

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, February 13, 2012

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was unable to attend due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; John Shay, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of Greenbelt residents Lynn A. Tiplady and Dirce (Dee) Ronchi, former resident George Ben Havens, and retired Planning and Community Development Supervisory Inspector Willie Davis. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. Putens requested the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2012, be removed from the consent agenda. With this change, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 6-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Work Session, October 6, 2010
- Work Session, October 13, 2010
- Work Session, May 18, 2011
- Work Session, November 14, 2011
- Charter Meeting, November 14, 2011
- Interview, December 5, 2011
- Interview, December 12, 2011
- Regular Meeting, December 12, 2011
- Regular Meeting, January 23, 2012
- Work Session, January 25, 2012

Approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Davis requested “Prince George’s County’s Efforts to Relocate the Federal Bureau of Investigation to a Prince George’s County Site” be added to the agenda. With this addition, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Jordan that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS

ACE Educator Awards Ceremony: Mayor Davis introduced Jon Gardner, chair of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). Mr. Gardner explained the purpose of the ACE Outstanding Educator Awards, gave an overview of ACE’s other activities, and described the gifts and certificates to be presented tonight. He said this was the 17th consecutive year that the ACE Awards had been presented, and thanked the City Council for its support over that period.

Mr. Gardner recognized Sudhanshu Sinha, Susan Breon, Donald Rich, David Whiteman, and Elsie Waynes, ACE members; Councilmember Mach, ACE council liaison; David Moran, acting ACE staff liaison; County Councilmember Ingrid M. Turner; County School Board Member Peggy Higgins; Monica Gaines, Principal of Greenbelt Elementary School; Phyllis Gillens, Principal of Magnolia Elementary School; Kenneth Jones, Principal of Turning Point Academy; and Reginald McNeill, Principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Mr. Gardner and Mayor Davis also congratulated Wendy Wexler, who recently retired as a Social Services Family Counselor with the City after over thirty years of service. They commented on the numerous accomplishments of Ms. Wexler in her role as staff liaison to ACE and thanked her for her many years of service.

The following 2012 award recipients were recognized, and gifts and citations were presented from ACE, the City Council, the County Council and the General Assembly.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Greenbelt Elementary School | Annette Lynne Maydag – 1 st Grade Teacher |
| Springhill Lake Elementary School | Stephanie Kohout – Gym Teacher and Healthy Schools Coordinator |
| Magnolia Elementary School | Robert Allen – 6 th Grade Teacher |
| Turning Point Academy | Kelly Henry – 4 th Grade Teacher |
| Greenbelt Middle School | Angela Atwell – 7 th Grade Mathematics Teacher |
| Eleanor Roosevelt High School | Linda Watson – Science/Technology Computer Lab Teacher |

ACE Scholarship Fund: County Councilmember Ingrid M. Turner presented a \$2,000 check to Jon Gardner, ACE Chair, for the ACE Scholarship Fund. Council and Mr. Gardner thanked Ms. Turner for her contribution.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Lore Rosenthal, representing Greenbelt Climate Action Network, encouraged residents to sign up for use of wind energy. She advised that if 64 more residents sign up, then Greenbelt would be eligible for certification as an EPA Green Community.

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting January 9, 2012: Mr. Putens moved that approval of these minutes be deferred until the minutes of the work session of January 4, 2012 were approved. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. McLaughlin provided an update on the 75th Anniversary Symposium.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Ms. Mach reported on her participation as a judge at the Springhill Lake Elementary School Science

Fair and her attendance at the Explorations Unlimited “Three Brave Men” movie. She also announced she had been appointed to the Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment ad-hoc legislative committee.

Mr. Putens commented on the retirement reception for Wendy Wexler, Social Services Family Counselor, which he attended with Ms. Mach and Ms. Pope.

Mr. Jordan and Mayor Davis noted their attendance at the commissioning ceremony for solar panels at Greenbelt Baptist Church and the University Park Energy Fair. Mr. Jordan also commented on the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee meeting and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) legislative reception. Mayor Davis reported on the MML Board of Directors meeting.

LEGISLATION:

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of HVAC System Evaluation and Assessment for Greenbelt Community Center from Mendoza, Ribas, Farinas & Associates of Rockville, Maryland

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Ms. Mach introduced the resolution for first reading.

Chris Shuman, 1-E Gardenway, commented on the reports of black mold in various areas of the Community Center and suggested a full scale assessment be considered to address heating, cooling and humidity issues in the entire building.

GREENBELT 75TH ANNIVERSARY SIGN

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

After discussion, various minor suggestions were provided to the proposed sign design. Staff will make the necessary changes.

Ms. Pope moved that Council approve the design with the recommended changes and authorize the installation of the Greenbelt 75th Anniversary signs. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

CABLE NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council authorize staff to commit to joint negotiations and cost sharing related to the Comcast Renewal Negotiations. Ms. Pope seconded.

