

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY LEGISLATIVE MEETING

DATE: July 5, 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UPPER LEVEL CITY HALL

Call to Order

7:07 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD

Presiding Officer

Councilmember Jesse Christopherson

Officials Present

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Tracy Loh

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Officials Absent

Mayor Malinda Miles

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

Minutes provided by:

Brishay Corbin

Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Loh wants to ensure that the vote tally always equals the number of officials in attendance. Councilmember Loh also pointed out that there was a typo in the April 19, Special Meeting minutes regarding the language of the motion Councilmember Christopherson made.

Councilmember Shah was opposed to the length of the minutes because they were abbreviated and did not fully reflect the discussion. Overall, the Council decided to approve the minutes at a later date.

Announcements

After working for Mount Rainier's Public Works department for 15 years and retiring late 2014, Charles Stewart has passed away. City Manager Braatz agreed to post the funeral arrangements on Mount Rainier's website. The Council had a moment of silence for Mr. Stewart.

The Southside Music and Skateboard Series event will take place on July 16. It is a free event with cash prizes for the skate competition. The event will take place at the Mount Rainier Skate Park located at 3792 Otis Street.

The Tree Commission will be having a meeting at City Hall on July 2 at 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Knedler was elated to announce that he and Delegate James Tarlau had published their Mount Rainier history book. The book was half price if ordered on the Arcadia Publishing website by midnight of July 5. Delegate Tarlau praised Councilmember Knedler on being the author as Delegate Tarlau was more-so responsible for choosing the photos.

Additions to the Agenda/Review of Rolling Agenda

Councilmember Loh requested that the “Bike Co-op/Tool Shed Building” item move to the rolling agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilmember Knedler

Second: Councilmember Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Public Comment

The new Public Works Director Kourosh Kamali gave his introduction statement, speaking on his past working experience and accolades.

ACoz Development Update

Senior Planner of Community Planning with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Jose Carlos Ayala had been assigned as Project Manager for the Architectural Conservation Overlay Zone (ACoz). Mr. Ayala outlined his agenda to revisit the project area, inform the Council about the ACoz next steps, key date court submittal, and contact information.

The ACoz project area covers approximately 1100 properties and 1600 structures. Since the overlay zone was approved the County had been working on a zoning rewrite that will reduce or eliminate ACoz to become the Mount Rainier Conservation Overlay Zone (MCO). It is the hope that the Council will approve MCO by the first quarter of 2017.

Mr. Ayala then went into the pattern book details and projected that the pattern book would be finalized by September 2016. The pattern book would be showcased to the community on September 22 for questions and insight, and by December the book would be distributed. There would be a limited amount of physical copies but the book would be available electronically for all citizens.

The remaining timeline and steps were relayed. The “design standards” were based on a letter of request from the Council from December 2015. Councilmember Loh suggested that the briefing be held as a “Special Meeting” that would include the public at a specific date and venue. It was concluded that it was unclear how the proposed Neighborhood Conservation Overlay was going to work administratively.

Councilmember Knedler shed light to the fact that the local Design Review Board (DRB) would not exist once the Architectural Conservation Overlay Zone was complete and it would be an end to the Mixed-Use Town Center board as well. The DRB approved dismissing the local review as long as the design standards clearly showed that MNCPPC staff was representing the City.

Bunker Hill Road and Eastern Avenue Traffic Signal

Councilmember Knedler announced that after a traffic study, the District of Columbia is preparing to install a traffic light by July 2017. Councilmember Knedler thanked County Councilmember Deni Taveras and her staff for supporting the cause. The letter of support was already sent signed by City Manager Braatz and Chief of Police Michael Scott.

Resolution 06-2016: Joe’s Movement Emporium, FY 2017 Community Investment Tax Credits

Brooke Kidd introduced the proposal to continue participating in the State Community Investment Tax Credit Program which allows them to grow their individual and business donors through a tax credit from the state. It is a process to have the local municipal governing body support any use of state grant funds and the state requires a resolution from the City as part of their process.

Motion to adopt Resolution 06-2016: Councilmember Tracy Loh

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Loh wanted to amend the language in the resolution from “high quality arts education programs for families of low to moderate income households” to “affordable arts education programs for low to moderate income households.”

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Resolution 07-2016: Appointing a Vice-Mayor

City Manager Braatz gave a brief summary of the Mayor’s request for this resolution at the previous Work Session to appoint a Vice-Mayor for the next 3 terms. July 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017 would be Councilmember Christopherson, Councilmember Shah would be the following year, and Councilmember Loh would be the year after.

There was a typo in the resolution for the year; it needed to be changed to 2016 instead of 2017.

Councilmember Knedler pointed out Councilmember Loh may or may not be on the Council in year 2019 so that could be a potential problem. The Council agreed to amend the language on the 3rd term to the date of the swearing in in 2019.

Motion to adopt Resolution 07-2016 with the amendments: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Buchanan Street Update

Councilmember Shah requested an update on the Buchanan Street project.

City Manager Braatz announced that the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) was scheduled to view the street in mid-July and that the \$32,000 retainer fee for the contractor was put on hold until City Attorney Kenneth Sigman reviewed the project details. City Manager Braatz also planned to discuss the meets and bounds on the property line with Attorney Sigman.

The project engineers from Century Engineering provided City Manager Braatz with 3 different contracting options to look into. The City would need to install 6 “no parking” signs, paint the curb, and remove the centerline stripe on the street.

Councilmember Shah was satisfied with the update while Councilmember Loh needed clarity on the parking design and did not agree with the removal of the centerline. Councilman Knedler questioned needing a centerline altogether. It was ultimately decided that the topic would be discussed at a future Work Session.

Councilmember Knedler was concerned about capturing rain water in the parking lot of the pool. Councilmember Loh recalled recorded documentation from summer 2015 with Broughton Construction that specified that the project would not make drainage worse.

Councilmember Shah thanked City Manager Braatz for selecting a Public Works Director.

Motion to adjourn the public meeting and move to a closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the City Attorney: Councilmember Loh

Second: Councilmember Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed