

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 5, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UPPER LEVEL CITY HALL

Call To Order:

7:00 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD

Presiding Officer

Mayor Malinda Miles

Officials Present

Councilmember Jesse Christopherson

Councilmember Tracy Loh

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Officials Absent

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Staff Present

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes

Assistant City Manager Veronica Owens

Minutes provided by:

Brishay Corbin

AGENDA

Call of the meeting to order

Pledge of allegiance

Review and approval of agenda

Review and approval of Meeting Minutes

Announcements

Public Comment

Organization Committee Assessment Update

Employment update

Rolling Agenda update

Councilwoman Tracy Loh moves to update “public comments” for after announcements. Agenda is approved

Review and approval of minutes

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: Ms. Lomax’s minutes have been updated up to December and emailed to councilmembers.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh moves to get caught up on minutes during next work session on 1/19/2016. It is agreed there are no minutes to approve

Rental license ordinance – Deferred to 1/19/2016 just received it on the afternoon of 1/5/2016

Announcements

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: if anyone would like to run for the Board of Directors of the Gateway Community Development Corporation nominating petitions due 1/6/2015. You can drop off nominating petitions at Gateway CDC Headquarters or can get nominating petitions from me. Applicants need 5 signatures.

Mayor Miles: I contacted the White House due to a group of senior citizens expressed interest in taking a trip there. I will leave forms at city hall and applications will be due January 29, 2016. Please email and do not call! The trip is limited to 60 individuals and is free including lunch. Citizens must be 62 or older to qualify. We will try to go on a date president Obama will be in white house, but no guarantees.

Pat Sermon from 3000 block of Tater Street: Do I have to have an ID like a passport and is a license valid.

Mayor Miles: You must have a valid ID with picture on it either state or federal.

Unknown: Do you have to be a US citizen to go?

Mayor Miles: It was not expressed in email and it generally has not been the case if the person legally has a Visa or has something that identifies them with their country.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: I went to White House tour once and it required her social security number, do you need to provide that? Is the tour on the 29th?

Mayor Miles: It was not specified on her tour just a valid driver's license and state or federal ID. The applicants' information is due by January 29th but the date of the tour won't be scheduled until after.

Marilyn Mowatt 4400 29th street: I have a passport but it's not up to date.

Mayor Miles: It must be current and that driver's license will be fine.

Mayor Miles: Thank you to the city of Mt. Rainier, between your work and effort from Thanksgiving season to the past holiday we were able to provide over 250 baskets to residents in the city of Mt. Rainier. I would like to call out one person in particular who spent an inordinate amount of time helping me with the baskets. Mr. Ethan Stone I really do appreciate what you did and the work you put in helping us get those baskets out. There has also been a lot of social work in the cities at which I would like to thank the churches. I would also like to thank councilmembers and employees who donated cash to help save an eviction.

Public Comment

Pat Sermon 3000 block of Tater Street: Thank you for the fire truck for Christmas, it was very nice.

Mayor Miles: Special thanks to Captain Stoot for coordinating the event.

Marilyn Mowatt 4400 29th street: There's still a hole that's been filled by the town numerous times. There's also a handicap sign that was stolen. I made a police report in November and it still has not been resolved. I want my handicap sign back in the proper place in in front of my home.

Mayor Miles asked the homeowner to follow-up with her and she would assist with calling State officials to secure the sign for the Handicapped sign in front of the homeowner's resident. Handicapped signs are a State issuance only.

Chandona Springs 4517 29th street: Traffic is running fast along the street and the city needs to look into assessing the street for barriers or bumps along the street

Mayor Miles plans to bring the issue to the attention of Chief Scott.

Organization Committee Assessment Update

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: Consultants will be in town January 25-January 27 to do 2 public focus groups. Any members of the community or business people that councilmembers have that they would like to see on the focus group need to be brought to me soon to finalize the group. There will be a meeting in the middle of the day and a meeting in the evening.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: Have you posted the job ad?

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: It's posted on various websites and also on MML.

Mayor Miles: When will there be concrete dates?

Councilwoman Shivali Shah: The dates for the focus group are January 25th from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and January 26th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. They will be held at the police department in the conference room. The focus group will be limited so we are collecting names right now. For anyone that has comments and will not be able to be on the group city officials will be happy to receive your comments via email or in writing as well.

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: The objectives of those focus groups are to hear the people's opinion about the style, the management, the experience, and the kinds of achievements candidates have had.

Employment Update

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: I'm interviewing some candidates for Public Works next week. We are going to advertise for an administrative assistant this week and, in addition, a part-time administrative assistant to provide better coverage for the front desk.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: On the topic of administrative coverage I received a complaint from a constituent that the voicemail messages at City Hall and Public Works were not updated when the city was closed for new years' day. If we can make sure we are updating our voicemail that would be great.

Rolling Agenda Update

Meeting with the city attorney

Mayor Miles: Closed session meetings are to discuss specific items such as personnel, negotiations and things like that. There will be an update to the Open Meetings Act to include some issues around committees, councils, bodies, and boards.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: I personally want to talk with them so that I can receive a briefing on the legalities on conducting council business including the Open Meetings Act.

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: A briefing of the legalities of the Open Meetings Act would be a general open session.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: I think we need an open portion followed by a closed portion.

Mayor Miles: We are dedicating a Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM and if more time is needed we will extend.

Elections procedure update

Councilwoman Tracy Loh: Do we want to pull together a RFP to engage an attorney to review the whole charter including election procedures?

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes: I will try and identify some sources.

Councilwoman Tracy Loh moves to add topic into the February work session.

Buchanan Street

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes has a meeting with the county Thursday morning at 9:00 AM.

Egg Hunt

Councilwoman Shivali Shah: There will be an interest meeting on January 28th at City Hall.

License Code Revision

Councilwoman Tracy Loh moves to change it to January session and schedule a special session to follow that work session.

Motion to adjourn

Mover: Councilwoman Tracy Loh

Second: Councilwoman Shivali Shah