

Minutes
City Council Meeting
October 19th 2004

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

Mayor Knedler: Reviewed agenda
Referenced recycling to be picked up November 29th 2004.

Moved to approved agenda:
Councilmember Briones
Seconded Councilmember Gandee
Pass 5-0

Fence Permit Hearing
3600 Bunker Hill Rd.
Mount Rainier, Md.

Motion: by Councilmember Miles
Seconded by Councilmember Gandee

Additional evidence presented (photos)
City has distributed notices to area residents
Resident plans to install stockade fence
Area will be well lit and under surveillance

Councilmember Briones:
Resident lives on a corner property

Councilmember Miles:
Variance needed for corner property.

Councilmember Haamid:
Review of photographs
Clarification on how fence will be installed around property.

Mayor Knedler:

All fences in the City require a fence permit.
Only special circumstances require a variance for zoning.

Councilmember Miles:

The individual must come before the Mayor and Council for approval.

Mayor Knedler:

Public record: Open for 7 days

Motion by Mayor Knedler to approve fence permit

Seconded by Councilmember Gandee

Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Meredith must wait until Tuesday October 26, 2004 before installing fence

Public Hearing Closed

Mayor & Council Meeting open

Presentation by Jack Engel (see attached)

America in Bloom

Attended award presentation in Indiana

City received honorable mention

Mr. Engel reads special recognition

Presentation of Honorable Mention award

America in Bloom

Reading of Judge's comments in various rating categories

Compliments to town's activities and growth

Compliments to Mayor and his community activity

Compliments on Community Tool Shed program

Comments on a need for full time grant writer for the City.

General Comments about the Contest

Town of City

Dinner in Indiana

Meeting amongst City's within same category

Excellent working and sharing experience

Mayor expresses City's appreciation of Mr. Jack Engel for spending his own money to attend the award presentation and all his efforts in the America in Bloom project.

Mayor recommends

Starting the process earlier
Start a Beautification Committee
Start a garden club
Consolation award

Correction on closed meeting report
For October 12th, 2004 (not October 5th 2004)
Meeting to discuss personnel issues
Discussions with City Attorney
In attendance (Jeannelle Wallace, James Booth and Sue Silber)
No votes were taken and no legislation passed.

Minutes approved for July 20th and September 7th 2004.
Motion by Councilmember Miles to approve with necessary corrections.
Seconded by Councilmember Gandee
Pass 5-0

Official Reports:

City Manager: Jeannelle Wallace

Revised Leaf Vacuuming Schedule
Reading of revised dates (see attached)
Put revised schedule on website
Handout revised schedule to affected areas
Update given on burned out property (3500 block of 37th street)
Received feedback from D.E.R.
Utility disconnects have been completed.
County will pay for razing of property
City received court approval for razing property.

Moving forward with E- Government

Placing forms and permits on the website
Should occur in the next couple of weeks

Snow Removal Preparedness:

City has 80 tons of salt
Has over 100 tons on order
City returned ride on mowers

Community Tool Shed

Excellent Gorgeous Prince George's Day
Thanks to volunteers
Good turn out
Reschedule of meeting with Sam Parker, Redevelopment Authority

Mayor Comments

Chief Keeney installed as President of Maryland Police Chief Assoc.

Announcements

Bass liquor Challenge

Attorneys for Borak and Gould requested to be removed as legal representatives

Notice from Liquor for Kay Food Mart on Rhode Island (near police station)

October 6th 2004

Change in hours of operation proposed

Mon-Sat 7am-10pm

Sun - 8am-10am

Meeting with Kerry Bedard (Bass Family)

Conversation with Auditors

Diane Mock promises to possibly submit to Mount Rainier the draft of 2003 audit.

Mayor would like the auditor to attend a work session to discuss the audit report.

Councilmember Miles: Asks about engagement letter for the 2004 audit.

Council concern about status of 2004 audits

Summary of Mayor Knedler's comments:

Articles appeared in the Gazette made by Councilmembers Gandee and Haamid.

Speaks about leadership in the community.

Comments on criticism regarding the Mayor

There is some difficulty chairing meetings and working with challenging personalities.

Mayor's focus is to keep City on track with its economic development goals.

The Mayor quotes from transcript of Court hearing. (Names of individuals omitted)

Discussions on conflicts in testimonies and causes of the mistrial.

Discussions about liability issues and fiduciary responsibilities

Issues on perjury of city employees

Ward II

Councilmember Briones:

Walked 29th street, for areas of concern, which was successful. Continues to hear concerns about speeding and running of stop signs.

Residents request installing speed humps.

Children on scooters without helmets.

A special thanks to Ms. Nemel on her continued interest and passing out flyers on the Tool Shed.

Tree planting was successful.

Thanked Councilmember Miles for grand opening on Tool Shed.

Christian Montessori School is moving. The school has expressed interest in relocation to 3210 Perry St.

House to right of property is vacant and could server as a parking lot.

Councilmember Miles:

Tool Shed

There will be a formal opening of the Tool Shed.

A letter drafted on behalf of M&C. and a tentative date is Saturday November 20th @ 10: am.

Cable Commission needs to hear from citizens in the community interested in participating.

Issues about what to put on cable.

I-net

Review policy on usage of cable channel.

Feedback and comments on Tool Shed

The Tool Shed is incomplete. Citizens from the community have commented on the quality of tools.

Tool Shed committee needs to meet to provide an updated and detailed list of tools needed.

There is approximately \$3000.00 in store credit at Home Depot.

Free training is anticipated and hands on demonstration on usage of tools from Home Depot.

Sobriety Testing – Pilot Program

It will be a little longer based on additional funds awarded to the City.

Brief discussion on the Police Report from Chief Keeney about criminal activity.

Neighbors are the watchful eye. They are diligent on what is going on in the city.

Dog Ordinance:

Unclear about which direction the City will take

Public Hearing scheduled on November 9, 2004.

Visit Cara B. Wood Senior Center

October 31, 2004

Brentwood Senior Center 30th Anniversary

Remember to Vote

Presidential Election on November 2nd 2004

We hope everyone will get out and vote.

Upcoming Elections

Previously held at Old Mount Rainier Fire Station

A new location needs to be identified.

Thanks to Vijay Manjani for work on the 2003 audit.

Business personal property tax.

For the years FY 2003 & 2004 the city has collected \$27403.00 in past due taxes.

Ward I

Councilmember Haamid thanked Councilmember Miles for initiating the Tool Shed Grant.

Also thanks to the citizens.

Councilmember expresses happiness about salary schedule being approved.

She states that a lot of work was put into the personnel manual.
The Council has done a lot of work legislative.

Councilmember Gandee:

Senior emergency preparedness commission: Council has passed a resolution.
The goal is to find resources in the community to support fire and emergency response orders.
We are asking for people with medical, police and firefighting backgrounds.
Response to disasters (natural disasters)
Asking for additional volunteers with SUV's
Churches with emergency shelter capabilities.

Ward II

Councilmember Miles:

Publicly thanking our Superintendent Luther Smith for knocking down house on Perry Street.

Follow up on increased enforcement efforts.

Running of stop signs
Public urination
Lack of visibility of police doing patrol work
Drinking in public

Comments from City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

Increase cleaning along 34th street
Removal of newspaper stands
Met with WMATA concerning traffic circle
Invoice will be sent to the insurance company for streetlight damage done by metro buses.
Possible installation of potty-johns in traffic circle.

General Public Comment:

Jack Engel: Dog Ordinance

Therese Niemel: Comments on last meeting and representative from Bass family, Kerry Bedard concerning the Sunday brunch outside Bass Liquor Store.

Marilyn Mowatt: Problems still exist on 29th street.]

Hole in street still not repaired.
The problem continues with rats.

Councilmember Miles:

The Tree Commission feels their roles and powers are limited.
Would like to be placed on the work session agenda.
Motorbikes are small but more dangerous than motorcycles and are becoming a crisis.
Owners/ Operators must conform to motor vehicle regulations.

Resident Jack Engel:

Chillum/Arundel Road potholes are a problem.
County Ride On Bus constantly hits potholes.
Cedar Lane / Tilden /34th street: potholes need to be fixed.

Street markings on 34th street need to be redone.

Old Business:

Motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2004 2nd reading
Moved – Councilmember Miles
Seconded Councilmember Gandee
Pass 5-0

Ordinance 11-2004 (Council Accountability)
Second reading & vote

Motion to adopt – Councilmember Briones
Mayor Knedler Seconded

Councilmember Miles:

Would like to discuss differently the way Council Accountability was presented.
She strongly feels that the judges should conduct an investigation. The city should not spend any more money on an investigation.

An ordinance may not be needed. We cannot improve it; get rid of it in the legislation as a friendly amendment. It should be added to the rules of Council as opposed to an ordinance.

Councilmember Briones:

We need to know how a personnel document got into the hands of a defense attorney.

Councilmember Miles:

Are you trying to get a handle on personnel matters?
Confidential information should be reviewed on site and not removed.
Clearly feels that it is important to investigate the matter particularly in reference to the personnel document (confidential memorandum).

Councilmember Briones:

Amended motion to strike entire Section 1 (special investigation)
Make revisions within section 2 Legislative Reform.
Possibly change 24 hours to 48 hours.
Delete or Section 1-1-03 B 3rd sentence.
Councilmember Briones cannot accept putting language in the rules because the rules are frequently breached. Putting rules in an ordinance sends a strong message.

Councilmember Haamid:

Would like clarification on the alleged personnel document.

Councilmember Gandee:

Recommends amending council rules.

Councilmember Gandee also states that no rule currently exist for the Mayor and Council reporting being served subpoenas.

Since no rule exist, then Councilmember Gandee could not break it.

Motion to Amend

Motion Briones

Seconded Miles

Vote on amendment

All in favor

5-0

Council was asked for approval to pick up recycling on November 29th 2004.

Seconded Councilmember Miles

Pass 5-0

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Gandee

Seconded by Councilmember Miles

Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm