

**Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE: June 7, 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

City Treasurer Vijay Manjani

**Minutes provided by:**

Brishay Corbin

**Motion to call meeting to order:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah

**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

**Motion to move to a Closed Session:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Second:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah

**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

**Motion to empower the City Manager to send reply correspondence to the Neighborhood Development Company in response to their correspondence from yesterday notifying them that we believe they are in violation of the terms in our land dispositioning agreement and they have 30 days to cure:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

Councilwoman Loh requested that Groundswell Energy, 3<sup>rd</sup> party electricity supply, be added to the Agenda and that the Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission/Architectural Conservation Overlay Zone update be moved to the June Work Session.

**Motion to approve Agenda as amended:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah

**Vote Recorded: 3-0-2, Motion Passed**

### **Public Comment**

Marilyn Mowatt, 4400 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Street, voiced her complaints in regards to the condition of 29<sup>th</sup> Street and the rat infestation due to the recycling bins. Mayor Miles addressed her concerns.

**Motion to approve minutes as amended:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

### **Announcements**

Councilwoman Loh mentioned that the Red Cross and the local Fire Station would be conducting a fire safety canvas in Mount Rainier on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were needed to join the canvas, anyone interested could contact her.

### **Discussion of Summer Agenda**

**Motion to take a one month recess in August:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilman Bryan Knedler

**Vote Recorded: 4-1, Motion Passed**

### **Rolling Agenda**

Councilwoman Loh discussed having the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) on the June Work Session for an update on current and upcoming work with the Council. City Manager Braatz suggested that the meeting be held off until the July Work Session where the majority of the Council agreed.

Also, Councilwoman Loh proposed adding a performance review for the City's Attorney to the June Work Session. Mayor Miles requested a Special Meeting for that discussion which was set for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was ultimately decided that a City Manager Work Plan would be implemented along with a 90-day review for the July Work Session.

### **MD 500 Phase 2 Implementation**

Mayor Miles and Councilwoman Loh attended a meeting with the State Highway Administration in regards to Phase 2 of MD 500 and Queens Chapel Road. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) needed to be reviewed and signed. Councilwoman Loh stressed the importance of having a Director of Public Works on staff for these project meetings.

**Ordinance 03-2016: Adopting an Annual Budget** – “Establishing the Tax Rate, Adopting an Annual Budget and Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2017, Beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.”

The Council deliberated about the \$1,500.00 stipend each individual would receive and the priority of City events and projects.

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 03-2016:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh  
**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson  
**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

*Variance for 3613 Eastern Avenue was removed from Agenda and Mayor Miles assured the Council that the 2016 Arbor Day Proclamation would be prepared within the next day.*

**Mount Rainier Business Association – Clean Street Program**

**Motion to award the Mount Rainier Business Association \$5,000.00 to continue the Clean Street Program in 2016:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson  
**Second:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah  
**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

**Groundswell Energy**

**Motion to authorize the City Manager to contract with Groundswell Energy, after obtaining an estimate, for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party electricity supply for City buildings and City street lights in Mount Rainier, up to \$0.86 per kilowatt hour:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh  
**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson  
**Vote Recorded: 4-0-1, Motion Passed**

**Buchanan Green Street Project Funding**

City Manager Braatz updated the Council on the completion of the Green Street Project. The quote obtained to replace the striping of the street was \$17,500.00, the anticipated engineering cost was up to \$20,000.00, and the City would also incur legal costs. City Manager Braatz asked for permission to expend up to \$40,000.00 on the immediate costs to bring the street up to compliance and code.

The Council discussed the City’s options and wanted to review the original contractor’s accountability. Mayor Miles proposed to amend Councilman Christopherson’s original motion to wait to allocate the amount after communicating with the contractor in writing. Councilman Christopherson withdrew his motion.

**Motion to authorize the City Manager’s request of up to \$40,000.00 for the repair and safety of Buchanan Street:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh  
**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson  
**Vote Recorded: 2-2-1, Motion Denied**

**Motion to authorize the City Manager request of up to \$40,000.00 for the repair and safety of Buchanan Street after pursuing all reasonable avenues to have the responsible parties to cure the problem within 4 days:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Second:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah

**Vote Recorded: 2-2-1, Motion Denied**

**Motion to authorize the City Manager to spend up to \$40,000.00 to correct safety issues on Buchanan Street after consulting with the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT):**

Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson

**Vote Recorded: 3-0-2, Motion Passed**

Councilwoman Shah requested an amendment in the motion to contact the contractor to see if they can cure the problem while consulting with LGIT.

**Second to amendment:** Councilman Bryan Knedler

**Vote Recorded: 2-3, Motion Denied**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilman Jesse Christopherson