

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: October 4, 2016

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 Shivali Shah

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Tracy Loh

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

Chief of Police Michael Scott

Director of Code Enforcement Ramon Watkins

Minutes provided by:

Brishay Corbin

Review and Approve the Agenda

While listing the agenda items, Mayor Miles revised the order and added a variance request.

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Amended: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed

Review and Approve Minutes

Councilmember Loh expressed an issue with the April 18, 2016 minutes.

Motion to approve minutes April 12, 2016, April 19, 2016, May 3, 2016, May 17, 2016, and June 7, 2016, excluding April 18, 2016: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed

Laura Perez – Prince George’s African-American Museum & Cultural Center

Director of Education and Programs Laura Perez informed the public that The Prince George's African-American Museum & Cultural Center was located at 4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, MD. Ms. Perez explained the mission of the independent, non-profit community space. Since 2010 the center focused on African-American contributions in Prince George's County Maryland.

Ms. Perez announced plans that would take place in 2017, which included expansion and beautification, continued school programs with partnerships from approximately 40 public schools in Prince George's County, and youth conferences. Ms. Perez extended an invitation for an exhibition on October 14 called "Through Their Eyes" which showcased work from selective students from Northwestern High School and Suitland High School from 6 pm to 9 pm.

For more information, visit the website www.pgaamcc.org, or visit the center from Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm.

Chanel Compton became the new Executive Director and the program received funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Prince George's County Council, and grants.

4119 32nd Street Variance Request

Homeowner Victoria Ladele spoke on her father's behalf regarding the plans for the property. The construction plan was for elevating the home to include a deck in the back. Ms. Ladele explained that Director of Economic Development Samantha Olatunji was made aware of the variance on September 14, 2016.

Councilmember Knedler clarified the variance process and believed that the hearing should be postponed from October 5th so that the Design Review Board could discuss the construction plans and the Council could conduct a Special Meeting following their next Work Session to vote on the final decision.

Homeowner/husband Temi Dayo Alafe explained that the elevation plans would not disrupt the community and distributed photos of the houses in the area to the Council.

Resident Walter Frankfrits Jr., 4117 32nd Street, was against the construction stating his home would be "shadowboxed in" due to elevating the home and it would ultimately change the aesthetics of the area.

Resident Sally Ann Rogers, 3201 Taylor Street, expressed her opposition to changing the historical structure of the City and the additional crowding.

Mr. Alafe handed out maps to the Council and residents to show the construction plans and explained the dimensions. There was also need for mold remediation.

Resident Steven Rogers, 3201 Taylor Street, was concerned about the variation being fast tracked and not handled properly.

Motion to ask the Board of Zoning Appeals to postpone the October 5th hearing; the Council will send the request to the Design Review Board for a recommendation and conduct a Special Meeting following the Council Work Session on October 18th for a vote:

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed

Mayor and Council Announcements

Mayor Miles thanked all of those who participated in former Clerk Janis Lomax's funeral. The City of Mount Rainier offered her family their condolences.

Chief of Police Michael Scott disclosed about a close friend passing away.

On October 11 at Bladensburg High School at 7 PM, the Prince George's County School Board would be having a public hearing for attendance boundaries for Thomas Stone Elementary School and Mount Rainier Elementary School.

Mount Rainier's 5th Annual 5K Run would be held on October 29 at 9:30 AM, beginning at Joe's Movement Emporium. The theme was Halloween with a costume contest and all ticket profit would go towards Joe's Movement Emporium.

Anyone interested in being a part of the Youth and Recreation Meeting could inform City Manager Braatz. Other committees that also needed volunteers were the Design Review Board, the Tree Commission, the Election Board, and the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

There would be a 2nd Annual Children's Halloween Parade and children's Halloween costume contest following the 5K Run at Joe's Movement Emporium on October 29.

Councilmember Shah spoke about a Mount Rainier business-related incident and requested that certain information be communicated with the Council as soon as possible, and also thanked those who participated in Mount Rainier Day.

Mayor Miles announced her annual Halloween Party on October 31 at her home.

Director of Code Enforcement Work Plan Presentation

Director of Code Enforcement Ray Watkins summarized the Work Plan packet distributed to the Council.

Mayor Miles inquired about the use of iNet and if the City had quick accessibility to the information.

Councilmember Loh voiced concern regarding unlicensed rental problems not being part of "first quarter priorities." There was also a need to establish a complaint process for constituents to

contact and communicate with the department that did not involve the Council and City Manager Braatz stated that there had been negotiations with vendors who offered system and it would be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Mr. Watkins continued with presenting the department's long term goals.

Councilmember Knedler expressed the need to coordinate the permit process with each department and to have someone in the Code department accountable.

Report of the City Manager

City Manager Braatz announced hiring new Director of Administrative Services Unsolo Holley II. Mr. Holley introduced himself to the Council.

City Manager Braatz briefly spoke on Mount Rainier Day and Public Safety Night. Councilmember Knedler asked about the Community Development Block Grant construction details and questioned if the City was ready for a potential hurricane in which City Manager Braatz answered that the staff was susceptible to emergency emails.

Councilmember Shah commented on snow removal preparedness. Chief Scott commented about high winds being a key component as well. Councilmember Loh requested that weather related issues be broadcasted on the City's website.

Brentwood Police Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The document was an agreement between the Mount Rainier Police Department and the Brentwood Police Department to share resources in times of emergencies. The agreement gave both departments authority to make arrests, solve crimes, and follow criminals across borders. The agreement did not obligate either jurisdiction to run each other's calls-for-service in the case of a personnel shortage.

Motion to adopt the mutual aid agreement: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Jesse Christopherson

Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed

Public Comment

Female resident spoke briefly to the Council and met City Manager Braatz.

Ordinance 05-2016 – Marking Parking Spaces (1st Reading)

City Manager Braatz gave the summary: "Amending Chapter 13 of the Traffic Code, directing the designation of parking spaces in the area of the Mixed-Use Town Center whereas the parking on residential blocks near the Mixed-Use Town Center Zone was being utilized by patrons of commercial businesses and residents of those blocks were experiencing a street parking shortage.

The Mayor and Council wished to establish grounds for the designation of street parking spaces on those blocks to alleviate parking shortages experienced by residents...”

Ordinance 06-2016 – Increase Council Stipends (1st Reading)

City Manager Braatz gave the summary: “Amending Chapter 1 of the City Code, where Mayor and Council member receive a salary each year yet the salaries had not been increased since 2002. Section 1-102: Effective on the 2nd Monday of May 2019 following the City election, the Mayor should receive a salary of \$7,200 per year with \$50 for travel and communication expenses and the Council should receive \$5,100 per year with \$50 for traveling and communication expenses.”

Mayor Miles asked for the item to be placed on the next Work Session.

Resolution 09-2016 – Appointing the Supervisor of Elections

Councilmember Loh gave the summary: “Appoint Nichole Logan as the Supervisor of the elections and the previous Supervisor Maxine Drakeford as an election judge effective immediately.”

Motion to approve Resolution 09-2016: Councilmember Jesse Christopherson

Second: Councilmember Tracy Loh

Vote Recorded: 4-1-0, Motion Passed

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Tracy Loh

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 5-0-0, Motion Passed