

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held on Monday, June 8, 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 Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Colin A. Byrd. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens arrived late due to work.

ALSO PRESENT were Nicole Ard, City Manager; Todd Pounds, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Laura Allen, City Treasurer; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; Gordon Pracht, Captain; Terri Hruby, Planning Director; Molly Porter, City Planner; Jim Sterling, Public Works Director; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Byrd asked for a moment of silence in honor of resident Cleent Chu-Sing Lau and former residents, Pat Carriere and Irene Fishman Siegel. Mr. Roberts then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Davis moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session - November 28, 2018

Regular Meeting - February 25, 2019

Regular Meeting - April 23, 2019

Regular Meeting - February 10, 2020

Work Session - March 11, 2020

Work Session - April 16, 2020

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Advisory Planning Board Report #2020-02 (Greenbelt NCO Zone). Council accepted this report and will consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted Jean Cook's resignation from the Board of Elections.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council reappointed Valerie Elliott to a new term on the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Davis, on behalf of the Arts Advisory Board, moved to have item #19, Roosevelt Center Lighting, postponed until the next Council meeting. She requested adding item #17, SB-33 (Virtual Hearing Sessions). Ms. Davis moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Peace Month Proclamation: Mayor Byrd read a proclamation to recognize June as Peace Month. Alexander Barnes Sr. received the proclamation for the Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition. Mr. Barnes described the upcoming activities for Peace Month.

13th Amendment Awareness Day Proclamation: Mayor Byrd read a proclamation to recognize the Month of June as the 13th Amendment Awareness Month. Dr. Lois Rosado, Greenbelt Racial Equality Alliance member, was present to receive the proclamation. She provided information on an upcoming event.

Constant Yield Tax Rate: Mayor Byrd announced that a notice had been published in accordance with State law. He then announced a public hearing on the CYTR at 8:49 pm. There was testimony from the general public by Becky Duncan, who indicated concerns about the property assessment rate. Mr. Roberts noted that the City may get hit hard if the rate is lower and is okay with lowering the rate only if we can maintain it and asked for any ideas. Mayor Byrd announced that the City's tax rate would be set later this evening.

No other public comment was received.

The meeting reconvened at 9:07 pm.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Solange Hess, a resident, asked if there was going to be a Labor Day Festival Parade and an Outstanding Citizen, even though the Labor Day Festival has been canceled due to COVID-19.

Beth Leamond, a resident, requested that the Composting USDA Grant Application be placed on the June 22, 2020, agenda.

Amanda Jennings and Daniel Thies, Greenbelt residents, suggested that the City explore using land value tax as another revenue source.

Bill Orleans, a resident, asked if the City challenged any abatement requests from commercial property owners.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Ms. Ard read a statement in regards to the recent protest surrounding George Floyd.

LEGISLATION

FY 2020 Budget Adoption: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Mr. Jordan moved to adjust the Constant Yield Tax Rate by lowering it to \$0.8275. Mayor Byrd seconded. The motion failed 2-4. (Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Roberts)

Ms. Davis moved the following changes to the Proposed FY 2021 Budget (Summary List of Changes). Ms. Mach seconded.

Summary List of Changes:

General Fund Revenues

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Increase Parking fines to \$50 | \$15,000 |
| • Commercial Abatements | -1,500,000 |
| • Reduce Income Tax | -537,750 |
| • Reduce Admissions & Amusement Tax | -105,000 |
| • Reduce Hotel/Motel Tax | -326,250 |
| • Reduce Highway User Revenues | -284,950 |
| • Reduce Recreation Charges | -677,700 |
| • Reduce Parking Citations | -26,250 |
| • Reduce Red Light Camera Fines | -157,500 |
| • Reduce Speed Camera Fines | -122,500 |
| • Transfer from Capital Projects Fund | 152,400 |
| • Transfer from Building Capital Reserve | 179,200 |
| • Delete MEA Match (Transfer from BCR) | 33,100 |

