



Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier Maryland Special Meeting and Work-Session

Date: 2-18-2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Jesse Christopherson, Ivy Thompson, Brent Bolin, Jimmy Tarlau

Councilmember's absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda

2013 Audit Presentation- Murphy and Murphy LLC (Greg)

100% Civic Center Drawings – Schick & Goldstein

Announcements and Discussion Items

- **Recycling Containers**
- **Citizenship Day (Councilman Christopherson)**
- **Public Comments**

Motion to approve Agenda

1st Bolin

2nd Thompson

4-0

City Council Work Session – Meeting Summary

2013 Audit Presentation- Murphy and Murphy LLC (Greg)

This is the first year Murphy and Murphy LLC is auditing the City. In the Audit Opinion Letter it states, "In our opinion, the financial statements presented here in this report do present in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles." The City received an unqualified opinion, which is the highest opinion given.

Highlights of the Report include:

- Assets exceeding liabilities by 6.2 million dollars
- Net income is \$670,000 (government-wide)
- The ending fund balance amounts to \$3,371,000
- Statement of Net Position (Balance Sheet)
 - o Total Assets = over 9 million dollars
 - o Liability = 2.9 million
 - o Net Position (Equity) = 6.2 million
- Balance Sheet for General Fund (2= general fund and special revenue fund)

- Total Assets = 4 million in the General Fund and 4.2 million combined total assets
- Liabilities = General Fund \$ 600,000 and Special \$260,000
- Total fund= General 3.3 million and 3.4 million combined
- Unassigned Fund Balance = 2.3 million
- equity = non-spendable, restricted, unassigned (\$3.2 million)
- The General Fund increased by \$184,822, and the Special Fund decreased by 6,900. There was a total increase of \$177,912.
- Cash in the bank is one million dollars plus
- Capital assets= at the beginning of the year 4.6 million, over 4.9 million at the end of the year
- Long-term debt= break down of the bonds (2008, 2009, 2010). Total is just over 2.3 million dollars.
- Recommendations will come in a management letter. Greg communicates that a lot of receivables that are old. Collect what is due to you in a more timely fashion.

A vote to accept the audit will be held in the next meeting. Audit copies will be made available in hardcopy and on the website.

100% Civic Center Drawings (Jill Schick from Schick and Goldstein Architects)

- Two-story building with library on the first floor. Upstairs is large multi-purpose room which can be divided into two. Everybody coming up north on Rhode Island, coming around the circle will see this. The triangle will be the village green.
- It is handicap accessible. Levels in City Hall are different from the Starr Potts building and the library so you will have to walk up stairs or enter into elevator.
- If someone comes to pay a bill, they can stop at the clerk's office and then go to the library.
- Starr Potts has the City Council Chamber room. You can cross a bridge into the multipurpose room. On the side is a kitchen
- Basement in city hall still is for MRTV but exit door is moved to the right side. The elevator is larger.
- The building can have solar panels.
- There is a lot of glass. Tenley library in Washington, DC has a similar effect
- Took out the front door and top window of city hall. The new entrance is between City Hall and Starr Potts.
- Had to get approval from Historic Society.
- Bike racks out in the plaza.
- Need to work with the city on price and color scheme

Councilman Bolin wants to make sure that bus and metro access are integrated into this project. We are going to have to discuss this with Metro because they want that second lane. We can probably reclaim some of the land without reducing the level of service.

Vicky Onderdonk (Mt. Rainier Design Review Board): This is the culmination of everything the board has been speaking of prior to the Charette public hearings. . She addresses the bus issue. The bus routes did not go away, they were just reconfigured. We need a village green and focal point for Mt. Rainier. I strongly recommend that we continue to look at the possibility of using that whole area as the village green.

When we did the sCharette, WMATA indicated that rerouting would not be a problem.

Councilman Tarlau still sees this area as a transportation hub and the possibility of integrating the bus route to the new design. Right now design still has the current bus lanes and hubs.

Former Councilman Brian Knedler compliments the architects and reminds everyone that they did the police station as well. He wants to learn more about the green roof and is concerned about the size of the kitchen for the multi-purpose room. It seems a little bit tight. Air conditioning is bad in city hall, so he is concerned about what is going on the roof. There is a bird problem of hitting the glass. Also, wants to know how the city will pay for it and what it is going to cost.

Jill can provide another plan online for the public.

Mayor Miles says there will be more discussion around green and LEED building. The city wants to get as much LEED as possible.

Doug Winger of Maryland Construction Inc. (MCI): The design will cost just under \$7 million dollars.

