



Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier Maryland Mayor and Council Meeting

Date: March 1, 2011

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Ivy Thompson, Jimmy Tarlau and Bryan Knedler

Councilmember's absent: William Updike

Staff present:

Jeannell e Wallace City Manager

Michael Scott Chief of Police

Luther Smith Director of Pubic Works

City Clerk Janis Lomax

Agenda

Move to approve minutes for 2-1-2011

Councilman Jimmy Tarlau

Second Councilman Bryan Knedler

Vote 3-0

Official Reports

Councilman Tarlau: Ward I

There will be a neighborhood watch meeting to form a group, if interested call Councilman Tarlau (301-335-6099)

Councilwoman Thompson: Ward II

The Better Block Project is on April 9, 2011 and the location is 34th Street for more information contact Jan Townsend at Neighborhood Design Center and Brook Kid @ Joe's Movement Emporium.

The farmers market is having difficulty finding vendors.

Introduction

Michael Gumpert (Executive Director of CDC)

I am seeking to work with you and my doors are always open. There is opportunity for the area.

Mr. Gumpert was an executive director of two prior organizations. He holds a masters degree in non-profit administration and he is now a resident of Mount Rainier. Mr. Gumpert would like for the city to call with feedback, insights, ideas, complaints and constructive criticism that we have to share and that will make him more prepared. He will also attend the council meetings.

Councilman Tarlau:
The camera tickets are they up or down?

Chief Scott:
It's going down and the camera is working on Rhode Island Avenue.

Councilman Tarlau:
Residents are saying the response time for a police call is very good.

Luther Smith (Director of Public Works)

We are in the process of painting curbs and fire hydrants. The leak on 32nd Street by the school has been repaired. Today we did pot holes.

City Manager Report

I would like to give kudos to the tree commission for helping with the tree grant with the county. A reimbursement request was submitted for \$10,000.00 returned back to the city. They helped with tree trimming. An MML (Maryland Municipal League) application was submitted for an award this year. A telephone conference is scheduled this week with PEPCO about some of the lights we will be replacing in Kaywood Apartments and we are using grant funds to do it. The Assistant City Manager has been meeting with contractors who are submitting estimates for repaving of the Bluebird cab lot and hopefully we will be able to use the remaining funds from Federal Transit Administration for that. We also have grant funds to repair the water run off on 35th Street alley. We are still waiting on estimates from contractors to repair the generator or build a new one.

We think we have everyone on board to participate in the Better Block Project. It is scheduled for April 9th, 2011. The focus is to get people involved and looking at vacant properties and spread some interest in leasing those spaces. We have three people interested in the former Spotlight Café. We have a total of 101 businesses in the city. We currently have fifty properties that are vacant in the city and a lot of them have not paid the vacant building fees. We have bi-ennial election coming up this May.

The RFP for the 3200 blk. of Rhode Island Ave. went in the Washington Post and the Washington Business Journal. Responses are due March 11, 2011. Senator Ramirez did submit the bond bill in the amount of \$250,000.00 to the state.

Councilwoman Thompson:
Are all the companies local that attended the pre-bid meeting?

City Manager Wallace:
Most of them were local.

Councilman Knedler:

City Tax Credit
When we send these to people do we have a cover letter explaining why they get a check from the city?

Mayor Miles:
Please send a letter with the check and I will sign it.

Councilman Tarlau:
CDBG – What's the next round and the timing?

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:
Sometime this spring.

Chief Scott:

The senate bill 588 for the state debt of \$250,000.00 submitted by Senator Ramirez need people to call and support the Senators activities.

Crime statistics for the month of February increased. We had a 22.45 increase robberies, burglaries and assaults. Applications for the position of police officer have dwindled down to three. Grants are still pending. We did get our DOJ grant in for technology for \$480,000.00. The four wheel drive has finally been delivered. It came on Monday. We've issued 1,877 citations in the month of February. The tasers are on order.

Mayor Miles:

Can you tell me where we are with negotiations?

Chief Scott:

We have one more meeting scheduled with four issues to be resolved.

Councilman Tarlau:

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Councilman Tarlau:

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Luther Smith (Director of Public Works)

We are in the process of painting curbs and hydrants. The leak on 32nd Street by the school has been repaired and today we've done pot holes.

Mayor Miles:

With the curb painting what is the reason for red and yellow?

Luther Smith:

The red is for fire hydrants only. The yellow is for curb and no parking and we have to put signs there.

Mayor Miles:

The council stated that we would allow up to \$10,000.00 for the engineering drawings and the money should come out of the speed camera revenue.

Councilman Tarlau:

It was two things we agreed to pay \$10,000.00 for the engineer drawings and in addition to that pay expenditures not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the police department basement drawings.

Motion to approve \$10, 000.00 for drawings

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Knedler

Vote 3-0

Approved

The Mayor & Council site selection for the election

The Mayor and Council would like to use the Eastern Star Building for the May election and there is consensus from the council on this item.

Ordinance 1-2011- 1st Read (Amending Chapter 13-A and adding chapter 13-B Snow Emergencies, the city will adopt an emergency plan) the city manager or his or her designee may also declare a cit of Mount Rainier snow emergency without the District of Columbia snow emergency declaration.

Ordinance 2-2011 1st Read Amending Mount Rainier election procedures manual.

Ordinance 3-2011 1st Read Going Green Initiative

Mayor Miles:

The city will be receiving there census data by April 1, 2011.

Resolution 4-2011 Appointing members to the tree commission

Motion to adopt Resolution 4-2011

Councilman Bryan Knedler

Second Councilman Jimmy Tarlau

Vote 3-0

Councilwoman Thompson wants a resolution opposing the education cuts from the county budget.

Councilman Tarlau thinks we need a letter not a resolution and we would be willing write a letter.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Knedler

Vote 3-0