



**Minutes
Special Meeting and Work-Session
of the Mount Rainier Mayor and Council**

Date: 10-19-2010

Place: One Municipal Pl. Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Jimmy Tarlau, Ivy Thompson and William Updike

Staff present: Asst. City Manager Michael Jackson

Agenda

Striking from agenda Ordinance 6-2010 move to first work session in November.

Collective bargaining meeting take off the agenda

Motion to approve

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0

Ordinance 5-2010 amending the code to establish a penalty for vacant property registration. 2nd Read and Vote

3B amended and 3B 104

3B 105 = Penalties

We now have to take action on vacant lots and add penalties.

Objections made by Councilman Tarlau, he suggest to wait for Councilman Knedler to review the new language.

Councilwoman Thompson has no objections to adding lot to the language and we now have a consensus to adding lot to the language.

Motion to approve Ordinance 5-2010 as amended

Amending chapter 3B to insert lot each place that building is mentioned

Councilman Taralu

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0

Resolution 12-2010 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Mount Rainier to Enter into a contract for the Purchase of the Unimproved Lot at 3411 Perry Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland (first read and vote)

Motion to approve

Moved Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

3-0

Motion to close special meeting
Councilman Tarlau
Second Councilman Updike
Vote 3-0

Work-Session

Agenda
Boulders taken off and adding MUTC
Motion to approve agenda
Councilman Tarlau
Second Councilman Updike.

Vote 3-0

Tom Zyle = Landscape Architect with MNCPPC presenting design for Mount Rainier Upshur Neighborhood Mini Park playground renovation. This must be a joint project.

In order to do work in that area Park & Planning must have an agreement with Mount Rainier to allow them to do demolition of that area in order to plant new material.

Mayor Miles wants to make sure there is visibility in the park so the police can make sure there's no criminal activity.

Councilman Tarlau is apprehensive about moving bushes because they give sound barriers and to kids running out of the park.

Mr. Zyle
There will be some vegetation but not so much that you can't see in the park.

Mayor Miles:
Do we like the design of the park they are putting forth?

Councilman Updike:
Where is the rainwater going?

Mr. Zyle:
There will be under drains and the water will be caught in those drains.

Councilman Updike:
Have you considered native plants?

Mr. Zyle
Yes

Councilman Updike:
I want to see some samples of the plants they will be planting.

Brenda Iola (MNCPPC)
This program has been in the Park& Planning system for at least 6 or more years. Their procedure is not to come back to the municipalities to check back with the design. They have approved monies that have to be spent and next year in the capital improvement plan there will be no play grounds renovated so; we have to process this in a quick manor.

This playground is a giant creative art scape. We want permission to enhance the entire site.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau feels the process is screwed up and they should have one session where the city could had some interaction.

Mayor Miles:

Please don't stop the process and finish this.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau wants to do a site visit to look at what is happening there.

Brenda Iola: (M.N.C.P.P.C.)

I'm asking for verification to proceed with the design but, the councilman would like to visit the site to get verification on the plant material that's going to be chosen. We usually try to use native more on the trees versus the shrubs.

Councilman Tarlau doesn't agree with Park and Planning statement that native plants grow wild.

Councilman Updike wants more communication with Park and Planning.

Brenda Iola:

Ilene Nivera is the planner for this area and I will take this back to her so she can gives you more information to take back to your constituents.

Mayor Miles wants to meet with Ilene Nivea at the next work-session to discuss the nature center. Please put on the agenda for Public Works to look into the storm drains that has bad odor at 34th and Upshur Streets.

Councilwoman Thompson:

In terms of developing the city's right of way does that mean that Park & Planning will maintain the entire area?

Brenda Iola:

We have to have a mutual agreement that is not our property and technically it is not our property to maintain. I think it will be the City of Mount Rainier's responsibility.

Mayor Miles:

Are we willing to allow them to incorporate our right of way into their planning of this revitalization?

Brenda Iola:

Would you, Mr. Tarlau like to meet Tom at the site to determine what the council wants done? I would like for it to be scheduled next week.

Mayor Miles:

I'd like to make a motion for the City of Mount Rainier to allow Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) to incorporate our right of way in their development revitalization of the park with input from the city regarding what gets planted in that right of way and that the city will continue its maintenance responsibilities.

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0

Snow Emergency Equipment

Michael Jackson Asst. City Manager:

We had a meeting with the Snow Emergency Commission and only one person came to the meeting with no suggestions. Mr. Jackson is asking for the green light from the Council to go ahead with ordering the dump truck.