Announcements

MD National Capital Parks and Planning Department of Recreation has the final version of their Formula 2040 Plan

Councilwoman Thompson: MD National Capital Parks and Planning Department of Recreation has the final version of their Formula 2040 Plan, which is a master plan for the park system for parks and recreation throughout the entire county. It is available at all the libraries and City Hall. I recommend that everyone looks at it. It is very comprehensive. It talks about our trails...those that are planned, those that are existing, and other specifics. It gives the overall vision of how the parks and recreation are going to be addressed in the county over the next generation.

Fundraiser for the Family of Graciela Carbonell

Councilman Christopherson: On Sat. March 1st, there will be a fundraiser at the Bunker Hill Fire Station on Rhode Island Ave. to benefit the family of Graciela Carbonell. There will be musical entertainment, drinks for donations, and anybody who is anybody is going to be there. Everyone is invited whether you knew Graciela or not. If you didn't know her, come learn about her and what she did for the city and have a good time with your friends and neighbors. The suggested donation is \$25.

Memorial Service for Graciela

Mayor Miles: On Sat. Feb. 15th a memorial service was held for Graciela. It was well attended. Mt. Rainier elected officials as well as Mt. Rainier residents attended. The family wanted me to say to you how much they appreciated it that you the citizens and elected officials reached out and made them feel so good about Graciela and the work she did for the city. I and the council thank you so much for being so supportive. Those who delivered food and other items, thank you for your contribution on that as well.

Donald Bell Passed Away Saturday, February 15, 2014

Mayor Miles: Donald Bell, who was the former Grant contract writer, youth program leader, and City Administrator for the City of Glenarden, passed away. I spoke with his wife today, Bella, she wanted us to know how much Donald appreciated all of us, his time working in the city, as well the offers and the condolences that have been received from everyone at the Mount Rainier Police Department, including the Chief and from residents and other staff in the city he worked with. Donald also wrote grants for the after school program at Thomas Stone. He worked and served with victims and their families when there was a crime of any kind. Services have not been determined. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

February 17, 2014, Guy Tiberio, former Town Administrator of Edmonston passed away. Services will be posted on the web.

Bike Meeting

Councilman Bolin went to a bicycle advocacy and transportation in the Route 1 corridor meeting located in Hyattsville where there was discussion of bringing Bike share to the county, improving bike facilities, and the after program to get people off the bike trail networks and into our town spending money. Bike ridership is very high in Mount Rainier and it is growing in the metro region so I think it is good that we are looking at a coordinated strategy in the Route 1 Corridor.

Gateway CDC

Mayor Miles: Gateway CDC had its elections on Tuesday the 12th of February. The new President, Russell Simmons, was elected. CDC membership is due and open currently. Gateway CDC Board Retreat will be held this Saturday, February 22nd. The 10th year anniversary of open studio will be held May 10th. There will also be business workshops to follow-up to the business needs assessment survey, which was conducted last year with Mount Rainier Business Association.

City Grant Award

City Administrator Wallace: The City received \$120,000 Grant award to build the bio-retention cell on Buchanan Street.

Primary Health Care Strategy Plan Community-wide Meeting will be held Saturday Mar. 1, 2014 from 10 AM to 1PM in the Jericho Christian Academy, Landover, MD.

Discussion Items

Recycling Containers

Mayor Miles- There are a number of issues regarding containers, including whether or not we need bigger containers or two containers.

Bolin: There is the idea that we should get larger bins, but not everyone can lift larger bins. So we should provide another bin should a family need one. Recycling helps us save money.

Miles: We looked at the cost two years ago and we could not handle it. Are we prepared to pay for two or a larger bin?

Councilman Christopherson: Another option would be what we do at our house, supplement the recycling container with a designated trash can.

Tarlau: I do not hear a lot of complaints. Personally I like the size of the containers, if people need more, advertise and offer them.

Thompson: I do not think we should charge for the second container. Getting people to recycle is not the issue. I have recycling in the backyard and in my house I would like to get rid of. We should have pick-up back-up days when we have bad weather.

Bolin: We should not drop an extra bin to every house. This year, we should order more, advertise, and see where it goes from there. And as a follow-up on the weather policy, we need to be more consistent. People do not know what to expect.

Mayor Miles: We will do the two bins on an as needed basis. We will also talk about what will be the policy moving forward. Look at a line item that has not been spent and use the funds to purchase the new bins in bulk.

Citizenship Day

This is a day proposed when the elected official and government sponsor an event at which members of the community who are not citizens or residents can come get legal advice and get paperwork to apply for residency or citizenship. In our community we have a significant immigrant population, not only Hispanics but also immigrants from the Caribbean as well. This event will be a great boom for the community and increase civic engagement. It will give us as a government, the opportunity to get to know these populations better. I talked about this idea casually with Senator Ramirez and Father Malo from St. James'. They are both interested and willing to help. Are we interested in this in principle? I am researching cost.

Councilman Tarlau: Has this worked or been done in other cities? What have they done and can we copy what they have done?

