

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

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

**DATE: April 18, 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 Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Jesse Christopherson

Councilmember Tracy Loh

Councilmember Shivali Shah

### **Staff Present**

Interim City Manager Larry Hughes

City Treasurer Vijay Manjani

### **Minutes provided by:**

Brishay Corbin

### **Closed Session**

The Mayor and Council discussed negotiations and legal matters with the City's attorney regarding 3200 Rhode Island Avenue. Councilmembers Tracy Loh, Jesse Christopherson, Shivali Shah, and Bryan Knedler, Interim City Manager Larry Hughes, Director of Finance Vijay Manjani, and Mayor Miles were in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

### **Green Team**

Representative Joseph Jakuta, explained that the Green Team wanted to use the budget discussion to revisit the idea of purchasing 32 gallon, rolling recycling bins. In the budget they requested \$43,750.00 for the bins themselves, was which recommended to go towards the Public Works budget, and \$800.00 for education materials. They expect that the bins will pay for themselves in approximately 7-8 years and result in tipping fees of approximately \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 in annual savings.

Mr. Jakuta also spoke in regards to the Groundswell proposal brought before City Council which is to switch the producer of the City's electricity from Pepco to a wind power producer, in particular Washington Gas and Light, saving the City approximately \$12,000.00 annually. The savings could possibly help fund the recycling bin purchases including a reduction in the City's carbon footprint. Councilwoman Loh gives her input on reaching out to Edmonston and Hyattsville, as well as non-residential clients who have tried third-party suppliers and ensures that she will revisit the Groundswell topic at a future council meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Charnette Robinson from 3500 Block, Perry Street wanted to ask that the City take into consideration the amount of people who live in Mount Rainier on fixed incomes who cannot afford 8% or 10% property increases.

### **Proposed Budget FY-2017**

City Treasurer Manjani continued deliberating with the Council on the departmental budgets. Mayor Miles inquired about appointing a representative for the Verizon and Comcast meetings during their contract negotiations. Councilman Knedler requested that a list be made of the funds for each category in Mount Rainier Television and Councilwoman Loh proposed that the Council avoids using any general fund revenue for Mount Rainier Television.

The Council decided to touch basis with the Chief of Police regarding dispatch services. Councilwoman Shah had an idea of putting the \$5,000.00 reserved amount for the Mount Rainier Business Association's "Clean and Safe Streets" project towards the Public Works' fund and the Council agreed. Councilwoman

Loh received confirmation that the tubeless-tires for Public Works' bobcat would be purchased and available by October 2016.

In regards to the Call-A-Bus, Mayor Miles discussed the grant that she is working on in order to completely replace the bus, which may result in changes for that budget item. Councilman Christopherson made the point that the maintenance costs for a new bus would be less than what is suggested on the proposed budget. Mayor Miles would also like to add \$2.00 for admission on the Call-A-Bus.

It was ultimately decided that the City needs Prince George's County to estimate the cost to pick-up its recycling. As City Treasurer Manjani spoke on the Local Government Insurance Trust, Mayor Miles asked for a report of last year's incidents to determine whether the City has warranted a decrease in its insurance cost. The Council also came to an agreement to grant the fire department \$1,500.00.

Councilwoman Shah gave her input on having a paid staff member for recreational programming and to assist other programs/committees. Mayor Miles suggested applying for grant funds to establish the aforementioned position as a secure line item. Councilwoman Loh was an advocate for \$22,500.00 being moved from the reserve account to the Mount Rainier Day fund.

**Motion to adjourn the budget work session:** Councilwoman Tracy Loh

**Second:** Councilwoman Shivali Shah

**3-0**