



City of Mount Rainier

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MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

Review and Approval of Agenda

MUTC draft guidelines discussion rescheduled for September 29, 2010 at 7:00 pm at city hall. This discussion will be for editing of the current draft and inclusion of additional items to make the guidelines more acceptable to the council

Resolution 11-2010 – Maryland Vehicle Flagging Fees. This item was withdrawn until Chief Scott of MRPD is able to complete researching this matter and obtains legal advice from the city attorney.

DRB Recommendation on Bike Coop Signage

Councilmember Thompson indicated that the material of the sign was plastic and fluted and suggested using a sign similar to the signs used to advertise the Farmer's Market as a temporary solution.

Mayor Miles stated that the sign should incorporate the three entities that are housed in the building, i.e., Bike Coop, the Tool Shed Lending Library, and the Preserve Our Planet (POP) Corn Cooperative. Mayor Miles further suggested that the sign be free standing and recommended that each entity contribute towards the cost of the sign.

Action Item: The city's contribution is not to exceed \$500 in funding.

Centennial Ball

Councilmember Tarlau suggested that this last event culminating the 100th Anniversary for the city should be a free event and recommended the date of December 5, 2010 to be held at Joe's Movement Emporium. A craft fair is already scheduled on this date so the facility will be decorated celebrating the holidays.

Mayor Miles stated that she did not want just a party but a celebration ball with guests dressed up for the occasion for a fee.

Action Item: Council member Tarlau is to notify Brook Kidd at Joe's Movement Emporium that the date selected for the ball is December 4, 2010. City Hall staff (Cassandra Newsome) will work on the invitations. Once approved, Mayor Miles will get them printed. Recommended price is \$35.00. The event will be called A 100th Anniversary Soiree.

Resolution 10-2010 – Surplus MRPD Vehicles 98 and 99

Chief Scott indicated that vehicles 98 and 99 are in disrepair needing either a total transmission or rebuilt engine. The cost to repair both vehicles is not cost effective and neither vehicle can pass the Maryland State emissions requirement. This discussion came about following the mayor and council wanting to discuss alternative use of the vehicles as opposed to just getting rid of them.

Manager Wallace asked whether the use of the vehicles in the warehouse district had been effective and Chief Scott stated that it had been a deterrent to the recent criminal activity there. One of the patrol cars had also been parked at the BP Gas Station on Varnum Street and this had proved successful as well. It was suggested that a camera be installed in one of the cars if possible and to charge the battery in each vehicle when necessary and tow them to various locations in the city as a crime deterrent.

Action Item: This issue to be revisited in December 2010 to ascertain effectiveness.

Ordinance 5-2010 Amending city code to include penalty for failure to register vacant property

This item was reviewed as required by council. The first reading will be at the regular meeting in October 2010. Council member Tarlau was somewhat uncomfortable with the language in Section 3B-105. He will research further.

Ordinance 6-2010 Establishing the City's Debt Policy

Treasurer Manjani indicated that the language was consistent with Maryland State policy. Councilmember Tarlau asked whether anything in the legislation was unique to Mount Rainier or if it was cut pasted from existing law for other municipalities. Mr. Manjani responded that the attorney will provide additional revisions if necessary. This debt policy is basic language that was in existence before. Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires that the policy be updated periodically and the policy becomes a critical part of financial documents reviewed annually during the city's audit and will become a part of the city's overall standards for financial operating procedures.

Report on Planning Board Meeting

Mayor Miles reported that the hearing of the Planning Board of M-NCPPC. Board Chair Sam Parker agreed with the council comments that more work needed to be done on the draft

guidelines. Chairperson Parker stated that the record would be kept open as long as necessary so that other agency comments could be included as part of the record. MUTC planning staff agreed to work with the city to resolve all outstanding issues. Chairperson Parker also noted that there was no discussion around parking. He felt that the plan was a good one.

Motion to adjourn was received a second and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.