



## **Minutes for Regular City Council Meeting**

**Date: 5-6-2008**

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

**Presiding Officer: Mayor Malinda Miles,**

**Councilmember's present: Jimmy Tarlau, Bryan Knedler, Alta Morton, and Pedro Briones**

**Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Treasurer Vijay Manjani, Director of Public Works Luther Smith and Municipal Clerk Janis Lomax**

**Meeting called to order @ 7:07 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Review agenda**

**Deleting AAP discussion**

**Motion to have a closed meeting to discuss property acquisition**

**Councilman Pedro Briones**

**Second Councilman Jimmy Tarlau**

**Vote 4-0 amending the agenda**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I would like to clarify the budget calendar. Will we talk about it in two weeks?**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**This was left off by mistake.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**If we present this today Vijay are we ready?**

**Vijay Manjani City Treasurer:**

**The public hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2008 but, if you want to discuss this today we can talk about the tax rate.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**Is this where we vote on it so we can get it advertised?**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**No, this is just a straw vote.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I'm not clear on what is being proposed at the public meeting. There had been some discussion about a penny decrease and I'm not sure if there was a vote on that. What is going to be presented at the public meeting?**

**Vijay Manjani City Treasurer:**

**We have advertised at 0.79 tax rate. We can discuss today if the Mayor and Council wants to do that.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Is .79 the same or a penny less?**

**Mayor Miles:**

**It's the same**

**Mayor Miles:**

**The Mayor and Council recognized the efforts and services of City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and gave a salary increase. Council-woman Alta Morton thanks Jeannelle for everything. In the future when we give the employee's raises we will also give her a raise.**

**Minutes**

**Motion Councilman Pedro Briones  
Second Councilman Bryan Knedler  
Vote 4-0 approved with any corrections to Ms Lomax by Friday.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**I read from the newspaper that single sales of alcohol in Washington D.C. are abandoned in wards 4-7-and 8.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**I would like to thank Chief Scott for the block watch meetings and they were very well attended and they spoke to development, it doesn't happen over night please be patient.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I am encouraging the residents to start a neighborhood watch, it will be very helpful to all of the residents.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**As PEPCO replaces lights and light bulbs they are replacing them with high sodium.**

**City Manager's report:**

We are looking for approval for the grant that has been submitted.  
MRBA has a new board. The board has been having closed meetings. Nisey the owner of Nisey's Boutique is creating a new directory for the businesses. There was a meeting at Hyattsville Court for issues with Code Enforcement and the judicial rulings on winning cases in the court. The City was very well represented. Probation before judgment will be more effective. The first phases of the lights on 34th street are being done.

**Chief Scott's Report:**

Personal crimes have not gone up since last year. General property crimes continue to be down. We have hired two new officers and this is the first time that we are fully staffed in two years. Corporal Murphy saved a baby's life through mouth to mouth resuscitation.

**Councilman Briones:**

I would like to put the Immigration Policy back on the agenda for the next Work-Session.

**Councilman Tarlau:**

At the Richardson Park our neighborhood park are there any materials available for neighborhood watch program.

**Luther Smith Public Works Director:**

Public Works is already addressing issues at Richardson Park. We are asking for another piece of equipment for cutting lawns.

**Councilman Briones:**

A business improvement district is something to go on Work-Session. The City needs to put a handicapped parking space in front of Artmosphere Café'.

Danielle Shoup resident of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Perry Street.

There is not a need for 3 liquor stores within a quarter of a mile in Mount Rainier.

**Councilman Briones:**

We will put K-Food Mart on the Work-Session week after next.

Ordinance 4-2008 (An Ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the Mount Rainier Code to define temporary exterior signs and to establish a requirement for a temporary sign permit.)

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

Gives a summary of Ordinance 4-2008

Councilman Knedler gives an overview of Ordinance4-2008

**Councilman Briones**

Moves to adopt

Second Councilwoman Alta Morton

Approved as amended

Vote 4-0

**Mayor Miles:**

**I am asking the residents to volunteer for Mount Rainier Day.  
Felix Patterson is the new representative for the Washington Gas Co. for Mount Rainier.  
We oppose WSSC the 9.5% tax increase and the \$20.00 fee attaching to our water supply.  
I got the \$ 20.00 fee removed.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**The City received a site map of Kaywood Garden Apartments and it will be given to PEPCO to review and give recommendations on where new lighting should be installed.  
MRBA has a new president Nisey Baylor and they now have a new board. Ms. Baylor is working on a new directory.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**On May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008 there will be interviews held here at City Hall for two District Court vacancies.  
There are 10 names and they should be familiar with municipal infractions.**

**Chief Scott:**

**Personal crimes have not gone up and general property crimes are down. There has been one rape reported in April. Two second degree arsons were reported and they were on motor vehicles. We continue to work border patrol detail with Washington D.C. One of the focuses for FY09 is to increase our civilian personnel in order to keep our station open til 11: pm.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**In the City Manager's budget does that include the 1.035 and that includes how many?**

**Chief Scott:**

**That is 1.5 people. We should be staffed at 35-39 officers. We are doing the job with half the people we need. 41.22% increase includes the salary increases. 88% of the money budgeted for the Police Dept. are personnel services. 12% of our budget goes to operating expenses. We generate a lot of postage so we have a postage meter included. Dispatch services are \$66,160.00**

**Councilman Briones:**

**Can we consider having our own dispatch next year?**

**Chief Scott:**

**It got to be too expensive for us to maintain.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**We don't have the start up cost and you can look up crime reports on crimereports.com to see what's happening in DC.**

**Chief Scott:**

**We are putting the license plate reader into effect. Our police department needs 20 mobile and twenty portable radios.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**There is no line item for them?**

**Mayor Miles:**

**We need a line item.**

**Approving the Task Force nomination**

**Amend the resolution and add Sahar Chaudry's name to the list.**

**I'm in support of all names on the list.**

**Resolution 8-2008 (A resolution appointing the Parking Task Force Committee in the City of Mount Rainier)**

**Mayor Miles:**

**All those In favor of including Sahar Chaudry's name to the list.**

**Vote 4-0**

**Resolution 9-2008 (A resolution in support of Arbor Day in the City of Mount Rainier)**

**Motion to adopt to declare May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 as Arbor Day Councilman Knedler**

**Second Councilwoman Morton**

**Vote 4-0**

**All in favor**

**Motion to go into closed session Councilman Knedler**

**Second Councilwoman Morton**

**Vote 4-0**