



**Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier  
Mayor & Council Meeting**

**Date: 11-1-2011**

**Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712**

**Presiding officer: Councilwoman Ivy Thompson**

**Councilmember's present: Brent Bolin, William Updike, and Jimmy Tarlau**

**Councilmember's absent: Mayor Malinda Miles**

**Staff present:**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Scott, Public Works Director Luther Smith**

**Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda**

**Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes**

**Official Reports from Mayor, Council, City Department Heads**

**Public Comment**

**New Business**

**Resolution 10-2011 Appointing John Saunders to Ethics Committee**

**Resolution 19-2011 Appointing Richelle Barber & Charlene Howard to the Youth and Recreation Committee**

**Resolution 20-2011**

**Resolution 21-2011 Appointing Krista Schyler to the Environmental Protection Board**

**Ordinance 7-2011 Authorizing transfers of funds – City's name to West Hyattsville Metro Station Marquee Sign (Discussion Tabled for a later date)**

**Formal Vote to approve Anacostia Hours Membership**

**Motion to Approve the Agenda**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Updike**

**Vote 4-0**

**Motion to Approve Minutes from September 20, 2011 and October 4, 2011 with any corrections given to the City Clerk by the end of Friday**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Updike**

**Vote 4-0**

### **Official Reports**

#### **Ward I**

**Councilman Updike (Ward I):**

- Gateway CDC had a successful Monster's Ball last Saturday (Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> Events- Planting of the Rain Garden at Nature Center at 9am, Toolshed Reopening/Composting Workshop at 10am, and Day of the Dead Festival at Joe's Movement Emporium at 5pm

**Councilman Tarlau (Ward I):**

- Homes Tour was successful last Sunday (Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>). 150 people participated. A third of the people came from outside of Mount Rainier.

#### **Ward II**

**Councilman Bolin (Ward II):**

- Today, the County Council approved the economic development incentive fund
- Friends of Rhode Island Avenue are looking to promote redevelopment in the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor. They reached out to us and are having their kick-off happy hour Thursday Nov. 3, 6-8pm at Lace night club.
- The dedication of the new Anacostia Trail segment is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11 am, at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. The governor, Mayor of D.C., Secretary of interior, and Secretary of transportation will be in attendance.
- Mayor Goodall is hosting a County Clean Water forum in Forrest Heights on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Open Studios will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>

**Councilwoman Thompson (Ward II):**

- Thomas Stone Elementary is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on November 10. At 9 a.m. there will be an assembly in the gymnasium and at 6 p.m., an International Potluck Dinner

#### **City Manager's Report**

- Grant Application Updates- the Community Legacy application was submitted on time, we are working on the Mainstreet application, the CDBG application is due next week.
- Two projects were submitted for the Community Legacy Application- 1) Business improvement district project to replicate better block project on an ongoing basis 2) bike share program for us to have docking stations and bikes people can rent to make short trips into or out of the town.
- Rat infestation on 3200 and 3300 block of Rhode Island Avenue problem persists. State Highway is putting in steel grates below storm drain; however, we are still

having the problem. There are plans to have talks with the SHA to see what else can be done.

- Efforts are being made to solve the issue of the hole in the 4000 block of 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Follow-up with WSSC will be made.
- Public Works sent out the Lease Schedule. It will be in the November edition of the message.
- Vacant Housing forum will be held December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Article about Vacant Property Issues on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> in the Gazette. This particular Gazette that includes Mount Rainier lists everyone but Mount Rainier on the head. We should pursue the Gazette Newspaper to get our name added. We are one of the key components of the gateway arts district and we are in that area.
- Discusses the results of various municipal cases in the courts.
- The facilitator that was referred by the Maryland Economic Development Association has agreed to Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> for the strategic session with the council
- Three roofs leaking- The police station and public works garage are not major so they can be patched. However, we do not have estimate yet. The roof at the library needs to be replaced
- The Generator at the police station will cost \$160,000
- There was structural damage to City Hall due to Hurricane Irene. Waiting on engineer to give analysis
- **Star-Potts** Hall also needs analysis from engineer for hurricane Irene damage.
- The county did not reach the threshold of damage to be eligible for FEMA support so repair costs will have to be absorbed by the city.
- The audit is complete and will be presented at the work-session
- The report will be on the city website tomorrow

**Councilman Updike is thinking of Solar with a battery back-up as an alternative.**

Councilman Tarlau wants to talk about the economic items at the next work-session

Councilman Bolin: If we are having significant problems with the roof in the library, we will have to come to a decision soon. We may need to have special meeting in a few days.

Councilman Updike: For the work session, can we ask Vijay to do an analysis of the budget versus actuals so we can see how infrastructure fits in?