Chris Shuman, 1-E Gardenway, suggested replacement of existing Comcast boxes as well as wireless in City buildings should be considered for the new agreement. Beverly Palau, the City’s Public Information and Communications Coordinator, said a request for better maintenance on the existing boxes can be included in the agreement, but not for replacement of the existing boxes. She encouraged residents to notify Comcast when boxes are in need of service.

Mr. Putens questioned whether Comcast performs routine maintenance checks on their boxes. Ms. Palau said no, but advised this can be suggested to Comcast. Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope mentioned problems they recently experienced regarding Comcast's lack of response to service calls. Ms. Palau explained that anyone experiencing difficulties regarding Comcast should contact her and she would contact Comcast's City liaison.

Mr. Jordan noted the lack of quality programming provided by Comcast. Mr. Roberts also commented on the poor quality of cable installation work done by Comcast subcontractors and encouraged Comcast to routinely conduct performance checks on the work of subcontractors.

Chris Shuman also suggested the 15 year contract term was too long and recommended a shorter term contract be considered. Council requested this recommendation be considered during the negotiations.

The motion passed 6-0.

LETTER TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON BEHALF OF COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Kenneth Stair, President of Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, advised that following a break down in negotiations between the County and the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association (PGCVFRA), the March 1st deadline to find a workable solution to the reorganization of the County Fire Commission has now been extended to May 1st. He said the County and PGCVFRA are "back at the table" and it appears the negotiations are going well.

Mr. Stair advised that the volunteer fire departments will continue their petition drive to have CB-65 repealed in the event the negotiations break down again.

Mayor Davis moved that Council send a letter to County Executive Baker indicating they are pleased the timeline to find a workable reorganization of the County Fire Commission has been extended to May 1st and both sides are back participating in negotiations. She requested copies of the letter be sent to the County Council, State Delegation, and President Sherman of the PGCVFRA. The motion passed 6-0.

Noting the issue was also a concern of the Four Cities, Mayor Davis also requested a similar letter be sent to County Executive Baker on their behalf.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the Request for Proposal for an "Organizational Assessment of the City of Greenbelt's Operations" as submitted. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

STATE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda items.

PG 301 – Prohibition of Retail Delivery of Alcohol to Consumers

Mr. Putens moved that Council support PG 301. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, said he had concerns regarding this legislation being an intrusion of individual rights. He added that he thought individuals should be able to order alcohol for delivery similar to the way they order groceries for delivery.

HB 1/SB 208 – Recycling Requirement for Apartment Buildings and Condominiums

Ms. Pope moved that Council support HB 1/SB 208. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

SB 486 – Speed Monitoring Systems Enforcement

Mr. Putens moved that Council support SB 486. Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

SB 146 – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements

Ms. Mach moved that Council support SB 146. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Responsible Electronics Recycling Act (S 1270/HR 2284)

Mayor Davis moved that Council support S 1270/HR 2284. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, and Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, thanked Council for their support of this bill.

Constitutional Amendments – Citizens United Decision

After noting that the City is already on record in support of a constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United decision, Council agreed not to take further action supporting specific amendment language.

Jennifer Robinson, 1 Orange Court, thanked Council for their support on this issue.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, advised that all of Greenbelt's State delegates had signed on to a letter from the Maryland General Assembly supporting a constitutional amendment to reverse the decision. She also said that other Cities, including College

Park, Takoma Park and Mount Rainier, were working on similar letters of support.

David Abraham, 5995 Springhill Drive, commented on a number of specific amendments currently proposed.

Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Act (S 1994)

Mayor Davis moved that Council defer action on this bill until staff has an opportunity to review the legislation. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

OTHER COUNCIL REPORTS: Council provided information from the following meetings they had recently attended.

Mr. Jordan – Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee Meetings (2)

Ms. Mach – Council of Governments (COG) Clean Air Partners Meeting
COG Board of Directors Meeting

Mayor Davis – MML Board of Directors Meeting
Anacostia Trails Heritage Association Board Meeting
COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Meeting

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY’S EFFORTS TO RELOCATE THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) TO A PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY SITE:

Mr. McLaughlin advised that County Executive Baker had announced the formation of an inter-agency task force to analyze possible sites in the County that would meet the needs of the new FBI headquarters facility. He advised it wasn’t clear at this time whether this would be an internal County task force or would be open to representatives from other organizations.

Ms. Mach moved that Council request to have a City representative on the County task force and, if it was strictly an internal County task force, that the City be allowed to monitor its actions. Mr. Jordan seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Council then reviewed a memorandum from Cindy Murray, City Clerk, noting that several Jewish holidays as well as the Maryland Municipal League Conference will impact Council’s regular meeting schedule for 2012. After discussion, Mr. Putens moved that Council approve the following changes to the 2012 meeting schedule.

- June - Change Monday, June 11th regular meeting to Monday, June 4th
Change Monday, June 25th regular meeting to Monday, June 18th
- September – No work session on Monday, September 17th
- October - No work session on Monday, October 1st
Change Monday, October 8th regular meeting to Tuesday, October 9th

Ms. Pope seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, February 13, 2012, at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
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 February 13, 2012."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor