

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held on February 11, 2026

DISCUSSION: City Manager Quarterly Update

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers via Zoom.

In attendance were: Councilmembers Frankie Santos Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney (virtual), Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

City Staff: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; Rick Bowers, Police Chief (virtual); Dawane Martinez, Human Resources Director (virtual); Brian Kim, Public Works Director; Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, Environmental Coordinator; Dr. Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator; Desmond McCallment, Facility Maintenance Manager; Richard Sorzano, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Harris Moo Young, Mechanic Supervisor; Michael Barnes, Refuse/Recycling Supervisor; Frank Kellaher, Street Maintenance Supervisor; Zach Patton, Acting Horticulture Supervisor, and Gizelle Alvarez, Constituent Services Coordinator.

Others present included Bill Orleans, Robert Goldberg-Strassler, and others.

The Greenbelt City Council held a work session to receive a quarterly update from the Department of Public Works, highlighting their achievements and ongoing projects. The Public Works team presented their efforts in snow removal, infrastructure maintenance, and various initiatives such as the Save As You Throw program and EV charging stations. Council members expressed appreciation for the department's work, particularly during the recent ice storm.

Public Works Quarterly Performance Review

The Greenbelt City Council held a work session to receive a quarterly update from the Department of Public Works, highlighting achievements and ongoing projects. The Public Works team demonstrated exceptional performance during recent snow and ice events. Key accomplishments discussed included increased voter turnout (21%), completion of the Economic Development Strategic Plan, launch of the Save As You Throw program with high compliance rates, and progress on EV infrastructure initiatives. The council also reviewed financial updates, with revenue collection at 74.5% and spending at 54.7% of the approved budget. Challenges discussed included staffing for fire and EMS services, ongoing annexation activities, and the need for additional funding for elevator repairs at the community center.

DPW Leadership and Sustainability Initiatives

The meeting introduced the leadership team of the Department of Public Works (DPW), including Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, who discussed administrative roles, and Brendi and Chrissy, who handle public inquiries and customer service. Dr. Luisa Robles, the Sustainability Coordinator, highlighted ongoing projects such as the solar farm, food scraps collection, and the Save As You Throw program, while also mentioning the need for interdepartmental cooperation for the Sustainable Maryland recertification. Harris Moo Young, the mechanic supervisor, shared his experience and role in maintaining the city's fleet.

City Department Maintenance Overview

The meeting featured presentations from three city department heads: Council, Desmond McCallment, and Richard Sorzano. Council described their role overseeing vehicle maintenance, including heavy-duty equipment and police vehicles, while managing inspections, parts inventory, and snow removal

operations. Desmond outlined his responsibilities as facility maintenance manager, overseeing a team of three employees who maintain nine city buildings, including HVAC systems, security lights, and fire suppression systems. Richard presented on his role as building maintenance supervisor, overseeing a crew of 23 for sidewalk maintenance and coordinating cleaning contracts for municipal buildings.

Public Works Department Operations Overview

Frank Kellaher, supervisor of the street maintenance and special details crew in Greenbelt, outlined the Public Works Department's responsibilities, including street maintenance, traffic control, snow emergency operations, and street sweeping coordination with neighboring municipalities. Lori Field, a maintenance worker on the Parks Crew, described their seasonal duties, which include grass maintenance, leaf collection, playground inspections, and vegetation management, while also assisting with snow removal and special events. Zach Patton, the Acting Horticulture Supervisor, briefly introduced himself to the council.

City Employees Share Their Roles

The meeting featured presentations from three City of Greenbelt employees highlighting their roles and responsibilities. The first speaker described their work as a tree technician overseeing a crew of six and managing landscape maintenance and tree care services. Brian Abbott, with 37 years of city service, detailed his supervision of ball field maintenance and oversight of various specialty projects, including recent field renovations. Michael Barnes, the Refuse and Recycling Supervisor, explained his management of a seven-person crew providing waste and recycling services to over 2,300 homes and businesses. Councilmember Pope ended the conversation by expressing gratitude for the department's work during recent challenging weather conditions and highlighted an instance of exceptional customer service by Brian Abbott.

Recycling Event and Infrastructure Updates

The meeting focused on rescheduling a recycling event to March 7th, 9 am to 12 noon, and discussing the Save-As-You-Throw program's progress despite initial challenges and recent weather disruptions. Council members expressed appreciation for the Public Works team's extensive experience and efforts, highlighting their significant contributions to maintaining the city's quality of life. Concerns were raised about the budget for salt and ice, as well as potential potholes and storm drain issues, but the city manager assured that adjustments could be made within the current budget year, and preparations for addressing potholes were confirmed. Additionally, the phased approach to replacing Brantford pear trees was discussed, with plans for further assessments and replacements in the fall.

Public Works Snow Response Review

The meeting focused on the Public Works Department's response to recent snow and ice storms. Council members and residents expressed gratitude for the department's quick action in clearing bus stops and roads. The discussion included suggestions for improving snow removal efficiency, such as parking on specific sides of the street and considering smaller machines for sidewalk clearing. There was also a call for establishing a "Snow Hero" program to encourage residents to help each other during storms. The conversation ended with a reminder of the important role Public Works plays as first responders in various emergencies.

City Petitions and Requests Review

The meeting focused on reviewing the city's petitions and requests list, which tracks community concerns and ongoing administrative actions. Staff reported progress on various items, including

sidewalk maintenance, parking adjustments, and pedestrian safety improvements. The council discussed the status of several pending requests, such as Mr. Robert Goldberg-Strassler's request regarding sidewalk clearing requirements. The administration also provided updates on the charter amendment for collective bargaining and the ongoing review of the Independence Day fireworks display. Councilmember Pompei inquired about the timeline for implementing ranked choice voting, and staff explained that the Board of Elections would be addressing this issue after completing their review of the November election.

City Projects Tracking Sheet Updates

The council discussed updates to their tracking sheet for city projects and issues, with Mr. Salmerón suggesting the addition of resolution dates to improve transparency. They reviewed the status of various matters, including the Verizon town hall scheduled for March 10th and the need for a work session to review amendments to the bargaining ordinance.

CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Pro Tem Weaver moved that Council move into closed session in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1),(7) and (8) of the General Provision 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; 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and 3) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters related to specific individuals; 2) to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and 3) to consult with staff about pending or potential litigation.

Councilmember Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Fritz	- Yes
Councilmember Knesel	- Yes
Councilmember McKinney	- Yes
Councilmember Pompei	- Yes
Councilmember Pope	- Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Weaver	- Yes
Mayor Jordan	- Yes

Mayor Pro Tem Weaver noted that Council would not return to open session.

Council moved into Closed Session at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Anderson
City Clerk