

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 11, 2020.

Mayor Byrd called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Roll call was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd.

Also present were Nicole Ard, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Laura Allen, City Treasurer; Todd Pounds, City Solicitor; Terri Hruby, Planning Director; Charise Liggins, Economic Development Coordinator; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Others present were Andre Plummer, PGCEDC; Caitlin McGrath, Friends of Greenbelt Theatre; Peter May, Bill Orleans, and others.

Mayor Byrd asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt resident Jim Cooley, Rena Hull, Louise Craig, John Holbrook, Ronald Lee Turner, and former resident Ronald Gingell.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Davis requested that the minutes from Work Sessions held on October 15, 2018; April 17, 2019; July 22, 2019; February 3, 2020; and March 2, 2020, be removed. It was moved by Mr. Jordan and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Work Session, February 6, 2019
Work Session, March 7, 2019
Work Session, April 29, 2019
Work Session, January 8, 2020
Regular Meeting, January 27, 2020
Interview, March 2, 2020
Approved as presented

Arts Advisory Board, Report 20-2 (Recommended Enhancements to Lighting in Roosevelt Center): Council accepted this report.

Resignation from Advisory Group: Council accepted the resignation of Anna Socrates from the Arts Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Byrd requested that item #16 City Response to COVID-19 be moved to #12. It was moved by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY21 PROPOSED BUDGET: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. He read Molly Lester's comments submitted via email regarding the FY21 proposed budget. Bill Orleans requested that the City's handling of abatement requests this year be made available for discussion at the next meeting.

COUNCIL BUDGET COMMENTS: Mr. Jordan requested this item be added to the agenda to discuss the Council's budget wish list and other budget-related comments. He noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City should maintain the Constant Yield Tax rate. Mr. Jordan also noted an issue with food insecurities and recommended the City set aside funding to implement a voucher program for use at its farmers market. He also suggested considering a temporary repurposing of the economic development fund the City has been building to help small businesses in the City.

Ms. Davis noted several items to consider for the budget, including deferring all vehicle and equipment replacements and all capital projects except those with grant funding until January.

She noted deferring all driveway, sidewalk, and curb work until the final highway user fund amount has been announced. Ms. Davis also supported keeping the employee classification and compensation studies.

Mr. Roberts inquired about the City's funds from the State/Federal government due to COVID-19. Ms. Ard and Ms. Allen agreed that it was unknown whether it would affect the 2021 or 2022 budget. Mr. Roberts noted that the City should not add anything to the current budget.

Mayor Byrd requested that all the items discussed tonight with the City's financial status be provided to Council as soon as possible.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Ms. Davis requested that the minutes from Work Sessions held on October 15, 2018; April 17, 2019; July 22, 2019; February 3, 2020; and March 2, 2020, be removed for numerous errors to be corrected and placed on the next Regular Meeting agenda for approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Ms. Ard announced the current statistics of the COVID-19 related positive cases in the City's zip code. She also noted the recent activities from this past week with the opening of the tennis courts and the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Davis expressed gratitude to Ms. Ard regarding the letter to the employees on the next phase of the reopening of the City. She also mentioned how well the Farmer's Market was run this past Sunday.

City Response to COVID-19: Mr. Jordan requested this item be added to the agenda for Council discussion on topics such as reopening facilities, testing, and other activities. Mr. Jordan noted that the City would need to be creative when reopening its facilities. Ms. Davis and Mr. Putens both indicated that the City needs to be cautious when reopening. Mayor Byrd moved not to reopen playgrounds until further notice. Mr. Putens seconded. There was a discussion on

reopening and not reopening playgrounds. The motion failed 3-4. (Ms. Davis, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Mach, and Ms. Pope)

Mayor Byrd moved that participants or individuals at the Tennis Courts provide their names if they experience symptoms of COVID-19. There was no second. No action was taken.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution for State Enterprise Zone Designation: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Ms. Liggins provided an update on the Enterprise Zone Designation and an introduction of Andre Plummer. Ms. Davis inquired if the City had ever received funding for the Enterprise Zone designation. Mr. Plummer stated that the City has never received funds from the Enterprise Zone designation.

Mr. Jordan asked if the Golden Triangle is within the designated census tract. Ms. Liggins noted that it's not in the census tract.

Mr. Jordan introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption with the condition that map 806713 includes the North Core (Greenbelt Station). Ms. Pope seconded. There was discussion. Mr. Putens moved to table the resolution until the next meeting. Mr. Roberts seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) - Approval of Grant Funded Project: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Davis moved that Council support the Forest Preserve Advisory Board grant program for the Green Mechanics project. Mayor Byrd seconded. Mr. Roberts expressed his opposition to the project. Peter May provided background information on the project. The motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Roberts)

Greenbelt Theatre Expansion Plans and Façade Improvements at Pop-Up Space: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Hruby corrected the agenda comments to reflect that staff did have an opportunity to review the plans. Dr. McGrath provided comments to the staff recommendations. In addition, she shared a diagram of the Theatre expansion plans and façade improvements.

Ms. Mach moved to support FOGT's renovation plans with conditions outlined by staff for the Pop-up space. Ms. Pope seconded. There was additional discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Emergency Tenant Relief Letter: Mayor Byrd requested this item be added to the agenda. Mayor Byrd moved to send a letter to owners of apartment complexes with at least 100 units. Mr. Putens seconded. Ms. Davis moved to amend the motion by eliminating 100 units and maintaining all other language suggested in the agenda comments. Ms. Mach seconded.

Mayor Byrd moved to include sending a letter to Homeowner Associations, Condominium Associations, and Cooperatives. There was additional discussion. Mayor Byrd withdrew his motion.

The motion passed as amended 7-0.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Farmers Market Opening – Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach

ACE Zoom meeting for Educators Awards – Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach

Central Maryland Transportation and Mobility Commission meeting by Zoom—Ms. Davis

Prince George’s County Commission for Women meeting by conference call – Ms. Davis

County Executive Town Hall and Press Conference – Ms. Davis

COUNCIL REPORTS: None

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. The following were added to the ready-to-be-scheduled list: GEAC, Greenbelt Station, Bernard Penney (Memorial Donation in honor of Leonie Penney) and Economic Development/Recovery.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Byrd adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, May 11, 2020, at 12:11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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 May 11, 2020.

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor