

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

DATE: April 12, 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 Tracy Loh

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes

City Treasurer Vijay Manjani

Minutes provided by:

Brishay Corbin

FY 17 Budget

Mount Rainier's City Treasurer, Vijay Manjani, explained the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017. Councilman Christopherson pointed out that the revenue collection from mitigation fees (impervious surface fees) should be used for the Tree Commission's budget. Councilman Knedler stated that the Tree Commission has plans to spend the revenue from mitigation fees before the end of Fiscal Year 2016. City Treasurer Manjani clarified that if any amount from the line item's

mitigation fees is not spent during the Fiscal Year 2016 it will be reflected as an Assigned Fund Balance in the financial statement Fiscal Year 2016.

City Treasurer Manjani continued to debrief on the proposed general fund revenues. Mayor Miles suggested having another conversation with the Chief of Police before making a final decision regarding speeding cameras in the school zones. While examining the departmental general fund expenditures, the Council wanted to increase the Conference budget to \$2,500.00 and ultimately decided to table their discussion on the amount of the budget that each member could use towards their own City events and priorities.

Councilman Knedler volunteered to recommend a raise in the Council's stipend with great support from Councilwoman Shah. Councilman Knedler also proposed to add \$1,000.00 to the salary for the Election Board committee; the Council gave their consensus. During the review of the properties owned by the City, Councilwoman Loh requested to put 3601 Bunker Hill Road on the rolling agenda for the May work session.

City Treasurer Manjani continued with the outsourcing budget for the monthly newsletter and the Council inquired about a professional translator for future publications, as well as a Community Development position. Both the Community Development coordinator and the City's committees were asked to be placed on the rolling agenda by Mayor Miles.

During a discussion regarding the Tax Rate, Councilwoman Loh was able to conclude that due to the constant yield between Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 going down the City's taxable assessment had gone up. So, to essentially receive the same amount of money the Council would have to cut the tax rate. City Treasurer Manjani advised the Council that a reduction in the tax rate would result in cutting funds from other items to keep the budget balanced.

The Council agreed to reconvene on Monday, April 18th at 7:00 PM.

Motion to recess until Monday, April 18th at 7pm: Councilwoman Tracy Loh

Second: Councilman Bryan Knedler

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