process for filling City Council vacancies, debating whether to address it through a charter amendment or the Election Code. The Board of Elections recommended detailing the procedure in the Election Code for ease of future amendments. However, Councilmember Roberts raised concerns about the lack of public input if changes were made solely through the code. Ms. Knesel moved that Council direct staff to draft a charter amendment referencing the Election Code, incorporating the Board's recommendations within the code itself. Ms. Pompi seconded. The motion passed 5-1. (Mr. Roberts)

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Charles P. Johnson and Associates to prepare up to 15 storm drain easements: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Hruby informed Council about the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds for storm drain infrastructure, aimed at addressing recommendations from the 1994 report. She committed to collaborating with GHI to establish a priority list for storm drain systems and to leveraging funds to expedite easement work. Ms. Pompi moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Charles P. Johnson and Associates to prepare up to 15 easement agreements at a cost not to exceed \$59,962.50 using ARPA funding. Mayor Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Proposed Policy for Processing Little Free Library Placement Requests: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Fearer presented a proposed policy for processing Little Free Library (LFL) placement requests, to be managed at the staff level with conditional construction permits issued upon approval. Council discussed LFL installations on public property, including Greenbelt Station, emphasizing the need for stakeholder consultation, particularly with HOAs for locations near their properties. The policy formalizes the application process, clarifies that maintenance and vandalism responsibility lies with the applicant, and imposes no limit on the number of LFLs, with each application reviewed for appropriateness. Mayor Jordan moved that Council approve the application and permitting process for LFL installations on public property. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with VMP Construction Company, Inc. for Paving the Multi-Use Path between Greenbrook Drive and Schrom Hills Park: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Ms. Fearer outlined the paving of a multi-use path between Greenbrook Drive and Schrom Hills Park for \$36,950, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to enhance the pedestrian and bicycle master plan. Ms. Pompei moved that Council approve a contract with VMP, not to exceed \$20,000, utilizing ARPA funds to complete asphalt work supporting Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Implementation and Improvements. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contracts for ARPA Project – Ballfield Renovations for Schrom Hills Park Multipurpose Field and Braden Athletic Complex: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Varda outlined the renovation of ball fields at Braden Field Complex and Schrom Hills Park for \$1,729,024.05. The ball field renovations will include new sod, irrigation systems, and lighting, significantly improving their condition. Ms. Pope moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the three contracts, totaling \$1,729,024.05, to significantly improve conditions at Schrom Hills Park and the Braden Field Complex. Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract for Greenbelt Station Central Park - Shaded Tables: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Vada provided Council with a brief overview of the installation of the shaded tables. Councilmember McKinney commended the ongoing development at Greenbelt Station, including improvements at Central Park and the planned installation of shade structures. Ms. McKinney moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase and installation of shade structures by Cunningham Recreation in Greenbelt Station – Central Park not to exceed \$86,153.61. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of CDBG PY50 Contract Award - Roadworks Improvements Cherrywood Lane: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Kim presented to Council an overview of the CDBG PY50 Contract Award to the City for \$191,221.00 for improvements to Cherrywood Lane, extending from Greenbelt Road to Breezewood Drive. Mayor Jordan moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract for the purchase of roadwork improvements at Cherrywood Lane with VMP Co., Inc., located at 9635 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Maryland, 20706, for a total project cost of \$191,221. Ms. Knesel seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Council Activities: Events between October 29 and November 18, 2024

- 29 October: Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meeting (Pope)
- 29 October: Community Meeting, Draft Traffic Calming Study, Greenbelt Center (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Weaver)
- 29 October: Screening of The Candidate (Pompi)
- 30 October: Meeting w/Ms. Stewart (Jordan, Pope, Weaver)
- 2 November: Buddy Attick Playground Ribbon Cutting (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 2 November: SHLRC Playground Ribbon Cutting (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 2-3 November: St. Hugh's Christmas Bazaar (Pompi, Pope, Weaver)
- 6-8 November: Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 9 November: Anacostia Watershed Fun Run (Knesel, McKinney, Pompei)

- 9 November: Co-Op Membership Annual Meeting (Jordan, Pompei)
- 9 November: Reparations Panel (McKinney, Pompei)
- 10 November: Greenbelt Community Orchestra concert (Jordan, Knesel, Pompei)
- 11 November: Veterans Day Ceremony and Lunch (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei)
- 12 November: GPD Officer Oath of Office (Pompi)
- 13-16 November: NLC City Summit (Jordan, McKinney, Pope)
- 14 November: Prince George's County Council PGFD Staffing Reallocation Public Hearing (Pompi)
- 16 November: GVFD Community Yard Sale (Knesel)
- 17 November: Empty Bowls (Jordan, Knesel, Roberts)
- 19 November: The Space Experience, (Pope)
- 20 November: Parent support project meeting, (Pope)

Council Reports: None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Pompei and seconded by Ms. Pope. The motion carried 6-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of November 18, 2024, at 10:14 p.m.

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 November 18, 2024.



Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor