

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held March 23, 2026.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Frankie Santos Fritz, Amy E. Knesel, Danielle P. McKinney, Jenni A. Pompei, Silke I. Pope, Kristen L.K. Weaver, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Timothy George, Assistant City Manager; James Wisniewski, Acting Public Information Officer; and Bonita Anderson, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan requested a moment of silence to honor residents Becky Steele and David Lange, along with former residents Phillip Lyles “Guz” Torbert, Grace Llyn Waterhaut Tamantini, and Tom Cherrix.

Mayor Jordan then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Mayor Pro Tem Weaver recited the Greenbelt Community Pledge.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Frank Gervasi, a resident, petitioned for a National New Deal Heritage Center at the Existing Armory Site. He provided the City Clerk with the petition with signatures.

Bill Orleans, a resident, inquired about the status of Annexation Areas 1 & 2 and closed session discussions about this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilmember Pope moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, February 11, 2026
Regular Meeting, February 23, 2026
Work Session, March 2, 2026
Regular Meeting, March 9, 2026
Interviews, March 11, 2026
Special Meeting, March 11, 2026
Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Report #26-2 (PGCMLS Story Walk Removal): Council accepted the report, which appeared later on the agenda for discussion.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council appointed Charlotte Hoffman to the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) and Farinaz Firouzi to the Charter Review Task Force.

ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL OF ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Council accepted the removal of John Drago from the Arts Advisory Board and Bukola Pinheiro from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council reappointed the following individuals to new terms on their respective boards and committees:

- Arts Advisory Board (AAB): Tatiana Ausema
- Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB): Chalya Lar
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES): Ronald Bjorkland
- Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety (ACAPS): Eunice Pierre and Peggy Higgins
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC): Martha Galvin and Monica Huber

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE: Council accepted the resignation of Sudhanshu Sinha from the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), and Donald Matin from the Board of Appeals (BoA).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Councilmember Fritz and seconded by Councilmember Knesel that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation: Mayor Jordan proclaimed March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Proposed FY 2027 City Budget: City Manager Salmerón presented his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027. He provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed FY27 budget, including both funded and unfunded requests.

Statement of Record – Closed Session of March 6, 2026: 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 Friday, March 6, 2026, at 5:35 p.m., via Zoom. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 3-305(3) and (7) of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland 1) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and 2) to consult with counsel on a legal matter.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Fritz	X			
Councilmember Knesel	X			
Councilmember McKinney				X
Councilmember Pompei	X			
Councilmember Pope				X
Mayor Pro Tem Weaver	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

Staff members present: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Todd Pounds, City Solicitor.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Action taken: instructed City Manager to proceed with the annexation survey.

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

Statement of Record – Closed Session of March 9, 2026: 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, March 9, 2026, at 9:46 p.m., in the Council Chambers. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 3-305(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, 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; 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.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Fritz	X			

Councilmember Knesel	X			
Councilmember McKinney	X			
Councilmember Pompei	X			
Councilmember Pope	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Weaver	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

Staff members present: Josué Salmerón, City Manager; Dawane Martinez, Human Resources Director; and Jason DeLoach, City Solicitor.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Action taken: Direct City Manager to explore further legal options.

Councilmember Pompei 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

Statement of Record – Closed Session of March 11, 2026: 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, March 11, 2026, at 9:17 p.m., via Zoom. Council held this closed meeting 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, 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; 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 discuss personnel matters and appointments to advisory boards and committees.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Fritz	X			
Councilmember Knesel	X			

Councilmember McKinney	X			
Councilmember Pompei	X			
Councilmember Pope	X			
Mayor Pro Tem Weaver	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

Staff members present: Josué Salmerón, City Manager (until 10:34 p.m.); and Dawane Martinez, Director of Human Resources (until 10:33 p.m.).

Other individuals in attendance: None

Action taken: Agreed to move forward with new appointments for vacancies, pending completion of final requirements by applicants; agreed to move forward with most reappointments (two will be held pending needed clarifications).

Councilmember Knesel 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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

City Manager Salmerón reported on recent events, including the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Panda Express and the Learn2Earn graduation. He also provided updates on the chiller project and shared information about upcoming events, such as an egg hunt scheduled for April 4 and a food distribution event. Additionally, Mr. Salmerón updated Council on the status of the electric vehicle (EV) chargers near the library, noting a target completion date of June 30 in order to qualify for the associated tax credit.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Repeal and Reenact with Amendment Resolution Number 2109 to Adopt Standing Rules for the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver introduced for first reading.

Resolution Recognizing March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Councilmember Pompei introduced for first reading and suspension of the rules.

