



**Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier Mayor & Council
Special Meeting and Work – Session**

Date: 1-19-2010

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Asst. City Manager Michael Jackson, Chief Scott and Public Works Director Luther Smith

Special Meeting

The purpose of the special meeting is to do a second reading and vote on Ordinance 1-2010, bond issuance for the purchase of the Eastern Star building.

Ms. Wallace gave a fair summary of ordinance 1-2010. This ordinance authorizes the issuance and sale of city's general obligation bond 12010 for the purpose of funding 3200 Rhode Island Ave. and 3701 Eastern Ave. which are blighted properties. The first reading was on 1-5-2010.

Refinancing the debt on 2 bonds for city hall and the police station and repaying ourselves for the money used to purchase funeral home and house on Eastern Ave.

Councilman Knedler:

The interest rate is 4.3 % per year for a term of 15 years with simi annual payments of principal interests. We are paying cash for the Eastern Star building.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2010

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 3-0

Motion to adjourn Special Meeting

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilwoman Ivy

Vote 3-0

Work-Session

Agenda

Motion to approve

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 3-0

Signage for Funeral Home

Ms. Wallace suggests that we put a sign up on the funeral home property so the investors will know it is for sale for development.

Councilman Knedler:

On next Tuesday January 26th we are having a special meeting to talk about those properties and decide what we are going to do with them.

Snow Removal Plan

Ms. Wallace: City Manager

The staff is creating an emergency contact list and the chiefs roll is the city gets the information out to the public using the media and internet and to make sure the snow emergency routes are clear. We have to tweak the plans in place for upcoming emergencies.

Councilwoman Morton:

When you know the storm is coming why you didn't look at it as an emergency and keep your folks here. We should have been pro-active.

Councilman Tarlau:

The snow emergency plan has to have a personnel aspect to it.

Councilman Knedler:

What has staff done to make sure people are here? Do we have a plan for putting staff up here in the city?

Chief Scott:

We have a general emergency operation plan for the city that was last revised February 2009. In a city emergency we are required to have at least 3 days of clothing and other personal items.

Councilman Knedler:

Jeannelle why didn't you declare a city emergency in these blizzard conditions?

Jeannelle Wallace:

We normally follow the District of Columbia and by the time they declared an emergency it was well into the night. We felt there was enough public works personnel on hand and we are working with limited equipment. We followed the same procedures that were followed in the past.

Mayor Miles:

We need a policy that is enforced and carried out.

Councilman Tarlau:

Make a list of volunteers who can maybe drive or do other things and that have 4 wheel drives.

Councilwoman Morton:

We need a list of who the community can reach out to and to have some communication.

Mayor Miles:

We need something that speaks specific to snow.

Councilman Knedler:

Every year in October we need to put publicity out to remind people where the snow emergency routes are and ask for volunteers and this notice requirement should be in the plan. We also need to add a section giving the city manager authority to extend the snow emergency so we can continue towing and ticketing to keep our roads and streets open.

Councilwoman Morton:

We want to make sure we cover everything.

Mayor Miles:

We would like to see the amended plan on the next work-session.

Snow removal amendments

Councilman Knedler:

Add a new section to the ordinance that gives the city manager the authority to extend the snow emergency plan. Should we add Bunker Hill Rd. as a snow emergency route. I suggest that in snow emergencies we ask people to move their cars to one of the street so the plows can get down the streets. Don't throw snow on fire hydrants
You shouldn't be on the street in snow emergencies without all weather tires.

Mayor Miles:

Why make Bunker Hill Rd. a snow emergency route?

Luther Smith Public Works Director

It's not necessary to make Bunker Hill Rd a snow emergency route.

Councilwoman Morton:

I feel that during snow emergency the 37th hundred block of Perry Street should be moved to one side.

Chief Scott:

We should do an outreach to those who live on snow emergency routes.

Mayor Miles:

I think we should have a place to put the snow in the city. We should look at where we can put the snow.

We should consider having a public hearing on what the residents want during snow emergencies.