Mayor Miles:

The Mayor wants bids and cost before we give the okay.

Councilwoman Thompson:

The Councilwoman feels we should trust staffs judgment.

Councilman Tarlau wants Public Works to come back and talk to the council .

Mayor Miles wants to see more estimates.

Michael Jackson:

We have two estimates and they are \$67,000.00 and \$73,000.00 and I will get the Council estimates on the backhoe and more estimates on the dump truck. The money in the budget is for finance and not for purchase.

Mayor Miles is authorizing the staff to purchase the dump truck and backhoe with Council being provided with cost estimates and finance options and what we are getting for the equipment. You can go ahead with placing the order. We need to have a discussion on what will we do for snow when it comes and what is the plan on salt supply. Bring us up to date on the plans.

Newsletter

The city pays \$1200.00 a month for 8 pages.

Councilman Tarlau:

How much do we have budgeted?

Mike Jackson:

We have \$14,000.00 and that was reduced by \$ 500.00 and it is \$1200.00 a month for 12 pages.

Councilman Updike:

FY 09 budget is \$20,534.00 and that was cut to \$14,000.00.

Councilwoman Thompson;

The councilwoman suggests the city should come up with a template or format so we can control the number of pages.

Mayor Miles says there is no written standard they we have come up with to adhere to.

Councilwoman Thompson:

There should be more relevant content. I don't think we make good use of the space and I think we should contract it out.

Mayor Miles:

Figure out what it is you want and how often.

Councilman Tarlau:

I don't feel it has to be more than 12 pages so, why is it costing \$20,000.00 for 12 issues? I suggest not to do more than 12 pages for the next three months and then review.

Councilman Updike:

Was the idea of doing the message in the Gazette a marketing and money savings?

Mayor Miles:

What do you want to do on the Gazette?

Councilwoman Thompson:

I think we should go with Jimmy's proposal for the next two issues and by February make a decision.

Councilman Updike:

Yes

Mayor Miles:

The proposal is to keep pages to 12 for the next two issues and report in three months on cost and other information that will help us make a better decision. We need to have a series of questions for the Gazette and talk to the city manager of College Park on what and how they negotiated. Mayor Miles wants a report no later than the work-session in November.

Anniversary Soiree

Councilman Tarlau:

The city had a successful home tour with about 150 people. The proposal for the Soiree is G&F Catering's estimate cost for everything is \$4,700.00 and if the city subsidizes \$1750 the cost will be \$3,000.00 and we estimate 120 people and will give away 20 comps.

Mayor Miles:

The mayor feels \$35.00 is a good cost for the Soiree tickets.

Councilman Updike:

Mr. Updike thinks that's a little high for people on fixed income.

Mayor Miles:

Have we recouped the cost of the souvenir items?

Councilman Tarlau:

So far we've sold \$700.00. Maybe through the year \$1000.00. We won't recoup for three or four years.

Mayor Miles:

We can offer the senior's tickets for \$ 15.00 and others will pay \$30.00.

The Soiree will be from 8-11pm on December 4th , 2010

The Mayor proposes that at the end of the centennial celebration all debts paid and clear any money left over will be donated to our community fund and we will look for ways to raise additional monies.

Councilman Tarlau:

Some of the residents have complained about kids from Thomas Stone are throwing trash and asked about heavy duty trash cans. I suggest placing one can in front of the school.

Mayor Miles:

The Council would like to have an updated list on committees and add giving awards to committee members. Ask Mike to work on getting the committee list and times and dates. Pull all the resolutions to see who have been appointed. The Mayor will work with him for the next work-session.

Otis Street Alley

John Curan has issues with the trash and the upkeep of the alley. Look at the overall ownership of alley. The city owns part and residents own some. There are four dumpster that are not enclosed. One belongs to an apartment building. There is a lot of dumping on private property and there are no signs for dumping.

Mayor Miles wants to talk about this in closed session after a work-session in November.

Mayor Miles:

Richardson Park., Dr. Potter and Amber Waller from the Board of Education will meet November 3, 2010 from 10-12 at City Hall. We should go after taking the park we have maintained it for 40 years. The city will ask the attorney to see if we have met the requirements to take the park. We have asked Joe Robins to participate. I would like an update on Rainier Manor.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Tarlau

All in favor

