



City of Mount Rainier
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CITY MANAGER REPORT
OCTOBER 7, 2014

Administration

The staff has been very busy working on strategic plans for the economic revitalization of the city's business districts, with numerous meetings held with the District of Columbia and Prince George's County representatives to create a partnership focusing on economic vitality of the DC/Mount Rainier Border. The focus is also on marketing and branding the City of Mount Rainier, highlighting the great amenities that the city has to offer. There are separate reports provided by the new staff, Assistant City Manager Veronica Owens and Economic Development Director Samantha Olatunji.

Grants Management

The City Manager completed the Prince George's County ReLeaf Grant Application which was submitted requesting approval for funding of planting 50 city street trees. The funding will support the cost of purchasing the trees for \$6,950 which the city will match with in-kind support from staff. The Assistant City Manager will be working on various grants including the CDBG PY 41 for infrastructure repairs, the city's Maryland MainStreet application, and other grant opportunities.

The City has issued an RFP for the Buchanan Green Street Project. The RFP closed on October 30, 2014 and was posted in the Washington Post and the Maryland E-Market website. Documents are on the city's website at www.mountrainiermd.org on the city's economic development page.

The city has also submitted a request for the final reimbursement of funds available in the amount of \$75,000 from the Capital Grants Program at the state of the civic center project. The city manager and director of economic development are working on strategies for securing additional funding for this project.

Pepco Vegetation Management Program

The city has worked diligently with PEPCO regarding their reliability enhancement program to remove trees that are entangled or encroaching upon their utility wires. This includes trimming and/or removal of city street trees as well and private property trees. As part of the vegetation management program, Pepco has agreed to remove at its own expense, trees on private property.

Work was stopped a few weeks ago until the city reconfirmed with the city attorney that permits did not have to be issued for the work on private property, and to resolve the issue of city street trees that were removed inappropriately. Pepco has issued nine (9) vouchers to the city for the unauthorized removal of three healthy city trees, at a rate of three (3) replacements for every one (1) removal. Pepco has also re-visited the city trees that are to be removed with the approval of the tree commission. Work will resume in this effort on Monday, October 13, 2014.

In addition, the city manager issued 8 tree removal and tree pruning permits at the request of the city's roadside tree expert this week. The tree replanting program funding through the County ReLeaf Grant and the Pepco program should go a long way to help the city retain its tree canopy and preserving the city's eco system.

Trash Violations

The city is once again experiencing problems with commercial and residential property owners violating the trash rules and regulations in the City of Mount Rainier Code of Ordinances. As a result of the violations, there has been an increase of complaints concerning rats and rodents. The city's exterminator was contacted to provide recommendations to local business owners, and letters in conjunction with a copy of the trash rules was hand-delivered to very commercial property in the city.

As a reminder, trash cans must have air tight lids and all trash must be in cans no larger than 33 gallons. Contaminated container (plastic bottles and cans) must be rinsed before discarding in recycle bins. Contaminated cardboard (e.g., pizza boxes) must be discarded with regular household trash. All construction material (concrete blocks, bricks, etc., and wood) must not be stored on the ground as this creates a breeding and nesting area for rodents and vermin. This is also the reason for not allowing vehicles to be parked on grass surfaces. The trash rules and regulations were not created to cause undue hardship on property owners but to create a safe, clean, and healthy environment. We need everyone to cooperate as this is a part of routine property maintenance and cleanliness. Please also note that dog poop must be picked up and discarded in bags in put in regular trash. Leaving this on the ground contributes to the contamination of the Chesapeake Bay and the Northwest Tributaries, and also provides food for rodents and other vermin as they eat dog poop!

Public Works

We will be engaged in the annual leaf pick-up campaign. The public works director will provide you with the details of this in his report. The current schedule for leaf pick-up for the 2014/2015 season was posted in the most recent October edition of *The Message* newsletter. We would like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation.

Finance Department

The audit process has begun for the period ending June 30, 2014. They are expected to begin the field work within one week.