



City of Mount Rainier
One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
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Minutes for City of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council Meeting
Date: 2-4-2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: N/A

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Michael Scott and Assistant Director of Public Works Michael Barnes

Meeting called to order @ 7:10 pm

Pledge of allegiance

Review of Agenda

One item added

Move Councilman Christopherson

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 3-0

Official Reports

Ward I – Councilman Christopherson, A city employee past away and it was a great lost for the city. There is a fund raiser for Graciela Carbonell that is private and attendance is free to with suggested donations of \$25.00.

City Manager:

There is an interested new restaurant owner but she did not show for the meeting with the council with her business plan and she is looking for support of a beer and wine license. The property is the Odd & Even Thrift Shop.

Councilman Christopherson:

I've been working with the Police Department to resolve traffic problems around the schools. With limited man power I contacted the county police and they agreed to have a meeting with the principal to see what can be done.

We are making progress on the Allison Street levy project and we are putting vacancies on a list to see where we can put trees. We're expecting several hundred trees and are in the process of identifying where underground utilities are so we will know where to put the trees.

I arranged a meeting with the states attorney to find out why people that are arrested aren't getting convicted and I'm looking into why the residents aren't receiving the Gazette newspaper.

Ward II

Councilman Bolin:

The MUTC Committee will meet next Wednesday and we haven't had a meeting in two months. The Green Team met and discussed recommendations for the Arundel Road green street. Mr. Bolin expressed condolences for Graciela and family.

Mayor Miles:

I am expressing the lost to the city of Graciela. The memorial service will be held 2-15-2014 at 10: am at the Fort Lincoln Funeral Home. The repast will be held at Joe's Movement Emporium located at 3309 Bunker Hill Road and will start after the memorial service. Mayor asked for a pause to honor her memory.

City Manager Report (see attached)

Mayor Miles:

We need to be a party of record for the renovations/additions to Rainier Manor Senior Center. The rent for Rainier Manor was supposed to be kept at a minimal but it wasn't in writing. The rent is constantly going up for seniors. I mentioned it to Doyle Niemann looking for some help. The City and County need to take a look at this.

Chief Scott says there have been a 45% increase in crime for the month of January and a significant increase in thefts.

Public Works Asst. Director Michael Barnes:

We have three compost bins left.

Councilman Bolin:

We need to buy more since it's been successful.

Councilman Christopherson:

I'd like to know about the pot holes in the city and is there any way to report them?

Public Works Director Michael Barnes:

Call Public Stuff and report pot holes.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

If you continue to put leaves or yard waste in plastic bags you will get a fine and a notice of violation first before the fine. It falls under trash regulation and rules.

Teenage resident Cody Thomas built a library for Richardson Park.

Ordinance 1-2014 (2nd Reading and Vote) An Ordinance to provide for occupancy licenses to be issued and license fees paid annually, rather than biennially; to require all premises requiring an occupancy license to be inspected at least every two years for compliance with the Property Maintenance Code; to allow for the transfer of occupancy licenses; and to require compliance with the *Maryland Lead Risk Reduction in Housing Act* as a condition of issuance of a residential rental occupancy license.

Changes will be made July 1, 2014 with an effective date of 7-1-2014.

Move Councilman Brent Bolin

Second Councilwoman Ivy Thompson

Vote 3-0

Ordinance 2-2014 (Second reading/vote) An Ordinance amending *Mount Rainier Code Chapter 13A, Snow Emergency Routes, and Chapter 13B, City Emergencies, to clarify that the City Manager has the authority to determine whether City government offices are open or closed during a Snow Emergency or other City Emergency.*

Move Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 3-0

Mayor Miles:

Draft a letter to Pepco opposing the rate increase. A letter will be sent to Pepco.

Motion to approve letter as drafted

Councilwoman Ivy Thompson

Second Councilman Jesse Christopherson

Vote 3-0

Letter is signed by Mayor and Council to W.S.S.C. concerning the botched work on 34th Street.

Mayor Miles feels a letter shouldn't go to WSSC because it's the wrong utility.

The Council is in support of letter being sent to Rushern Baker thanking him for supporting the revitalization efforts (i.e., the Redevelopment Authority purchase of the vacant properties on Rhode Island Avenue).

Councilman Bolin moves to send letter to Rushern Baker and to mention Howard Ways contribution.

Allison Street Levee P project Proposals

Councilman Christopherson says keep the slip lane. Eliminate the slip lane or move the car right one lane.

What would be a solution in the Thomas Stone area?

Mayor Miles likes Councilman Bolin's proposal on adding a right turn lane and we are willing to give up the slip lane.

Draft Letter to Department of Environmental Resources

In terms of the letter to Department of Environmental Resources (DER) say we are going to remove the right turn slip lane and we support the other suggestions in there and are ready to move forward. Councilman Bolin will write a sentence about the slip lane for the letter. With giving up the slip lane the city is requesting that at that point on 34th Street widen to two lanes for just that area with a dedicated right turn.

Motion to approve letter to the Department of Environmental Resources as amended in this meeting.

Councilman Christopherson

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 3-0

FY 2015 Council Budget Priorities

Councilman Christopherson is asking Chief Scott to describe what the benefits will be with hiring another parking enforcement officer.

Chief Scott: He will write more tickets and have someone available for evenings. We could use them to give more attention to Rhode Island Avenue.

Councilman Christopherson:

Would it help with the congestion at Thomas Stone and Mount Rainier Elementary Schools?

Mayor Miles:

Why don't we invite the School Board to take care of that issue?

Chief Scott says Prince George's County Police are responsible for the schools.

Mayor Miles:

Contact Amber Waller about this issue.

Other budget priority discussion

Councilman Bolin says parking enforcement was a part of the original discussion and bringing back a Code Enforcement Officer as a manager was also a part of the discussion.

Councilwoman Thompson wants to put something in our CIP plan.

If you experience problems with Maryland Health Connection call Chris Van Hollen at 301-424-3501.

Community Gardens is taking applications for plots.

Mayor asked the Council to get their budget priorities ready for Work-Session.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Bolin

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 4-0