



City of Mount Rainier

One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Phone: (301) 985-6585 Fax: (301) 985-6595

Incorporated 1910

Minutes

Work Session & Council Meeting September 21, 2004

Attendees: Mayor Bryan Knedler, Councilmembers Intisar Haamid, Malinda Miles, Carol Gandee, Pedro Briones, Assistant City Manager James Booth and City Manager Jeannelle Wallace.

Organization

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Agenda

Council members Haamid and Gandee feel there is not enough time to address all items on The agenda.

Council member Miles: Recommended that the agenda remain as presented and modify as we go.

Council adopted Council Meeting Agenda.

**Date set for Public Hearing on Dog Permits
October 7th 2004 at 7: pm**

City Manager meeting date:
October 16th, 2004 9:am til 12:pm

Pay Scale Public Works

How does this compare with previous pay scale?

- a) Average increase--- 1.5% ---2%
- b) Cap on salary levels for managers

Personnel Manual Discussion

Memo from City Manager JeannelleWallace provided a Summary of information from Sue Silber (City Attorney). See attached.

Discussion:

Mayor and Council's ability to review employee files in order to evaluate City Manager's performance.

Questions:

Section (9-4b) Conflicts with City Charter

Powers of the City Manager

Military Leave:

Federal Law protects the job.

Health Insurance 180 - days change section to comply with Federal Law.

Personnel Review Board:

(a) Draft ordinance provided by City Attorney.

(b) Questions on scope / jurisdiction of grievances heard by Board.

Recommendations from Attorney:

(a) Limit standard performance issues for review by supervisor or normal chain of command.

(b) Board should only review adverse actions such as terminations, long term suspensions etc.

(c) Discussion on whether performance evaluations should be brought before the Personnel Review Board.

(d) City Attorney's concern is that if all grievances are brought to the Board they will meet (weekly/quarterly/etc.).

Alcohol Drug and Substance Abuse:

(a) Discussion about existing ordinance and the revised policy as an appendix to the manual.

(b) Clarification on policy and actions taken toward an employee identified with substance and drug abuse issues. (Refer to section 1-C of the City Code).

LGIT – 8th Amendment Trust Agreement Resolution:

(a) Council unclear on Resolution.

(b) Attorney Sue Silber will get clarification from Linda Perlman about content of trust agreement.

Open Public Council Meeting

Resolution 10-2004

Parking restrictions of commercial vehicles

First Reading and Introduction

Need copy of entire 50-page document.

Resolution 23-2004

LIGIT 8th Amended Trust Agreement

Motion to accept: Councilmember Miles

Motion seconded: Councilmember Briones

Passes 5-0

Public Comment:

Speaker:

Wayne Schmidt questions Council Member Pedro Briones comment about Council Member Gandee's constituents being "old and grumpy".

Ask that Resolution 21-2004 be turned into a referendum (Same Sex marriage) to be placed onto the May 2004 ballot.

Speaker:

Joan Ring Cook asks that Resolution 21-2004 be turned into a referendum (same sex marriage) to be placed onto the May 2004 ballot.

Has a petition been signed to support the referendum?

Would like to see a bike path.

Traffic problems in Mount Rainier need to be addressed.

Would like to have more visibility of Police, Mayor and Council.

Councilman Haamid: Expresses frustrations in dealing with the county.

Councilman Miles: Issues with trees improperly planted along Fire Station

Speaker:

Nick Francis, Gateway CDC

Meetings Thomas Stone Elementary School on Tuesday/Thursday.

Computer Learning Center

Community Legacy Application, rehab on Direct Mail Building.

Official Reports:**Mayor's Report:**

Council votes and moves to go into closed session to consult with City Attorney (Sue Silber) on Mount Rainier City Police union contract and other topic's listed below.

Legal Advice

No legislation passed

Received opinion from open meetings Compliance Board.

City received notice that Mount Rainier was not in compliance.

Designate someone to take minutes at closed meetings.

Collective bargaining agreement, no action was taken.

Councilmember Briones:

July 2004, 3 week hiatus

Participated in program at Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Publicly thanked Mount Rainier Day Committee and the Police Department for National Night Out.

Congratulations to our Police Department on International Policing.

Thanks to Assistant City Manger for efforts on Economic Development.

Thanks to the Police Department on Foot Patrols.

Councilmember Miles:

Publicly thanked all residents for their support during the recent election.
Tool Shed – Mr. Booth and volunteers have been working diligently.
Audit - The audit will be coming to closure very soon.
Free Certification training. (Emergency preparedness)
Offers training to Council.

