

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held October 14, 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 (virtual); Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; Rick Bowers, Police Chief; Brian Townsend, Public Works Assistant Director; Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development; Ryan Sigworth, City Planner; Jamarie Spencer, Public Information Producer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of Elaine Weisel Eubanks, Thomas Joseph “Tom” Payne, Barbara Ann Payne, Mark Wayne Price, Keith Alan Bair, and Muriel “Micki” Weidenfeld.

Ms. Pompei then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Fred Gasper, a resident, raised concerns regarding the equity of the implementation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, noting that the bicycle plan may not be executed. He highlighted specific worries about Hanover Parkway, a heavily utilized area for pedestrians and cyclists, emphasizing the need for improvements to ensure safety and accessibility.

Judith Davis, a resident, suggested that Council support CB-098-2024, which addresses the issue of abandoned shopping carts. She encouraged Council to submit any concerns to the Transportation, Infrastructure and Environmental Committee by this Thursday.

Bill Orleans, a resident, indicated that he is not satisfied with the response received for his previously stated requests from prior meetings. He noted that future meetings should be advertised, indicating virtual or in-person.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Roberts requested to remove item #25, “7 Hillside Road Sight Distance Issue and Parking Removal,” and Mayor Jordan requested to remove item #14, “Approval of Waiver of Property Tax Lien against Charlestowne North Apartments,” and item #16, “Approval of Special Event and One-Time Suspension of Fire Code Requirements for Pumpkin Walk Event,” and to hold item #31, “Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with VMP Construction Company, Inc. for Installation of Raised Crosswalks,” to the October 28 Council Meeting agenda. There was discussion. Mayor Jordan moved to hold items #25 and #31 until the next meeting. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0 to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Work Session, January 26, 2022

Work Session, March 23, 2022

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) Report #2024-01: Trail reroutes and closures in the North Woods Tract of the Forest Preserve: Council accepted this report.

Approval of Waiver of Property Tax Lien against Charlestowne North Apartments: Council approved staff's recommendation for a 50% lien reduction, totaling \$20,352.50, to support Freddie Mac's acquisition and management of the property.

Approval of Special Event and One-Time Suspension of Fire Code Requirements for Pumpkin Walk Event: Council approved a special event permit for the longstanding Pumpkin Walk on October 19, 2024, and consider a temporary suspension of the fire code that prohibits open flames in the Forest Preserve.

MEETINGS: Council approved the meeting schedule.

STAKEHOLDERS LIST: Council approved the stakeholder list.

Appointment to Advisory Board/Committee: Council appointed Mr. Abel Aworbi to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. (TAPCO) for LED-Enhanced Stop Signs and Sign Posts: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with TAPCO for \$15,893.25.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Control Technologies, Inc. for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and LED-Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing Signs: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with Control Technologies for \$99,580.97.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Shannon-Baum Signs & Graphics, Inc. for Static Signs and Flex Posts: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with Shannon-Baum for \$12,859.57.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Ennis-Flint by PPG Traffic Solutions for Thermoplastic Markings: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with Ennis-Flint not to exceed \$17,500.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Next Day Concrete &

Masonry, Inc., for Concrete Work on Pedestrian Curb Ramps: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with Next Day Concrete and Masonry, Inc., not to exceed \$20,000.

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Carpet Land for Installation of Carpet for the Municipal Building Second Floor: Council authorized the City Manager to execute a contract with Carpet Land for \$35,784.00.

Reappointment to Advisory Board/Committee: Council reappointed Erica Hernandez to the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability for a new term.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) - FY25 Annual Dues from the City of Greenbelt: Council authorized the City Manager to pay membership dues to ATHA for \$6,230.25.

ARPA - BIRF Grant Award - Greenbelt Cinema: Council approved \$35,000 in ARPA-BIRF Grant Funding.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Pompei requested to move item #17,” Discussion of Budget Request from the Reparations Commission,” to #14. Mayor Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

PRESENTATIONS:

Cooperative Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan designated October as Cooperative Month and presented a proclamation to the representatives of the City of Greenbelt Cooperatives.

Maryland Economic Development Week Proclamation: Mayor Jordan proclaimed October 21-25, 2024, as Maryland’s Economic Development Week. Jessica Wilson from CCI Health Services, Alejandra Ramirez, owner of Beltway Plaza Hardware, and others accepted the proclamation and remarked on this year's activities.

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan proclaimed October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encouraged the community to stand united in raising awareness, supporting survivors, and promoting resources to prevent domestic violence.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Statement for the Record – Closed Session of October 7, 2024: Ms. Weaver moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-06(C)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's Meeting reflect that Council met in closed session on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 9:11 p.m., in the Council Chambers. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation,

or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the City Manager's evaluation process.

Vote to close the session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Knesel	X			
Ms. McKinney	X			
Ms. Pompei	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Roberts		X		
Ms. Weaver	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Dawane Martinez, Director of Human Resources; and Adewunmi Lewis, Consultant from MGT.

Council took no action during this session.

Ms. Pope seconded.

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

Statement for the Record – Closed Session of October 9, 2024: Ms. Weaver moved that in accordance with the General Provisions Article, Section 3-06(C)(2) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, the minutes of tonight's Meeting reflect that Council met in closed session on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 7:44 p.m., in Council Chambers. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 3-305 (9) and (10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland: 1) to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations; and (2) to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

The purpose of this meeting was 1) to discuss the City and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 32 agreement regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and 2) to discuss the Deployment and Status of the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Police Services.

Vote to close the session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Knesel	X			
Ms. McKinney	X			
Ms. Pompei	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Roberts		X		
Ms. Weaver	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Richard Bowers, Police Chief (until 8:44 p.m.).

Other attendees were Stephen Silvestri and Blaine Taylor from Jackson Lewis Law Firm (until 8:44 p.m.) and Suellen Ferguson, Attorney (from 8:46 p.m.).

Council took no action during this session.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Knesel - Yes
Ms. McKinney - Yes
Ms. Pompei - Yes
Ms. Pope - Yes
Mr. Roberts - Yes
Ms. Weaver - Yes
Mayor Jordan - Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Mr. Salmerón thanked Council for attending the Armory tour, highlighting the importance of their presence and engagement. He also shared the recent success of the Fall Fest, which saw significant community participation. Additionally, Mr. Salmerón mentioned the kickoff of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations with the Police Union, which align with proposed budget plans, and the initiation of Tax Differential meetings. He noted the recent upgrade to WiFi coverage in the Municipal Building, enhancing connectivity for staff and visitors, and celebrated the excellent turnout for the flu shot clinic, which underscored the community's commitment to health and wellness.

LEGISLATION:

Resolution to Establish a Charter Review Taskforce: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments and introduced the resolution for its second reading and adoption. Ms. Pope seconded. There was

discussion on establishing a taskforce that would include a member of the Cooperative and a business owner who is also a resident.

Ms. Weaver moved to amend the resolution to include a member of the Cooperative.

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Ms. McKinney moved to amend the resolution to include a business owner who is also a resident.

Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

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. 2113, Book 8).

OTHER BUSINESS:

Board of Elections Report #2024-04: Provisions and Proposed Amendments Regarding Council Vacancies: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Council reviewed the Board of Elections report on filling vacant Council seats and discussed proposed amendments to the City Charter. The Board presented two options for amending the Charter, with Mayor Jordan expressing concerns about the long-term implications of these changes. The Board of Elections agreed to seek guidance on moving forward with these items. In discussing how to fill Council vacancies, Council advocated for elections by the public rather than appointments by Council itself to ensure a fair process. They proposed a new method for filling vacancies and emphasized the need for a straightforward, structured approach to prevent future confusion and inefficiencies. Council highlighted the importance of public feedback on the proposed timeline and appointing Council members. They also agreed on the necessity for a concise, professional approach to handling vacancies, noting the potential issues if only six members served, which could lead to deadlock situations. Staff was instructed to publish the agreed changes promptly.