Councilman Knedler:

Where are we on the parking meters?

Chief Scott:

They have been ordered.

Mayor Miles:

Put snow emergency routes on the next work-session.

MJ Park: Little Friends for Peace

We would like to build on planting the peace pole at 30th and Arundel on May 2nd as we did in 2009. We would like to renew the proclamation and build on it and we can celebrate and gather our citizens around peace making activities.

Mayor Miles:

I thought we declared May as our peace month in the proclamation. We will check on that.

Motion to adjourn to close session to discuss property acquisition and eminent domain.

Mayor Miles:

Report on closed session

We have agreed there were no actions taken in closed session.

We will get the two parties together to discuss partnerships.

The city will consider at some distant time the actual repairs of the roof on the building. We have decided not to move in the direction of eminent domain.

CDBG Priorities

Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson:

PY 36 application is due this Friday January 22, 2010. We have done an application for \$234,000.00. Included in the \$234,000.00 is as follows.

1. Trip and fall hazards.
2. Infrastructure on 28th & 29th Streets 4000 and 4100 blocks where there are no curb and gutters.
3. Street repairs for existing blocks
4. We have also included 37th Street and Cedar Lane alley.

Councilman Tarlau:

I'd like to see the master list. Things were put on the list two years ago and nothing happened some of them were never done and things on another list from PY37.

Asst. City Manager Michael Jackson:

We've been doing spot work and we need to take this money and concentrate on larger areas. We should look at the whole block of 28th Street.

Councilman Knedler:

Some things were on PY 31 & 32 that didn't get done because they ran out of money and it didn't get on the next fiscal year. The situation in the alley is on PY34. 32nd and Arundel and Wells and Otis, make sure these things get on PY 34.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

CDBG makes the final list of what gets funded. They use PG County Storm Drains Management for storm drains.

Mayor Miles:

If something doesn't get funded this year does it get picked up the next year?

Trip hazards and all the things LIGIT says we have to do are priorities for public safety.

Jeannelle Wallace:

We want to be clear on what the Council wants done. Will you give us all of the flooding issues so I can send them to the Storm Drain Management people and they will come and look at each project.

Councilwoman Thompson:

I feel that we should have a capital improvement plan and this time next year we will have an idea of what it's going to cost us.

Councilwoman Morton:

The council isn't clear on whose handling the flooding. Is it CDBG or Storm Drain Management? We keep talking about the same projects. How do we move it?

Councilman Tarlau:

I want some rationale as to why this isn't being done versus something else and maybe you can create a place for us to log on to a document on the server where we can see the list.

Councilwoman Morton:

37th and Perry and Wells Avenue have bad storm drain problems.

Councilman Knedler:

Asphalt can be a quick patch and we don't have to wait for CDBG. I didn't know about the storm drain people coming out and looking at certain projects.

Mayor Miles:

You need to let us know about these things. I am asking Mike for the list of projects that will go out Friday.

Councilman Tarlau:

Centennial update, 18 banners are going up around the city. We have spent \$7500.00 . Bumper stickers and coffee mugs are for sale and we will have some displays. There will be some dignitaries speaking in front of City Hall and the history project will have to be discussed.

Councilman Knedler:

I don't think it's a good idea to use public employees to distribute flyers.

Councilman Tarlau:

Once in a while to supplement communication to get the word out would be okay with me to have Public works employees distribute flyers.

Mayor Miles:

How do we do a better outreach for those who don't have those mediums?

Councilwoman Thompson:

A ten question survey will go into the news letter about the Mount Rainier Library and the things you want such as the hours and the programs you want to see there. Send the survey back to City Hall to my attention.

Councilman Tarlau would like to initiate the community foundation.

Councilwoman Thompson:

We need to say how we want the fund set up and who we want to manage it for support of city projects.

Mayor Miles:

Put this on the next work-session agenda.

Councilman Knedler:

We should get an appraisal on the blue bird property and be careful how the contract is worded.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Knedler

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 4-0