



## **Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier Council Meeting**

**Date: 6-3-2008**

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

**Presiding Officer: Mayor Malinda Miles**

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

**Councilmember's absent: None**

**Staff present: Jeannelle Wallace City Manager, Michael Jackson Assistant City Manager, Chief Scott and City Clerk Janis Lomax**

**Review of Agenda:**

**Addition to agenda annexation and closed session**

**Request by Councilman Knedler to limit staff and council reports to 3 minutes**

**Mayor Miles: Motion to remove official reports**

**Councilman Tarlau: Second**

**Councilman Tarlau: Do we have a 1<sup>st</sup> reading on tax rate today?**

**Mayor Miles: We will do the first reading tonight**

**Motion to adopt agenda as amended**

**Councilman Briones**

**Second Councilman Knedler**

**Vote3-0**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Chief the residents are concerned about the homicide in Mount Rainier.**

**Chief Scott:**

**The Prince George's County Police is handling that investigation. The person was targeted, it wasn't a random act.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**Announcement on basketball starting on Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Thomas Stone Elementary School at 6: pm  
The basketball court on 30<sup>th</sup> and Arundel Rd is open and keeping it open is entirely up to you by keeping it clean.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Move to approve minutes with corrections to Ms. Lomax by the close of day Friday.**

**Councilman Briones**

**Second Councilman Knedler**

**Vote 3-0**

**Ordinance 5-2008**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace is giving a summary on Ordinance 5-2008 ( An Ordinance Authorizing Transfers of Appropriated Funds in the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget to Prevent Over Expenditures in the Public Safety, Public Works, Legal and Elections, Fire Department, Library, 3409 Rhode Island Avenue Property, National Night Out Program)(First Reading)**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**How much do we have left in contingency?**

**Vijay Manjani City Treasurer:**

**Nothing left in contingency but something is left in reserve.**

**We are amending the budget to the amount of \$148,500.00**

**Mayor Miles:**

**As of June 1, 2008 Councilman Tarlau will be our next vice Mayor**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**Ordinance 6-2008 ( An Ordinance Establishing the Tax Rate, Adopting and Annual Budget, and Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2009, Beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.) First Reading**

**The City Manager gives a summary of this ordinance**

**This ordinance is exactly the same as the one we passed last year.**

**The personal property rate at \$1.98 per \$100.00 of assessed evaluation**

**The operating property, railroad and public utility are \$2.50 per \$100.00 dollars.**

**This is the same tax rates that passed last year**

**Under general fund revenues which include all grant revenues, tax revenues, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenues charges for services fines and forfeitures and miscellaneous revenues.**

**The total anticipated revenue is \$4,494,400.00.**

**In the general fund for employees wages and leave pay, employee benefits, materials and supplies**

**Repairs and maintenance professional services, other services and charges, infrastructure and facility maintenance, grants the total is \$4,494,400.00**

**The 2008 budget had 39.5 employees and this budget has 42 employees.**

**Vijay Manjani Treasurer:**

**The Message production is going up**

**Mayor Miles:**

**How many news letters do we print?**

**Vijay**

**5000**

**Mayor Miles:**

**Every household is not getting the message.**

**Vijay Manjani Treasurer:**

**We propose an additional \$1500.00 for technical services. Alpha Engineering wants us to buy a filter for \$3000.00 for networking for three years. Total for this line item is \$4,500.00.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**How much are we paying to maintain the web-page monthly and who is maintaining it?**

**Vijay**

**\$150.00 monthly and Sandra Joseph is maintaining.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**I don't care for the web site and I didn't know we paid so little. I think it should be its own line item so we can keep track of it.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**Schedule meeting with Maryann for I-Net about our website. We will put \$10,000.00 in the budget for the website. We want this on a separate line item.**

**Total budget for cable is \$67,350.00**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**We do get grant money from Comcast that covers a good percentage of these departments' expenditures and we usually get about 45000.00 that cover the equipment line items.**

**Public Safety**

**Chief Scott asked for 3.5 positions and was approved 1.5 position**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**What is the cost of keeping the station open and should we put that money towards another officer and is that the best use for the \$1000, 000.00?**

**Chief Scott:**

**There has been a request from Mayor and Council and residents to keep the station open. We would eventually like to move towards a 24 hour system.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**This Mayor & Council allocated money to put that person in the police station as of January 1 why didn't that happen?**

**Chief Scott:**

**I haven't been able to find anyone to work part time.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**Are we at full staffing?**

**Chief Scott:**

**We are maintaining with 18.5 positions and we need another 1.5 position to keep the station open until 11: pm.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Have you looked at other cities our size and whether they do that?**

**Chief Scott:**

**The ones that are open 24-7 are dispatch centers.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**We might be raising the resident's expectations about the station staying open, they will be looking for a police officer to be there and there are only civilians on duty.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**The police station needs lights outside because it's unsafe. I'm supportive of opening that station in the evening.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I disagree with everything you said. I don't think there's any money to keep it open.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**I'm prepared to move on.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**Dispatch services went up \$3000.00.**

**Parking Enforcement**

**Everything is the same from last year. A \$5000.00 increase was given to the parking officer.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**I would like for us to get the cost of a hand held unit. They would also be good for Code Enforcement.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**Parking citation recovery \$16,000.00 is for what?**

**Vijay:**

**This is the money we have to give back to parking recovery \$765.825.00**

**Mayor Miles:**

**I would like for us to do a narrative for each line item.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**I would like to cut that position for a person to clean Rhode Island Ave. on the weekend. I don't think the city should shoulder this alone. We should share this cost with MRBA (Mount Rainier Business Assoc)**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**I'd rather not hold off because residents are telling me they want there downtown clean.  
Councilwoman Morton:**

**I don't think we should cut the position.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**Can we get the businesses to partner with us on the landscaping?**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**MRBA has new leadership, we should invite them to a meeting.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**We should invite MRBA in to talk with them about contributing to keeping the city up.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**If we cut this position it would pay for all the things we've added to the budget.**

**Vijay:**

**Public Works = \$ 666,050.00**

**No change for Code Enforcement-\$196,650.00**

**Graciella Cable Director**

**Call a Bus is a discount rider ship**

**Seniors= 4.00 round trip**

**Non-residents =5.00 round trip**

**Non-senior resident 6.00 round trip for adults**

**It is by appointment only**

**I start at 9:am and break from 11:30 til 12:30**

**Councilman Briones;**

**What is the daily average rider ship?**

**Graciella:**

**4-5 adults and then school pick up. Resident rider ship has increased.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**I thought there would be an end to the Montessori contract. They are looking for some one else and we renegotiated the contract to include one pick up.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**I question whether this is the best use of \$50,000.00 for 5 people riding.**

**Councilman Knedler:**

**Are we paying Hyattsville Nursery a flat monthly fee?**

**Mayor Miles:**

**Yes, it's a contract for different things.**

**Traffic calming devices should be increased, the residents want more.**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**Increase it by \$9,000.00 grounds and maintenance**

**Councilwoman Morton:**

**Are the electrical issues in this budget?**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**Yes, WE also have some grant money to replace lights. Street lights = \$128,500.00**

**Vijay Manajani:**

**We always put \$500.00 in waste collection**

**Mayor Miles wants risk assessment on the insurance and \$8000.00 for portable radios.**

**Vijay:**

**The contingency fund is \$17,500.00**

**Capital improvement**

**For the mobile line add \$4000.00 and \$4000.00 to the portable line.**

**Public Works**

**Proposed one trash truck for \$33,000.00 for one year.**

**Councilman Briones:**

**Is there any surplus from last year?**

**Councilman Tarlau:**

**It's in the general fund.**

**Vijay Manjani:**

**1.2 million is in the reserves.**

**Resolution 11-2008 ( A Resolution approving the City of Mount Rainier and applying for the designation of Rhode Island Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street by application and to receive Main Street Maryland Designation by The Department of Housing and Community Development of The State of Maryland )**

**Move to adopt Resolution 11-2008**

**Councilman Knedler**

**Second Councilwoman Morton**

**Vote 4-0**

**Resolution by Mayor & Council**

**Motion**

**Move to go into closed session for annexation and property acquisition**

**Councilwoman Alta Morton**

**Second: Councilman Pedro Briones**