Councilman Christopherson: Yes, I got the idea from when I worked on the hill. When I worked in Congressman Grijalva's office and Congressman Green's office they did it and it was successful. It would be scaled down from what they did.

Mayor Miles: This entails community involvement. We have been talking about ways to get non-residents of this country involved in community activities and get residents registered to vote. Janis, Murphy and I discussed getting voter registration in Spanish and English available. Also, getting social services to come out and be a part of community day, which is what Mount Rainier Day is about. I think it is a great idea but I am not sure I like the citizenship day. Some persons are not citizens. I am not sure I am ready to extend citizenship to someone who is illegal in this country.

Councilman Christopherson: We are talking about people who want to get legal status.

Mayor Miles: There are places where that can be done. There are schools at Langley Park, programs and services already. I do not think we need to reinvent the wheel to something that is already out there.

Councilman Christopherson: The way I see citizenship day is it facilitates access to resources for illegal residents to become citizens or temporary residents to become permanent residents. So I do not understand the objection to facilitating those resources.

Mayor Miles: I am not objecting to access. I just do not like the name Citizenship Day.

Councilman Tarlau: I think we are too small. We should probably do this at the district council level and maybe partner. It is a lot of work and resources for us to pull this together.

Councilwoman Thompson: I like the idea from a community engagement perspective. In the apartment communities, and especially at Thomas Stone Elementary School, there is a diverse population that we have not been able to fully engage. It opens up a dialogue between the Mount Rainier Representatives and those communities. I think it is a good idea for us to sponsor such a day as a way to introduce the city and the services to that community.

Councilman Christopherson: I agree with Jimmy. That is why I had the discussion with Senator Ramirez and Councilman Campos. We can work with Brentwood, Colmar Manor, and the Bladensburg area.

Mayor Miles: I have spoken with Delegate Melany Griffin; she wants to come over here for the health and diabetes programs and services. I have also spoken with the P.G. County Health Department about resources they want us to use. It is not what you are asking us to do, it is the name of day.

Councilman Tarlau: Citizenship is something that is done on the federal level.

Councilman Christopherson: I do not care what we call it. Citizenship Day is what it is often called when people organize it because it is the aspiration. It is a very positive way to frame it instead of being condescending or emphasizing someone's immigrant status. We are looking forward and upward and helping people achieve American citizenship which is accepted all around as a positive aspiration in this country.

Mayor Miles: 15 years ago we did a community culture day and had vendors that could provide services to them. I am for getting community involved, introducing to resources, registering to vote in all the upcoming elections, and how to help them understand how to go about applying for citizenship, which is a long process.

Councilman Bolin: Is it worth having an event that specifically targets the Spanish-speaking community here?

Mayor Miles and Councilwoman Thompson agree that there are a lot of persons from different areas and Councilman Christopherson proposed an all-inclusive event.

Mayor Miles: Would you support a community resource day for all residents? I'd invite schools, apartments, and social services to participate.

Councilman Tarlau would like to see a more formal proposal.

Councilman Christopherson would like to have more assurance before approaching Senator Ramirez but will prepare a timeline and plan for the council.

States Attorney Meeting

The State's Attorney sent an email with four possible dates for the meeting. Mayor Miles expresses, "We had some robberies but the penalties were so small for the B & E. Bill Updike wrote an email stating that we ought to push to have some greater penalties and to have a meeting with the State's Attorney's office." The Council agreed to the March 18th date.

Joint Committee with Brentwood

Councilman Christopherson: Mount Rainier and Brentwood have a lot of issues that affect both municipalities. I think if we have one formal link as a forum for discussing mutual issues, we can make some progress on resolving things and discover ways we can work together in the future. The idea is to have a joint committee for two members of the council to delegate to two members or the mayor over there and have discussions. I ran the idea informally by the councilman members over there and they did not have an issue.

Mayor Miles: They have some of the same constraints legally that we have. When two or three of them, or we get together, it is an official meeting. I have reached out to all of the Mayors since Xavier Right for meetings to discuss some of the issues here. Last meeting was held with Mayor Betty Jean Schmiedigen. No meeting has been held since then. Last week. I got Mayor Cooksey on the phone and we scheduled a meeting here with Mr. Cooksey, his new town administrator, code enforcement officer, and his Chief of

Police. The Maryland Mayor's Association Meeting was the same morning of the meeting, so she was unable to attend. She is working to reschedule that meeting. The intent is to try to get it done this week.

Budget Priorities

Budget Priorities will be completed individually by the council members and sent to City Administrator Wallace. The budget will be presented on March 4th.

Mayor Miles signed the DER Letter regarding the Arundel Road Green Street Project (Drafted by Councilman Christopherson).

Motion to Adjourn

Councilman Bolin

2nd Councilwoman Thompson

4-0