



Minutes for the Mayor and Council Meeting

Date: 9/4/2007

Place: One Municipal Place Mount Rainier, Md. 20712

Presiding Officer: Vice Mayor Alta Morton

Council members present: Jimmy Tarlau, Bryan Knedler and Pedro Briones

Absent: Mayor Malinda Miles

**Staff in attendance: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Treasurer Vijay Manjani,
City Clerk Janis Lomax**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of agenda

Adding to the agenda State Highway Administration Presentation before official reports.

Council member Briones moves to adopt agenda as amended

Second Council member Knedler

Vote 4-0

Approval of minutes

Council member Tarlau moves to approve minutes

Second Council member Knedler with amendments to minutes will be forwarded to Ms. Lomax by Friday.

Vote 4-0

State Highway Administration presentation:

Peter Campanides: (SHA) Members of the Mayor and Council visited our office to discuss safety issues with the roundabout.

- 1. Major concerns**
- 2. Vehicle Safety at night**

There have been discussions on short term and long term improvements to improve safety at the intersection.

Ed Myers: (SHA)

Short Term: Problem identification, crash frequency, pedestrian access, confusion with transit pedestrian signals.

1. 39 total crashes
2. pedestrian crashes
3. 17 night time crashes
4. 15 fixed objects = a single vehicle hitting objects

1. Adding lane extension lines
2. Raised pavement markings
3. Pull yield line forward
4. Add pavement marking arrows.
5. Add reflective pavement markers
6. Replace crosswalk lines
7. Increase number of pedestrian signs
8. Occasional enforcement from police
9. State law signs yielding to pedestrians
10. Flashing beacons on top of lights
11. Pull out splitter island which will make drivers stay in their lane.
12. Lighting and signal changes
13. Add lights to central island
14. Signal is confusing; we will make sure it's in conformance with national standards.
15. Encourage pedestrians to use the push button.
16. Maintenance on trees/ trim to make signs more visible.

Council member Knedler:

What kind of lights in Center Island will you use?

Ed Myers: (SHA)

Try to get the power fixed and the Christmas lights back up. The lights we are talking about are the cobra head lights.

Council member Knedler:

I would like to suggest flashing red yield signs.

Council member Tarlau:

I'd like to thank SHA for coming out and the turn around time is very impressive. I would also like a copy of the presentation. I'm concerned with the crosswalks close to the roundabout. Did you see the same problem?

Ed Myers: (SHA) I saw a lot less yielding to pedestrians as compared to other towns I've been to. I don't think it's the location of the crosswalk I feel some enforcement will help.

Peter Campanides: (SHA) These are some things to address with the south part of the roundabout.

1. Orient signs in proper manner
2. Add state law signs
3. We will continue to monitor to find out what measures are necessary in the future.

Council member Tarlau:

My concern is people being in the right lane driving up and trying to turn around not knowing that they can't turn around.

Peter Campanides:

1. There is going to be 2 pavement marking arrows that will be included in the roundabout.
2. Control signs will be installed providing better guidance for the roundabout.
3. Modify the signs in advance

4. Tell drivers to traverse to 15 miles an hour.
5. Add lane use control signs.

Council member Tarlau:

I have concerns about the crosswalk on Queens Chapel Road.

Ed Myers: (SHA) we are in process of reviewing and it takes about 90 days to review and we will report back to you with our findings.

Mike: (SHA) in road flashing lights, that's a test location.

1. We've had problems with the lights not working properly.
2. It's predicated upon pedestrians passing through two posts and that activates them.
3. These lights can be a liability issue.

Council member Tarlau:

I agree and people would rather have a light like the one in front of Rainier Manor where it blinks and if you want to cross you press a button and it turns red. It's a major commuter walkway and it's very dangerous.

Council member Knedler:

Reiterating what Councilmember Tarlau said about the more dangerous situation. When you are coming out of the roundabout you have no time to stop in the circle to yield or you will get rear-ended.

Mike: (SHA) they are typical of 25 feet from the yield lines on entrance and 25 feet after the yield line.

Council member Knedler:

People actually stop in the roundabout for a pedestrian.

Ed Myers: (SHA) I agree with your observation, the exits are more difficult. Part of it could be that the signs on exit are faced the wrong way. There is going to be more signs replaced than what I showed. Some is updating signs to current standards.

Vice Mayor Alta Morton:

I'd like to thank SHA for coming out and the fast turn around we received.

Official Reports

Ward I

Council member Tarlau – No report

Ward II

Council member Briones welcomes back everyone from the Council's vacation. He thanks Chief Scott and Public Works for a wonderful National Night Out. There will be a public hearing on MOU with local popcorn initiative with people who want to install corn bins for corn burning stoves. Scheduled is the Corn-Op proposing to put it behind our property at 3601 Bunker Hill Rd. The CDC had an action team meeting and reviewed our library RFP; there will be some written comments on that. CDC gave some great ideas on parking. Council member Morton and I have had a series of meetings related to our MOU with Landmark Atlantic LLC. We also had a meeting with the Economic Development Corp. and will be going into closed session later to get legal advice from our attorney on moving forward with our development proposal project with Landmark LLC.

Council member Knedler:

There have been some meetings taken place during our recess concerning mansion-a-zation in the Prince Georges area. Park and Planning has been tasked with coming up with control over tearing down smaller homes and building mammoth homes on them. A lot of people inside the beltway were there and some state delegates. The state legislature tabled the proposal last year that would have given the cities the authority to increase our zoning regulations if they chose to.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

Adding to what Council member Knedler said on up coming meetings on Mac-mansions 9-5-2007-10-3-2007-10-16-2007 at 7: pm. I attended a meeting on population migration in the state and the overall population has declined in the last few years. It's been attributed to an absurd commute where people are commuting two hours to work. The City of Mount Rainier has an MOU with the City of Brentwood for community policing services, that MOU has been signed and approved by the Mayor & Council for Mount Rainier and the city of Brentwood Maryland. The city has passed a budget where they will fund the hiring of an additional police officer to provide 40 hours of service in that jurisdiction.

We have agreed to jointly collaborate on a Livable Communities Grant. Code Enforcement has been very busy. There are a lot of repairs and renovations to properties in the city. There are quite a few properties in the city that we are going to court on. .

The city has advertised for the audit and the CDBG proposals for our street repair work. The CDBG proposals are due this Friday with the pre-bid conference schedule. Mr. Manjani is anticipating getting some responses from auditors in the area that audit towns with similar sizes and budget as ours.

We will be submitting our vacant property list to DER and they will assist us with some of the nuisance properties.

Council member Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau has concerns about two homes on 34th street, the burned home and the one next to the fire dept. and would like to know the status on both properties.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

One has run out of money to complete construction and is vacant and the other is having problems with the insurance company. Instructions have been given to move forward with fines.

Luther Smith:

Mr. Smith lets us know that 4 of our trees have been taken down and there are a lot more that are dying or dead also, we are back on track with the trucks.

Council member Knedler:

We should write a report on all the teens that worked for the city and it is good publicity for the city.

Chief Scott:

Mount Rainier Business Association donated \$500.00 dollars to National Night Out. This year we had a good turn out and our residents know that crime is not welcome in this city. Pepco wants to come and do a spot on our cable to let our residents what to do about keeping them safe. I am thanking Donald Bell and his brother for the professional video. We have increased our foot patrols and 57 arrests we made in the past four months.

Finance Director Vijay Manjani:

This is the 3rd year the city is in the black.

Council member Tarlau:

May I suggest going over this in a work-session.

Resolution 12-2007 (A Resolution approving a Tax Anticipation Line of Credit between Bank of America, N. A. and the City of Mount Rainier) First Reading

**Council member Briones Moves to adopt
Second Council member Knedler
Vote 4-0**

Resolution 13-2007 (A resolution of the City of Mount Rainier adopting mandatory pick up of employee contributions for employees participating in the ERS/EPA Maryland Employees' Retirement & Pension System) First reading and vote

**Council member Briones moves to adopt
Second Council member Knedler
Vote 4-0**

Resolution 14-2007 (A Resolution to approve a project to offer year round arts and cultural enrichment programs for children and youth ages 3 to 16 years. Programs will be offered through the Joe's Art Education Center to children form mostly low- to moderate income levels. Programs include after – school classes, tutoring and youths mentorship, summer arts camps, youth performance ensembles, and weekend performances and workshops that are affordable and accessible to community members.)

**Motion Council member Tarlau
Second Council member Knedler
Vote 4-0**

Ordinance -2007 (Extends the time to pay for Parking Traffic Citations (Jimmy Tarlau) First Reading

**Council member Tarlau:
Mr. Tarlau agrees to insert the alternative language
Second Bryan Knedler
Vote 4-0**

**Other Business
FOP Lodge 85 Union Contract**

**Roll Call Vote
Tarlau – yes
Morton – no
Briones – yes
Knedler – no**

**FOP Lodge 85 Union Contract did not pass
The Management Team will meet with the Parking Enforcement Officer to find out his position and revote on this issue.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:
Police Service Agreement**

The town of Brentwood did pass the agreement on August 21, 2007 and Mount Rainier passed it in July 2007. The town of Brentwood is going to purchase a vehicle with their funds. Brentwood has agreed to hire an additional officer that will commit to working 40 hours a week for their city. Brentwood has sent the city a check for \$19,000.00.

Landmark Atlantic Holdings LLC partnership agreement

Council member Tarlau:

The approved agenda talked about both topics in open session. The support letter and partnership with Landmark Atlantic LLC should be discussed in open session.

Council member Knedler:

We should ask the opinion of the city attorney whether we should talk about this in open or closed session.

City Attorney:

Atlantic Landmark LLC has asked for it to be done in closed session. That doesn't mean you have to honor that. It could be done in executive session.

Council member Tarlau:

I oppose going into closed session, I think there are too many closed sessions. This Council is having too many closed sessions.

Council member Knedler:

Motion to take Atlantic Landmark LLC agreement off the agenda and move it to closed session.

Vote

Morton – yes

Knedler – yes

Briones –yes

Tarlau – no

Vote 3-1 Passed

Council member Morton:

The City of Mount Rainier is asking for the support of the County Council members, County Elected Officials, State Officials and City Businesses in moving forward in development of the Urban Town center especially along the south bound side of Rhode Island Ave. where its been identified as a blighted area in our town. We are looking to change the image of the city by cleaning up that blighted area.

Council member Briones:

The purpose of this letter is to seek written support for the redevelopment.

Council member Tarlau:

I've been excluded from all discussions regarding this. I've not been involved in this. Before the city decides Which developer we should work with I think we should listen to other developers.

Council member Morton:

At this point it's time to move forward to get support for the actual development. This in not new information.

Council member Knedler:

There should be some changes to the support letter and I will make them.

**Council member Briones:
Move to issue support letter as amended
Second Council member Knedler
Vote 4-0**

**Council member Briones:
Moves to adjourn to executive closed session.**

**Vote
3-1
Meeting adjourned to closed session**

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