General Fund Expenditures

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Defer Compensation Study | -\$75,000 |
| • Debt Service Fund (Dam Loan @ 4%) | -20,000 |
| • Health Insurance Savings | -150,000 |
| • Cancel Non-Essential Travel & Training | -116,200 |
| • Continue Certain Vacant Positions | -693,600 |
| • Defer/Eliminate all FY 21 Salary Increases | -550,000 |
| • Defer all Capital Projects & Reduce Fund Trans. | -1,000,000 |
| • Defer all BCR Projects & Reduce Fund Trans. | -700,000 |
| • Defer all Replacement Fund & Reduce Fund Trans. | -448,300 |
| • Delete Architectural Space Study Funding | -30,000 |

Mr. Roberts moved to remove the Increase in Parking fines to \$50, to be voted on separately. Mayor Byrd seconded. The motion failed 2-4. (Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope, and Mr. Jordan)

Roll call vote on the original motion:

Ms. Davis - Yes
Mr. Jordan - Yes
Ms. Mach - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Putens - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Mayor Byrd - Yes

An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund, Building Capital Reserve Fund, Cemetery Fund, Debt Service Fund, Replacement Fund, Special Projects Fund, Green Ridge House Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Community Development Block Grant Fund and Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund Budgets for the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Appropriate Funds and Establish Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates for the Fiscal Year 2021 Beginning July 1, 2020, and Including June 30, 2021:
Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis introduced the ordinance for first reading and moved suspension of the rules. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Jordan	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Absent
	Mr. Roberts	- Yes
	Mayor Byrd	- Yes

Ms. Davis introduced the ordinance for second reading and adoption. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Jordan	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Absent
	Mr. Roberts	- Yes
	Mayor Byrd	- Yes

The Ordinance was declared passed (Ordinance No. 1374, Book 12).

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

Mr. Jordan introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Ms. Mach seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Jordan	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Absent
	Mr. Roberts	- No
	Mayor Byrd	- Yes

The Resolution was declared passed (Resolution No. 2084, Book 8).

A Resolution Regarding Black Lives Matter in the City of Greenbelt: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Mayor Byrd introduced the resolution for first reading and moved suspension of the rules. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Jordan	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Absent
	Mr. Roberts	- Yes
	Mayor Byrd	- Yes

Mayor Byrd introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Jordan	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Absent
	Mr. Roberts	- Yes
	Mayor Byrd	- Yes

The Resolution was declared passed (Resolution No. 2085, Book 8)

Police Training and Reporting: Mr. Roberts requested that this item be added to the agenda for discussion. Chief Bowers provided an update on the training programs received by the Police Department and announced that a community forum is scheduled for June 18. The forum will focus on discussing crime trends and addressing the department's training practices and policies, providing an opportunity for community engagement and input.

County Legislation: CB-20-2020: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach moved that Council oppose CB-20-2020 (Subdivision). Ms. Davis seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Davis moved that Council oppose CB-33 (Virtual Meetings). Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

FY 2021 Annual Program Open Space: Mayor Byrd read the agenda comments.

Ms. Davis moved that Council approve the City's FY 2021 Program Open Space Annual Program as proposed. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 4-2. (Mayor Byrd and Mr. Roberts)

Arts Advisory Board (AAB) – Report 20-2 (Recommendations for Enhancements to Lighting in Roosevelt Center): Ms. Davis postponed discussion until the next meeting on June 22.

Letter to the State Comptroller Opposing Public Subsidies and WSSC Water Rate Increases to Pay for Highway Construction: Ms. Davis requested this item to be added to the agenda. Ms. Davis moved that Council send the letter. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Council Activities:

National League of Cities Regional Call – Ms. Davis

Arts Advisory Board, Zoom meeting – Ms. Davis

Advisory Planning Board, Zoom meeting – Ms. Davis

GHI Board Meeting by Zoom – Ms. Davis

Roosevelt Center and Crescent Road Black Lives Matter Vigil – Mayor Byrd, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Roberts

Prince George's County Commission for Women, Legislative Subcommittee, conference call – Ms. Davis

Council Reports: None.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Byrd and seconded by Ms. Mach. The motion carried 7-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of June 8, 2020, at 12:13 a.m. on June 9, 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 June 8, 2020.

Colin A. Byrd
Mayor