



## **City of Mount Rainier Council Meeting**

**Date: March 4, 2008**

**Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier Md. 20712**

**Presiding Officer: Mayor Malinda Miles**

**Council member present: Bryan Knedler, Pedro Briones, and Jimmy Tarlau**

**Staff present:**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, City Clerk Janis Lomax**

**Meeting called to order @7:10 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review of agenda**

**Motion to approve agenda Councilman Knedler**

**Vote 3-0**

**Motion to approve minutes with correction to be given to City Manager**

**Council member Tarlau**

**Second Council member Briones**

**Vote 3-0 Passed**

**Official Reports**

**Ward I**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**The Mayor and I attended a meeting at the Nature Center sponsored by the Prince Georges Park and Police regarding safety at the northwest trail. The discussion was on crime in what we call a high traffic area between the metro and along the path across the bridge behind Queenstown Apartments. There have been six robberies in the last year in that area. The good news is that they are going to be lighting that area from Queens Chapel to the bridge and it should be done by the end of the year. There has also been some discussion about emergency call boxes in that area. It was a good meeting.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**The Mayor met with MNCPP Comm. And the Dept. of Environmental Resources to help residents and municipalities become more familiar with the planning, zoning and development. There will be a series of work shops and the first one is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and if that is not a good date, the next date is June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. PGCMA legislative agenda about speed cameras might pass this session. The good part is that some of the revenue earned from this program will come to the city. We PGCMA believe that the cameras will help with the safety issue in the city. Senator David Harrington is now the new Senator for the 47<sup>th</sup> legislative district. Regarding pot holes, our streets are in bad disrepair and CDBG funding was cut last year. This will be a priority for us this year, and I have reminded Councilman Campos that our funding was cut to help Joe's.**

**Basketball is coming to Thomas Stone School. MNCPP has agreed to donate all the equipment and balls. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. If your kids are interested in summer employment this year please have them contact City Hall. The ages are from 14 to 18 years of age. We are soliciting businesses in the community that will be able to employ our youths, please give us your name and how many youths and what type of job they will be doing.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**The city has been doing a lot of property inspections and also grant request. A major request was submitted to Congressman Van Holland in the amount of 4 million dollars and a similar one was submitted to Senator Ben Cardin for money to support our revitalization efforts along Rhode Island Ave. Our city engineer has condemned a property on Wells Ave. and it will be boarded up within the next 48 hours. We have received a check in the amount of \$6000.00 on three properties in the city based on liens.**

**Street lighting continues to be a problem for us especially in the Kaywood Garden apartments. WE have a lot of lights that go out because of power source to the pole which is a PEPCO issue and they are investigating it. The lighting in the circle will be restored. We are now working on the 2009 budget.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Some one put markings of KKK on the side of a truck. We feel that those kinds of markings should be reported.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**Mount Rainier Day is coming on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Janis Lomax is coordinating this event.**

**Captain Stoots:**

**January and February stats are down 32% from last year. PG County police have increased their presence in the city. Corporal Murphy returned to work February 19, 2008. Five new vehicles are complete and on the street. Parking citations will be sent to citation management on March 1, 2008.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**We should discuss the parking citations at a work session before anything is done. There was shooting last week end on Perry Street is there any update?**

**Captain Stoots:**

**There were casings recovered.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**What is the current police coverage on Perry Street?**

**Captain Stoots:**

**We will have people out on C-Safe grant overtime. There is already an increased presence in the city.**

**Resolution 3-2008**

**Councilman Briones:**

**What this resolution does is declare these two blocks blighted and authorize the City to acquire the properties. The next step would be for the City to send formal letters to the owners expressing our interest in purchasing the properties.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I had proposed an amendment in part III which had a new step that before there was acquisition of the property or that we take legal action and that there would be a public hearing or a formal vote but there wasn't any support for that amendment among my colleagues. I feel we have to move ahead and this is why I have concerns voting for the motion.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**My understanding is that the Bass property is up for sale also, there is a contract on the property but they want the City to make an offer that they can move forward with.**

**Councilman Knedler  
Move to adopt  
Second Councilman Briones  
Vote 4-0**

**Councilman Briones:**

**I am thanking the City Manager and staff for the detailed report on 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>oo</sup> block of Rhode Island Ave. I have a 50 page essay documenting the blighted properties. This resolution will declare these two blocks blighted and authorize the city to acquire the properties.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I had proposed an amendment before we take legal action and there be a public hearing and a formal vote, but there wasn't any support among my colleagues.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**I believe it's time to do something. The property owned by the Bass Family is for sale and they want the city to make an offer and also the singer building is for sale. I believe that is the direction the city should move in.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Skate Board Park:**

**The goal is to have a report at the Council and have community input before Park and Planning moves ahead with the detailed design and the construction of the park the initial vote by this Council was on March 20, 2007. The county has \$175000.00 budgeted for repair of the park. The Council decided that all the money is used fro the bottom part of the park ad leave the top part as is for now.**

**The park is geared to younger teens under 14 years of age. The preliminary design will be sent out to a design build contractor who will do the design and construction of the skate park. The design will come back to the Council for final review. If everything moves on schedule it will be finished by the end of the year. The park will be concrete and only open during the day.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**Park & Planning expressed concerns about run off being a green park with pour surfaces to reduce run off is that still the case?**

**Citizen Margaret Boozer:**

**We have a green consultant that will work with the developer.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**My understanding is that there will now be no connection between the upper and lower level that will be eliminated.**

**Council member Tarlau:**

**That's basically the preliminary plan. There will be no stairway there, it will be eliminated.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**When we make a decision at what point does our actions become final.**

**Council member Tarlau:**

**I asked people to come in and we hear what they have to say and express their concerns.**

**Pubic Comment:**

**Residents voiced their concerns about the skate park and the noise, the liability it will bring in conjunction with a decrease in property value.**

**Motion to adjourn by Council member Knedler  
Second Council member Briones**

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 pm**