

Minutes
Mayor and City Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Official Reports:

Council Member Miles: I want to remind everyone of the election on December 1, 2003 from 7am- 8pm. The two candidates running are Pedro Briones and David Graham.

We have been awarded a Livable Community Grant in the amount of \$21,700.00. We also still have not received this in writing but it should be arriving soon.

I am not sure but I did hear that you might be able to donate your old tools and use it as a write off when you file your taxes.

We are also trying to get Home Depot to help train us on how to do Home Remodeling.

Council Member Haamid: I have been in the process of working on a plan for the park on Wells Ave. and Otis Street. A few weeks ago two young kids came into City hall and wrote a proposal for a skate park and we did get a response from Park and Planning. They did tell us when there was a basketball court there that they closed due to numerous complaints of noise and suspicious activity going on at the park. Park and Planning did say they would be glad to help as long as we did a survey for the surrounding neighbors of the park. If the neighbors do not mind we can continue with the project and there will be supervision at the park. If we do proceed the County did say that they would support this project and there may be some money involved. If anyone receives this survey please fill the bottom portion out and return it to City Hall or the Department of Public Works. There is another project on the way and when I receive more information on it I will inform you about that as well.

Mayor: Knedler: There was a Police Community Meeting held last night and I would like to congratulate Chief Keeney and the Police officers that talked about the problems going on in certain areas of the city. There will be a Neighborhood Watch meeting on December 8, 2003.

There also was an open house at our Delegate Chris Van Hollen's office and it was a success as lot of people did attend and it was great.

As a reminder the City Hall office will be closed November 27th and 28th due to the observance of Thanksgiving Day. This also means that your recycle bins will not be picked up Friday you need to hold them until next Friday.

Council Member Miles: The Tree Commission will be meeting this Thursday at City Hall at 7:00 PM. If anyone wants to attend please come and support.

City Manager Wallace: We did look at the commercial vs. Residential trash fees. In July we spent \$4,809.94 on the commercial trash, \$7,098.14 for residential, and \$1,140.75 for yard waste. In August we spent \$3,813.18 for commercial trash, \$4,568.76 for residential trash, and \$807.60 for yard waste. In September we spent \$3,693.62 for Commercial trash, \$8,023.75 for residential trash, and \$1,128.00 for yard waste. In October we spent \$2,911.58 for commercial trash, \$6,842.02 for residential trash, and \$626 for yard waste. The price has dropped in commercial trash in October because we stopped picking up trash from businesses that have not paid. There will be a final letter going out for businesses that have not paid for their Commercial Trash Service.

Council Member Gandee: The statement that you gave us for September 2003 on page 18 we did not pay off the line of credit until October. This statement does not show the principle at all. It shows is zeros across the paper. When it should show \$400,000.00.

Treasurer Goosby: This is not a budget item; the only time you will be able to put an item in is when we expend the money. When we pay the money back that is when the item would appear. The Council will have to put it into the budget before it shows in that line. It will be on the expenditure line next month.

Council Member Gandee: Where is it reflected as a Debt?

Treasurer Goosby: When you amend the old budget and add this item it will be in the statement as a debt.

Council Member Gandee: On the revenue side you have an account number of 7140 County Admissions and Amusements and we only predicted \$500.00 and there is \$14,000.00. Where did all of that money come from?

Treasurer Goosby: It came from the State and when they send us money it doesn't always say what is for. It may have been coded incorrectly but I can find out what the codes are and let you know what it for.

Mayor Knedler: That figure is probably represents Highway User revenue.

General Public comment:

Amy Barrett: Another resident wrote something for me to read this at this meeting. She said I can't wait until the commercial businesses help out the community. Why should I think another project would fair any better than Joe's. Joe's is an organization that already has tremendous support from the community but is being treated as a red-headed stepchild. I understand people want to move on. I will be here the first and third Tuesday of every month to ask some questions that have been left unanswered.

Mrs. Haamid I believe there was a vote last year on Joe's and you voted in favor. Why did you vote against it this year?

Council Member Haamid: Last year it was a different situation- they did not want the Direct Mail building.

Amy Barrett: what are the parking problems in Mount Rainier?

Council Member Haamid: There are very few parking spaces.

Amy Barrett: We don't have many businesses to compete for the parking spaces. Every time I drive down Rhode Island Avenue I see ample enough parking spaces. What do we need to do about the parking issue to try to resolve this matter?

Anne LeCuyre: We spend a lot of time talking about business, parking, and parks. I want to talk about the vision I have for the community. I think the community should be helpful, creative, and civil. I think if the community had these three visions then it would be a better community.

Jack Engle: Saturday I was walking home and saw a lady at the laundry mat sweeping leaves into the gutter. I think the business association needs to watch who they give money to because they are not using it the way we suppose to use the money.

I also would like to say that I am disturbed that Council Member Gandee has not been very honest with us. The reason why you abstained your self from the vote is because you said your e-mail was read before the vote. The information that I received said that it was not read until after the vote.

Council Member Gandee: You must be mistaken because my e-mail was read at a meeting on a Friday in which I did not attend and the vote was not until Monday.

Eileen Neely: I wanted to let everyone now that Nick Francis Director of Gateway CDC and Jack Johnson, County Executive have received awards as partners of livable communities. Mr. Francis was awarded as the visionary and Mr. Johnson was awarded as the implementer. Gateway CDC has elected eight new board members.

Grover Gardner: I believe that the community should be able to know what is going on and should be able to see it on the website. I also want to know what we are suppose to do when the power goes out. Are we to call PEPCO or City Hall?

Mayor Knedler: You should call PEPCO.

Marilyn Mowat: There are more important things to talk about in the City other than Joe's. Yes, Joe's looks out for the kids after school but Joe's program does not start until 4:00pm and school lets out at 2:30pm so who watches the kids until its time to go to Joe's?

Winter is coming and I wanted to know is: Are the snowplows are in and workable?

Mayor Knedler: The Snow Trucks are here and ready to go.

Joe Massey: I have a concern about the lack of appreciation of the City employees. I am concerned about what is going to happen to our fine staff. The City employees have to try to get their work done without any harassment. I think we need to find out what is going on here before we lose a good City Manager, Police Chief, and Treasurer. I want to know how you expect to recruit because the word gets around. If any of the people that I have directed before spoke to me the way I heard the City employees are spoken to by the Council I would have fired them.

Jeanne Jackson: Good Foods every year hosts a Thanksgiving dinner and it will be held at 2204 Varnum Street. If you would like to volunteer please contact me at (301) 864-3774. We also have a program called read to lead if you want to volunteer for that as well please call (301) 985-1810.

Work Session Discussion:

Council Member Haamid: Discussion on Party Time Liquors budget statement and why it was not turned in at the beginning of the fiscal year.