Councilmember Haamid:

Grateful that Mount Rainier did not receive all the bad weather as other cities did.
34th street finally paved.
Lane markings need fixing; there is a safety issue because lanes are too narrow.
Would like to see increase in cleaning of 34th street area trash.
This has been a pleasant summer! No meetings in August.
Concerned about continued problems with round –about.

Treasurer Vijay Manjani:

FY 2003 audit is almost complete.
First draft available October 2004
Completed report approximately mid October 2004.
It seems that we will be in the black for the first time in several years.

Business Personal Property Tax Collection:

See attached for Treasurer reports.

Treasurer ensured that 2 payrolls were also available in reserve.
City now has enough funds to cover finance.

Councilman Briones:

Questioned cash basis vs. accrual basis?
Is it necessary to provide 2 reports?
Treasurer states cash basis made simple and easy to understand.

General Public Comment:

Speaker:

Rev. Sinclair Grey; introduced himself. The church moved to the Nature Center.
Received grant from the Federal Government for Community Youth Program.
(Children of people in prison) www.theliberaltemple.org
Works for Progressive Life Center.

Speaker:

Marilyn Mowatt says holes are on 29th street next to her house.
Neighbors have built a fence on her property line with no permit.
Rental property blocks her property.
Wishes she were in ward one, says ward (2) had nothing accomplished.
Reference nasty e-mails to Councilmember Gandee.
Says it's a sin and shame that this town is divided.

Speaker:

William Pavel: Chairman of Bunker Hill Fire Association.

Question about new Fire Department

Issues with County Lawyers on Lease Agreements

Station Management Agreement with County

Outstanding problems need resolution

Over 60 outstanding items.

Dorm rooms along sidewalk

2nd floor training room problems, Wednesday September 22, 2004

PG County Fire Commission Meeting.

Contact Information: 301-985-5400

Speaker:

Jack Engel supports the Chief of Police and the Memorandum of Understanding on sobriety check points.

Jack Engel Attended M.R.P.D.Town Hall / Community Policing Meeting.

Event was very well attended.

PG County had highest rate in Maryland DWI. related drunk driving and deaths.

Congratulations to Chief on being elected to Maryland Police Chiefs Association.

Speaker:

Therese Nemil says excellent job Chief Keeney.

Poor attendance at Town Hall meeting.

Thanks to Police Department

Thanks to Assistant City Manager on Community Tool Shed.

Old Business:

Resolution 22-2004 Changed to Ordinance 10-2004 Parking Restriction Commercial Vehicles

2nd Reading and Vote.

Moved Councilmember Miles to accept.

Seconded by Councilmember Briones.

Resolution 23-2004

LGIT 8th Amended Trust Agreement

Motion to accept- Councilmember Miles

2nd - Councilmember Briones

Language has to be amended.

Resolution passed. 4-0

New Business:

Ordinance 7-2004

Personnel Policy Manual, 1st reading.

Sue Silber (City Attorney)

Response on domestic partners.

Expand definition on domestic partners to include spouse type relationships.

Resolution – 24-2004

M.O.U. & Mutual Aid Agreement between M.R.P.D. and the police departments of Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Bladensburg and Riverdale Park to enforce sobriety check points.

2nd reading/vote

Vote to Move: Briones

Second: Miles

Passed 4-0

Councilmember Haamid: Will officers be on or off duty? Chief stated officers will be on assignment on overtime with no cost to the city. The will applied to the grant.

Councilmember Miles: Says the sobriety check will be done periodically. It's a good idea.

Discussion Items:

Mayor & Council Work Session adapting PG County specification for utilities.

1st reading

Ordinance 4-2004

This ordinance allows for improved work in roadways by utility companies

Attorney will review.

Councilmember Miles:

Strategic Plan Plan of CDC, How can we develop Russell & Varnum intersection?

Need a vote and 2nd.

Discussion will be brought back.

Ordinance 8-2004

Budget adjustments for FY 2005.

Discussion; Assistant City Manager James Booth will provide adjusted figures for effective November 1,2004.

Development of Town Center

Councilmember Briones will put out an RFA to see what kind of interest is there from prospective developers for Bass Liquors developing Condominiums along Varnum of the strip on Route 1. Discussion to brought back.

Resolution 27 – Tool shed committee appointment scheduled for adoption on September 28, 2004.

Meeting Adjourned 11:PM

