



Minutes for City of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council Meeting

Date: January 7th, 2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Vice Mayor Brent Bolin

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

Councilmember's absent: Mayor Miles

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and Asst. Manager Michael Jackson

Meeting called to order (Public Hearing)

Resident- Denny Schrieibly 4500 blk. of 32nd Street is speaking on the Levy Project.

He is concerned about if the county will be digging up his backyard. Spoke with Michael Jackson and was told that the Department of Environmental Resources that is doing the digging related to the levy project and he wants to know the selection process for where the trees will go.

Councilman Christopherson:

The replacement trees will be on public property. We want to replace trees where they are being removed from.

Councilman Bolin will let you know when we get D.E.R. to come back and meet with us.

Move to adjourn the Public Meeting

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 3-0

Pledge of Allegiance

Move to approve the agenda

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 3-0

Move to approve the Minutes with corrections to the clerk by the end of Friday.

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 3-0

Official Reports

Ward II- Ivy Thompson

Councilwoman Thompson wants the council to send a letter to who governs WSSC with a formal complaint about work and how it's being done.

Ms. Thompson is also organizing a neighborhood watch meeting in January 2014.

Ward I

A longtime resident passed away Mr. Morris Ledbetter.

Ward II

Councilman Bolin:

The Green Team meeting was last night. We should think about appropriating a new round of funds for more compose bins. We are hoping by June of this year we will have a development partner to develop some of the properties.

City Manager Report

3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue development was discussed with our management team and we had a conference call with the county budget director and Brad Froam. There seems to be some confusion about the bond issuer. The result of the meeting is Street Sense will get back to them with some hard numbers. Pepco rates are going up and that will affect our residents. The city has 677 street lights and all have been converted but 163. We are participating in the Maryland Energy Administration Grant Program. There will be basic weatherization improvements in the homes. Maryland Energy Grant will probably reward \$50,000.00 to City Hall to upgrade lighting.

Public Works Director Luther Smith:

Mr. Smith introduced his newest employees to the Council. Their names are Keith Jackson and Noah Dickson. Public Works has a leaf machine and a truck that must be sold. It has to go through the Council before it goes to surplus.

Mr. Smith is giving a message to the residents about plastic bags. We can't pick up plastic bags of leafs any more they must be in paper bags or trash cans.

We have four trees on Webster Street and they need to be trimmed or removed.

Councilman Christopherson:

Can you e-mail pictures to the Tree Commission and the City Manager?

Councilman Bolin is thanking the Public Works staff for doing an extra run on recycling.

Chief Scott:

We ended this year in a 5.3% reduction in crime. Crime has decreased drastically in the past 10 years in Mount Rainier. Municipalities should look at creating legislation that would enable the city to revoke a business license and permit if anyone gets caught selling drug paraphernalia or drugs out of their establishment. The Police Department will have their awards ceremony on January 24th 2014.

Councilman Bolin is asking the chief to elaborate on bikes and certifications within the police department.

Councilman Christopherson is saying that there is activity.

Chief Scott says his officers are checking the vacant properties on Eastern Ave. frequently.

Ken Sigman City Attorney: speaking on the changes in the code about the more substantial change is when an employee goes on workman's comp. We preserve the job for 270 days and then review. At the end of 270 days and the physician says they can't come back then we can hire for that position.

Councilman Bolin:

If we adopt this we are not putting ourselves in a position of conflict because the dialogue has been opened.

Councilman Christopherson reads a new ordinance he would like to put in place about trees in the future.

Ken Sigman feels Councilman Christopherson did a good job summarizing the ordinance, but he would add the city manager has authority over the trees on city property and add that the city manager will report all tree removals to the Tree Commission and the Tree Commission reports to the Council.

Tree protection will be an aspect of the city employees performance and are they adhering to policy.

City Manager: When does the ordinance take effect?

It takes effect July 1st, 2014.

Councilman Tarlau wants a breakdown on what trees can be removed.

Ken Sigman: Trees greater than 18 inches diameter. Trees that are less than 18 inches above ground can be removed. Small trees can be taken down with no replacement.

Councilman Christopherson will have a annual report and budget request for Tree Commission by March 1st, 2014 presented to the Mayor and Council. By putting this in an ordinance it gives the city the right to enforce state law.

You cannot serve on the Tree Commission and be the City Arborist.

Councilwoman Thompson suggests a public hearing on the tree ordinance.

Councilman Bolin:

Let's do a public hearing two weeks from now. We need to produce some kind of summary to handout.

Councilwoman Thompson

Motion to pass legislation tonight.

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 3-0

1 Nae

Passed

Councilman Christopherson moves to pass ordinance 12-2013

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0

1 No Councilman Tarlau

Passed with effective date of July 1 2014.

Ordinance 1-2014 1st read

Ordinance 2-2014 1st read

Resolution 1-2014 1st read and adoption

Move to approve Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 3-0

Resolution 3-2014 1st read and adopt

Vote 3-0 Resolution adopted

This meeting is adjourning to closed session to discuss personnel matters

Move Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 3-0

Meeting adjourned