



*City of Mount Rainier*  
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**CITY MANAGER REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2010**

**Green Home Project**

This project has consumed much of the manager's time during the last month. The project is approximately 2/3 complete with most of the appliance installations and energy audits complete. Currently, the city is awaiting notification from the state Community Development Administration and Maryland Historical Trust to determine whether the window and door replacements will be approved. The city has until December 31, 2010 to utilize all of the grant funds.

**Snow Removal Readiness**

The public works director, assistant city manager, and city treasurer have worked jointly on obtaining and financing the city's new equipment including the bobcat and dump truck. Public works has serviced all of the current vehicles and equipment and has on hand an ample supply of salt for the first snowfall. It was suggested at the snow removal task force meeting that the priority of snow removal by areas on a color coded map to indicate what areas will be plowed first and post this information on the city's website and list serv. We will attempt to get this information on the website within the next week. In terms of this report priority is given as follows:

1. All snow emergency routes are cleared first
2. Kaywood Streets and hills are cleared simultaneously as they freeze up first
3. The larger side of the city (west of Rhode Island Avenue) followed by the "small side" east of Rhode Island Avenue
4. Side streets leading into emergency snow routes
5. Alleys cleared last

Please keep in mind that this snow clearing priority list may change at any time depending upon visibility, trees or wires that may be down, etc. Citizens are encouraged to park in their driveways and on one side of the street to enable the larger vehicles to clear the roadways. Information as to what to do if there is a power outage is attached to this report which is available on the city's website and at city hall.

### **Mount Rainer Lodge FOP 85**

The city management team and the Police Union have begun negotiations for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The city received the proposal from the FOP and subsequent meetings are scheduled for the majority of next week.

### **Legislation**

The following legislation\ was adopted during the last month by the Mayor and Council

- Ordinance 6-2010 - Debt Policy (2nd Reading and Vote)
- Ordinance 5-2010 - Reconsideration vote on amendments (Perlman advice) Vote to approve u-amended version of amendment to city code on vacant building and vacant lot registration penalty fees
- Ordinance 6-2010 - Debt Policy (2nd Reading and Vote)
- Resolution 13-2010 To approve surplus of Public Works Tractor

The council also approved by consensus to accept the FY 2010 audit report.

### **Meetings**

The manager met with a prospective consultant for the Mount Rainer Business Association to secure grants for the business district owners. The association will submit its welcome package for business owners and business operators at its annual meeting scheduled for December 8, 2010, 6:30 at the Mount Rainier Police Station.

A follow-up meeting was held with CSX Rail representatives concerning the idling and whistle blow of the trains on November 23<sup>rd</sup> via telephone conference call. A subsequent follow-up field observation is to take place within the next few weeks with Mount Rainier Police Chief Scott and police personnel from several other jurisdictions that are adversely affected by train noise, idling, pedestrian crossing/trespass issues.

The Mayor and manager attended a meeting with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to discuss the skate park sound study which was conducted in response to the complaints from the residents about the intolerable noise from users at the skate park. While the planting of shrubbery has helped with some buffering of the noise, the novelty of the skate park and the fall season are all factors which have contributed to reducing some of the problems, the noise level is still a factor which has adversely affected the quality of life for those residents who live in close proximity to the skate park. A subsequent meeting was held with the residents and M-NCPPC has agreed to look at other options that may be available to reduce the noise level.

### **Grants/Other Projects**

*Civic Center* - The Mayor and council approved the revised designs for the library/community center/civic center project. The council and staff are now working on securing additional funding for this project.

*FTA Grant* – Through the Federal Transit Administration Funding, the city will purchase the former Blue Bird Cab Lot on Perry Street which should substantially support the city’s additional parking needs. The city treasurer is working on completing the required financial documents that are required. Once these documents have been reviewed and approved, the request for draw down on the grant funds will be made. This will be done once the city and seller have determined the date for settlement as the funds must be spent within three (3) days of the draw down. The city portion of the purchase (match for the grant amount of 20%) is approximately \$29,000. The federal share is approximately \$115,000.

*RFP for Bass and Funeral Home Lots* – The RFP will be issued once the real estate firm Shipley, Horne and Hewlett, PA has completed the Land Distribution Agreement. Once this document has been reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Council it will be submitted in conjunction with the RFP seeking proposals from potential developers of these properties. The firm is working with the city’s consultant on developing this agreement which will prioritize the development vision of the city.

*Tree Grant* – The city has planted over 100 trees throughout the city to commemorate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to continue efforts in preserving the city’s tree stock. Matching funds for this county grant are derived from the city’s ATHA grant, and in-kind support from the public works director and public works staff.