### Chief Scott

- Crime Statistics from January to October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Increase in crime 4.6% during the first 10 months of 2011
- Steady decline in last 3 months to 12%
- Down 50% from same period Oct. 2010 last year
- Vehicle Crimes- 16% increase thefts from Auto, 15 out of 19 crimes reported last month were vehicular. That is our number #1 problem
- 0 robberies in October.
- Oct. 1- 28, had 855 calls for police service – 431 dispatch by communications; 424 self-initiated by officers on patrol

- 128 traffic stops; 16 arrests
- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>- first homicide since May of 2008. Alonzo James **Guyden** was shot and killed outside of an apartment building of the 4200 block of Kaywood Drive. Prince George's County Police Homicide Investigators took over the investigation. Less than 72 hours later, on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, homicide detectives arrested a D.C. resident by the name of William Anthony Knight.
- Alonzo **Guyden** was an outstanding student at Howard, United States Marine Veteran, Veteran of the U.S. Marine Drumming People Corp.
- Speed Camera- 10 violations in October
- There have been efforts to get permission from SHA to move the camera
- Beginning of the year till Oct. 28- 25, 216 speed camera citation were issued; 18, 396 paid and 6820 outstanding.
- The new officer started Compliance Classes on October 12<sup>th</sup>. He is expected to be out by Thanksgiving.
- One officer is on suspension

**Motion to Approve Minutes from September 20, 2011 and October 4, 2011 with condition that any corrections are given to the City Clerk by the end of Friday**

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

General Public Comment

Ryan Humphrey (3700 block of 35<sup>th</sup> St.): I have a question for the City Manager. On Monday of this week, Luther was weed-whacking. He took down between 1 and 3 feet of plants on my property that have been acting as slowing of the run-off of the two properties, the abacus parking lot and the doctor's office. He said his boss told him to. I was hoping to get a response from the city manager within the next day or two.

City manager: You will get a response; I just haven't had time yet.

Councilman Updike: We have a grant to repave our blue bird cab parking lot with pervious concrete to reduce some of the flow. If we do that under the total budget, we will look into the possibility of doing some pervious in that problem area behind the abacus parking lot as well.

Mr. Humphrey:

That was my understanding as well. No one informed us that that was going to happen. It affects not only me, but the 4-6 neighbors down from that. It came at a time when the plants cannot grow back now because it is winter. I was upset that they were on my property; I don't mind the city doing what it has to do on their property. If the plants are too high, it needs to go through code enforcement beforehand.

Councilman Updike: Even if we are not able to figure out how to redirect fund to repaving with pervious, we should try to come up with another low-cost solution.

## **New Business**

### **Motion to Move Resolution 10- 2011 (a Resolution appointing John Saunders to the Mount Rainier Ethics Commission for a 3 year term)**

This resolution was initially read on September 6, 2011. It was tabled because John Saunders wanted to check with his immediate supervisor to see if he was in violation of his own ethics laws at his agency. He received approval to receive this appointment.

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Bolin**

**Vote 4-0**

### **Resolution 19 -2011 (Appointing Richelle Barber and Charlene Howard to the Youth and Recreation Committee)**

**Councilman Bolin**

**Second Councilman Tarlau**

**Vote 4-0**

### **Resolution 20- 2011 (Appointing Arthur Fuller and Rea Howarth to the Emergency Preparedness Committee)**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Bolin**

**Vote 4-0**

### **Resolution 21- 2011 (Resolution appointing Krista Schyler a citizen volunteer to the city of Mount Rainier Environmental Protection Board)**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Bolin**

**Vote 4-0**

### **Motion to appropriate \$5.00 for Anacostia Hours membership**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Councilman Bolin**

**Vote 4-0**

Councilman Updike: In regards to the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant, there was an additional grant for implementation of Green Street. (City Manager will follow up to see the status)

Councilwoman Thompson: Members of the State Highway Administration held a meet and greet here at the City hall with Councilwoman Thompson and Mayor Miles to discuss putting in safe crossings along Rhode Island Avenue and issues of state highways that surround the city. They did state that tying it to development would be the easiest way for us to get the crosswalk we are looking at for safety purposes.

Councilman Updike: Was additional striping on Rhode Island Avenue discussed.

Councilwoman Thompson: There is not going to be any striping. There are a number of things that have to be in place that are not in place yet.

Councilman Tarlau: The Mount Rainier Craft Fair is Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Joe's.

Brent and I attended a meeting with Gabriella Ovega, Doyle Nieman and Delegate Jolene Ivy. We discussed the difficulty of crossing Eastern Avenue at Bunker Hill Road. So I ask for that to be put on the next Work-Session agenda. We were talking about the County Executive meeting with Mayor of DC. There is no place to cross Eastern Avenue between Rhode Island Ave. and Varnum St.. There should be more ability of people to bike into D.C.

Councilman Bolin: Gabriella is helping to compile some ridership data for that bus line. Previous traffic studies are out of date. The concern is that you need a certain number of pedestrians to stage an intervention, but some residents stopped by the meeting and communicated that they go out of their way to cross somewhere else. So we are going to collect that data, present it, and move things along.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.**

Councilman Updike

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 4-0