Greenbelt Armory Feasibility Consultant Recommendation: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Taylors Imes-Thomas, representing AMAR Group, and Kelly Cronin from WJE presented a detailed PowerPoint outlining their backgrounds, expertise, and the scope of work for the feasibility study on the Greenbelt Armory. Their presentation provided an overview of both firms' experience and qualifications, setting a foundation for the study's objectives, methodologies, and anticipated outcomes. The presentation highlighted key focus areas, including structural assessments, potential uses, and projected timelines, aiming to evaluate the

Armory's feasibility for future projects. Ms. Weaver moved that Council accept the proposal of the AMAR Group, LLC, to provide a feasibility study for the Greenbelt Armory and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with AMAR at a cost not to exceed \$166,000. Ms. Pompei seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion of Budget Request from the Reparations Commission: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Dr. Lois Rosado provided an update on the progress of the research project, sharing that historians and a genealogist are actively involved in analyzing the data and addressing any gaps. Although legal assistance was initially considered, it was determined that it may not be necessary since the City is forming a taskforce to assist with the project. Dr. Rosado also emphasized the need for an administrative assistant and a content manager to manage the project's webpage, with plans to fund these roles within the existing budget. Tom Adams, a commission member, underscored the importance of community outreach, pointing out the costs associated with printing materials for public engagement. Additionally, Dr. Rosado highlighted the need for specialized genealogical tools and expertise to trace individuals linked to the project and identify their descendants, further enhancing its scope and historical significance.

Action for this item will take place during ARPA Reallocation Recommendations.

Draft FY 2025-2030 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP): Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Sigworth reviewed the draft fiscal year 2025-2030 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program, noting a significant \$1.3 billion decrease from the previous year. Mr. Sigworth explained the program's importance as the State's 6-year budget document and pointed out fundamental changes, including the removal of Maryland 193 and the Greenbelt Road Streetscape Improvement Project. He also highlighted a notable reduction in bicycle and pedestrian projects and a shift toward purchasing clean diesel buses due to budget constraints and market considerations. Council expressed disappointment over these changes, particularly the exclusion of Greenbelt East Trail segments, and requested their addition to the program. Additionally, Council discussed the draft letter to the State regarding the County's Greenbelt Improvement Project and the potential expansion of Kenilworth Avenue and Edmonston Road. No action was taken.

ARPA Reallocation Recommendations: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mr. Salmerón provided an overview of staff's review of the proposed American Rescue Plan (ARPA) projects. He noted that the total cost of the proposed projects exceeded the available funding. However, if additional funds became available as certain projects were completed, staff could move forward with pre-approved projects quickly. Council had set an internal deadline of November 30th for finalizing decisions on allocating funds.

A proposed reallocation plan was discussed in detail, outlined in a 6-page document with a graphic representation. The document included recommendations for ARPA lost revenue and funding allocation. A line graph was presented showing how the funding would be distributed, along with a section detailing which projects could not be funded due to insufficient resources. The final page of the document provided a distribution breakdown for vouchers and grants by

category and area of the City. Mr. Salmerón also addressed feedback from previous sessions, emphasizing the need for guidance on the reallocation process.

Council discussed funding for various proposed projects, including the purchase of portable radios, the construction of an animal control facility, the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, and the addition of solar lights at basketball courts. It was noted that some projects, such as portable radios, may only be funded through ARPA funding due to a lack of competitive grant opportunities or partnerships. Mr. Salmerón raised the importance of installing an AED at the Greenbelt Cinema, emphasizing the urgency of such safety equipment. Other proposals included a \$10,000 grant for GHI to install metal cast poles for improved lighting and security, a commercial scope for inspecting sewer lines, and necessary upgrades to code enforcement software. Mr. Salmerón also discussed various other investments needed for recreation centers, including elevator upgrades at the Community Center and roof repairs at the Youth Center.