Councilmember Knesel 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

Councilmember Pompei introduced for second reading and adoption.

Councilmember Fritz 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

The resolution was declared passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Authorization for City Manager to Approve Contract with VMP: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver moved that Council authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase of roadworks improvement at Cherrywood Lane to VMP Co., Inc. at 9635 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Maryland 20706 for a total project cost of \$226,394.00 to be funded from a reimbursable CDBG Grant. Councilmember Fritz seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Legislative Review: County Bills: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver proposed moving this item to the March 25 Work Session for discussion. Mayor Jordan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7-0.

Discussion: State Budget, Legislative Bond Bills, and Grant Opportunities in Relation to Capital Project Priorities: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. The Council discussed multiple funding opportunities for capital projects, including the Budget Reconciliation Financing Act, legislative bond bills, and congressionally directed spending. Staff presented proposed projects for potential funding, including the Greenbelt Community Center Elevator, Greenbelt Museum Renovation, Buddy Attic Park Path and Performance Venue, and Schrom Hills Park Soccer Field Lighting. Council members were asked to review these projects within the context of overall Capital Improvement Program priorities and to provide direction on project prioritization and future grant-seeking strategies. The importance of presenting funding information to residents in a clear, user-friendly format similar to ARPA progress reports was also noted.

Council discussed the geographic distribution of funding across the city. Councilmember Pompei raised concerns about disproportionate investment in Center City compared to Greenbelt West and East. Several Council members agreed on the need for more equitable spending aligned with population distribution and growing needs, particularly in Greenbelt West.

Council Discussion on Revising the Planning Framework: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Council discussed a new planning framework developed from resident feedback gathered through town hall meetings and planning retreats. Council was asked to review the framework in advance of its finalization before budget approval.

Discussion of PGCMLS Story Walk Removal: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments. Council discussed the recommendation from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board to remove the PGCMLS Story Walk. Mayor Pro Tem Weaver moved that Council refer the story walk project recommendation to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) for further consideration, with reports due by the end of May. Councilmember Pope seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Discussion: Sending a letter to the County Councilmembers Requesting They Maintain Funding for the Chinese Immersion Program at Greenbelt Middle School: Councilmember Pompei requested that this item be added to the agenda for discussion. The focus is on sending a letter to the Prince George's County Council to request a reconsideration of the proposed cuts to the Chinese language immersion program at Greenbelt Middle School. Mayor Jordan moved that the Council draft a broader letter to the County Council and the County Executive regarding the proposed school budget cuts. This letter will specifically address the impacts on Greenbelt Middle School and Magnolia schools, including the effects on language immersion programs and staff reductions. Councilmember Pope seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS: None.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: Events between March 10 and March 23, 2026

- 10 March: Greenbelt Police Department Officer Swearing-in (Jordan, Pompei, Weaver)
- 11 March: Visit to Maryland General Assembly with Senator Washington (Pompi, Weaver)
- 12 March: Community Relations Advisory Board (Pompi)
- 12 March: Greenbelt Rotary Speaker Series – Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival (Weaver)
- 14 March: Planning in Our County workshop (Fritz, McKinney, Weaver)
- 15 March: National League of Cities (NLC) Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee (Weaver,) NLC Public Safety and small cities meetings:(Pope)
- 16 March: Panda Express Ribbon Cutting (McKinney, Pope)

- 16-17 March: NLC Congressional Cities Conference (Fritz, Jordan, Pope, Weaver)
- 18 March: NLC Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill (Fritz, Weaver)
- 18 March: Metro Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board (Weaver)
- 18 March: Park and Recreation Advisory Board (Weaver)
- 18 March: Advisory Planning Board (McKinney)
- 19 March: Greenbelt Rotary Club (Weaver)
- 21 March: Learn 2 Earn Program Completion Ceremony (Fritz, Jordan, Knesel, McKinney, Pompei, Pope, Weaver)
- 21 March: Youth Advisory Committee (McKinney)
- 22 March: “Dancing Joy” Film Screening (McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 22 March: Greenbelt Community Orchestra Concert (Jordan, McKinney, Pompei, Weaver)
- 23 March: Agenda Planning with City Manager (Jordan, Weaver)

MEETING LIST: Council reviewed and approved the revised meeting schedule.

CLOSED SESSION: Ms. Weaver moved that Council move into closed session in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, in accordance with the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Law 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 this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting will be 1) to discuss personnel matters; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals 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

Ms. Weaver noted that Council would not return to open session.

Council moved into Closed Session at 9:46 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 March 23, 2026."

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor