



Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council

Work-Session

Date: 3-31-2009

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding Officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Alta Morton, Bryan Knedler, Jimmy Tarlau

Councilmember's absent: Pedro Briones

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and City Treasurer Vijay Manjani

The Mayor and City Council has requested that the Delegates come and meet with them to find out about the budget cuts and what's going on with the stimulus. We would like to have our delegation present to us what they have done and are working on in reference to the city. The Council would like to give them some ideas of what the needs are here in the city.

Councilwoman Morton: I've spoke with three of them and they all said they would be available after April 13, 0009 because they will be in session.

Councilman Tarlau would like to have another Work-Session scheduled in April.

Mayor Miles: There will be another scheduled in April if needed.

Review Agenda

Move to accept

Councilwoman Alta Morton

Second Councilman Jimmy Tarlau

Vote 3-0

Budget Discussion

Treasurer Vijay Manjani:

Highway and Streets = \$55,500.00 Not much change

Code Enforcement total is \$199,500.00

Councilman Tarlau:

Item 4233 materials and supplies , we didn't use any the last two years so , why would we using any this year?

Vijay Manjani:

This is all showing in category 4129 office supplies which they don't have it and we have it in City Hall so, this year my plan is to transfer some money and put it in Code Enforcement supplies.

Mayor Miles :

4129 is it in every

department ?

Vijay:

No

Mayor Miles:

Are we going to be buying supplies out of this line item or are they coming out of line 4129? If code enforcement is buying it out of their budget instead of City Hall than City Hall should go down by \$500.00. To reduce the cost you cut the \$500.00 of the \$17,500.00 from all department line items.

Vijay:

What you have to remember is these are just projections that's why there is no difference in the amount.

Councilman Tarlau:

In special services you have two years where you haven't spent the money on line item 5130.

Vijay :

Line 5130 is employee training and I have already reduced from \$2000.00 to \$1000.00. If we didn't use it last year that does not mean it won't be used this year. We now have a new code enforcement officer and he requires some professional training and normally they all go to the training and if

you're counting last year it has not finished it will be complete in June this year. This is a very minimal amount for the training.

Councilman Tarlau:

On equipment purchase for code enforcement is \$2000.00, is there something specific we are purchasing?

Vijay:

Yes, we are buying radio's for them and they will be connected with the dispatchers for their safety and security and we will know where they are.

Councilman Tarlau:

Can we spend some of that money this fiscal year and reduce some of what we have to spend next year?

Vijay:

Training is on a continual basis.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

There is over \$100,000.00 that we have to do an amendment for on items that weren't budgeted for and we've got some additional items that have come up and we are almost up to \$200,000.00 that the council has to appropriate and we have to find that money.

Councilman Taralu:

Can we cut code enforcements budget by \$10,000.00 and use that money to hire a person to clean the downtown area on the weekends.

Councilman Knedler:

If a light here in the plaza gets hit by a car does our insurance cover the plaza lights?

Ms. Wallace:

Some of it.

Councilman Knedler:

Why does the liability insurance go up so much.

Vijay:

The insurance company projects 10% more and they can go up and down until the under writers write the policy.

Debt Services

Councilman Tarlau:

I think you have to take the money that's the debt for the Bass property and make that a debt service.

Vijay:

For accounting purposes I have to show for capitol projects separate and grant money separate.

We want to show the bass property separate because it's in progress.

Councilman Knedler:

Where are we putting the money for the 3409 project

Vijay:

It's all on the grant page.

Historic Tax Credits

When residents pay their taxes then they can receive the historic tax credit. We send the checks only when the taxes are paid.

Youth recreation program

This is city funded and again this year we are asking for \$15,000.00.

Mount Rainier Day

Normally we budget 3,000.00 but for 2010 we budget \$10,000.00

Bike Co-op – we are paying them \$1500.00 and any expenditure more than that they are bringing from donations so, the actual cost represents our \$1500.00 and whatever else they take in. The proposal is to take it up to \$2000.00.

Contingency = \$27,000.00 up by \$10,000.00

Public Works = \$5000.00 for weekend cleaning

Mount Rainier Day \$5000.00 more has been added

National Night Out

The total we are requesting is \$4,700.00 and this is without the grant expenses and revenue.

The message went down by \$5000.00

The city is buying a new police care and the trash truck has been delivered.

The tax rate is .079 and the constant yield is .697.

The constant yield will go in the news letter.

The Council will take a straw vote on the proposed tax rate.

Two items added

Councilman Tarlau suggest increasing Mount Rainier Day by 5000.00 and the down town clean up is \$20, 000.00

CDC is \$20,000.00 for the Gateway façade. And would like to keep the contingency and get rid of the reserves.

Downtown Area:

Councilwoman Morton agrees with adding \$5000.00 for Mount Rainier Day and having public works assign a worker to the downtown area on the week- ends she also ; feels we need to make sure that the businesses are doing their part because they want the foot traffic and we are doing our part. I also feel we should move on getting the gate up and move forward on creating our own façade program and does not feel the money should go to CDC.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau expresses the critical nature of having someone work the downtown asrea on the weekends.

Captain Stoots:

The suggestion of a change of shifts for the public works staff might be worth considering for the weekends.

Mayor Miles agrees

Ms. Wallace already has that p0lanned.

Mayor Miles wants to give the CDC \$25,000.00 and Councilwoman Morton has concerns about giving CDC the money.

Councilman Knedler:

Bryan wants the money set aside in the budget not given to CDC.

Mayor Miles has mixed feelings about the façade program and if we don't work with the CDC it will fade.

Councilwoman Morton feels that the CDC might not be up to full capacity to take on this project.

Councilman Knedler does not want to give money to the CDC and would like to put money in the budget for the façade program now and if we do it now we can do it by the majority and later it might take a super majority. I'd rather make that decision now before the election. I would be more comfortable in putting my money in the electrical work than signs not knowing if the business will stay or fail. The electrical work will stay there regardless of what business is there. That is the investment that won't disappear overnight. He feels more comfortable with spending on the infrastructure.

Work Session

37th Street speed hump

To take up the speed hump you have to get petitions. The residents are split on this issue and some want it taken up and others would like for it to be replaced.

Queenstown Shopping Center

Councilman Knedler has a problem and upset that the owners of the property didn't visit with the Mount Rainier Mayor and Council. The issue is the owners of Queenstown Shopping Center want a different kind of businesses. They want to bring in other kind of uses that were not permitted that shopping center. In order to get permitted use they would need permission from surrounding Municipalities.

Mayor Miles:

Queenstown Shopping Center is requesting Mount Rainier be silent on the issue and not vote against it.

Councilman Knedler: I'm not willing to say we will be silent on this.

The city will ask for a continuance and we have strong concerns about the entire proposal.

The city would like to meet with the owners or developers.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Knedler

Second

Councilwoman Morton

Vote 3-0