Mr. Salmerón recommended allocating \$204,000 towards food recovery initiatives and \$50,000 for workforce development programming. Council reviewed additional proposals for nonprofit funding and the potential allocation of funds to park amenities. They discussed various potential projects, including a multi-use path between Schrom Hills Park and Greenbrook Drive and a stormwater project for Stream Valley Park.

Mr. Roberts expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of recreational facilities in Greenbelt, particularly in the western section of the City. He criticized the City's lack of equitable distribution of facilities.

As discussion concluded, Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that ARPA funding was distributed in a way that addressed current needs and long-term community goals.

Mayor Jordan moved that Council adopt the recommendations proposed by staff. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Roberts)

Discussion of the Removal of Center Arm Rests on City Benches: Ms. Pompei moved that this item to be deferred to the next Council meeting agenda. Mayor Jordan seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: Events between September 24 and October 14, 2024

- 24 September: Friends of the Greenbelt Library meeting (Pompi)
- 24 September: Greenbelt Advisory Committee for Environmental Sustainability meeting (Weaver)
- 25 September: Metro Washington Air Quality Committee meeting (Weaver)
- 26 September: Greenbelt Rotary Club meeting (Weaver)
- 26 September: Greenbelt Business Alliance Networking and Happy Hour (Jordan, McKinney, Weaver)
- 28 September: Berwyn Heights Fire Department Anniversary Breakfast (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope)

- 28 September: National Public Lands Day Honeysuckle Bush Round-up (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei)
- 28 September: Schrom Hills Threes Sisters Garden Clean-up (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei)
- 28 September: Environmental Sustainability/Nuclear Peace Talk (Knesel, Pompei)
- 01 October: Fire Ops 101 (Jordan, Knesel)
- 01 October: Advisory Committee on Education meeting (Pompi)
- 02 October: Maryland Mayors Association Board Meeting (Jordan)
- 03 October: White House Infrastructure Briefing (Jordan)
- 03 October: Maryland Municipal League (MML) Conference Committee Ecommerce Awards Meeting (Pompi)
- 03 October: Greenbelt Police Department Community Meeting at Greenbriar (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 03 October: Greenbelt Rotary Club meeting (Weaver)
- 04 October: Prince George's County Tax Differential Kick-off Call (Jordan)
- 04 October: Greenbriar 50th Anniversary Celebration (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 05 October: Beat Breast Cancer Rally (Jordan, Pompei, Weaver)
- 05 October: Buy Nothing Group Gathering (Jordan, Weaver)
- 05 October: Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Crab Feast Fundraiser (Jordan, McKinney, Pope, Roberts, Weaver)
- 06 October: Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club Picnic (Jordan, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 06 October: Artful Afternoon and Art Studio Open House (Weaver)
- 08 October: Legacy Leadership Class presentation (Jordan)
- 09 October: National Walk to School Day (Jordan, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 09 October: Metro Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors meeting (Jordan)
- 10 October: National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services meeting (Weaver)
- 10 October: Tour of Greenbelt Armory (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 10 October: Public Safety Advisory Committee Forum in Greenbriar (Jordan, Pope)
- 11 October: Meeting with Prince George's County Fire Department Chief Green (Jordan, Pompei, Weaver)
- 11 October: Greenbelt CARES GED Graduation (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 12 October: Greenbelt Triathlon (Weaver)
- 12 October: Fall Fest (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 12 October: Schrom Hills Pumpkin Walk (Knesel, Weaver)
- 12 October: Reparations Commission Forum (Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Weaver)
- 13 October: Muriel "Micki" Weidenfeld Funeral Service (Jordan)
- 13 October: Artful Afternoon at Springhill Lake Rec Center (Weaver)

MEETINGS:

Closed Session: Ms. Weaver moved that the City Council go into closed session, according to Section 3-305(b)(1) and (3) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland 1) to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals and 2) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Ms. Pope seconded.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The Mayor adjourned the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2024, at 11:30 p.m.

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 October 14, 2024.

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor