



**Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier Maryland
City Council Meeting**

Date: 3-4-2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent:

City Hall Staff: City Treasurer Vijay Manjani,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda

Briefing about the Gateway

Arundel Road Levy Project Presentation and Discussion

Tree Commission Amendment and Ordinance

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Councilwoman Thompson

2nd Councilman Christopherson

2-0

Tamara Yogavitch (Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission) – City Council Briefing

Accompanied by Terry Bond (Project Supervisor) and Nelda Rodriguez (New Area Planner for the City of Mount Rainier on behalf of the Prince Georges County Planning Department)

The purpose of the presentation is to give an overview of the proposed amendment to the gateway arts district development district overlay zone to permit bed and breakfasts to operate as a legal use in seven residential zones. Back in 2009, Prince George's County District Council passed CB39-2009 which defined a bed and breakfast inn. It clearly distinguishes this type of use from other types of commercial-oriented properties such as hotels, motels, and fraternity and sorority houses. It is defined as any owner occupied one family-detached residential dwelling in which rooms are rented to paying guests on an overnight basis or no longer than two weeks in any one visit. The council bill also identified the residential zones in which bed and breakfasts are permitted use and those are ROS, OS, RA, RE, RR,R80, R55. It includes parking space standards including one space to be provided per guest room on site. Bed and Breakfast had to be owner occupied and managed. It could employ no more than two non-resident employees. Interior features have to be retained so that it can easily be converted back to a residential use.

The maximum number of guest rooms it can accommodate is eight. Meals can only be served to overnight customers. There are signage regulations. The bill also ensures that the bed and breakfast are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

CR64-2012 is a resolution that the district council passed at the request of the City of Hyattsville, the City of Mount Rainier, and the Town of Brentwood to amend the Gateway Arts Development District overlay zones, specifically the sector plan and associated sectional map amendment to include a bed and breakfast as a permitted use within our municipal boundaries.

Even though the zoning ordinance was amended to allow a bed and breakfast to operate as a permitted use, the zoning ordinance did not amend any overlay zones in the county. So bed and breakfasts are currently not a permitted use within those seven residential zones in the gateway arts district DDOZ.

While CR64 directed the planning board to prepare a proposed amendment, it did not direct the planning board to incorporate the supporting standards that were just discussed. She presented two maps that highlight the properties that are affected. The majority of the Gateway Arts District DDOZ is impacted with the exception of the Town of N. Brentwood, which has chosen not to be covered by this amendment. The majority that is impacted are in the R55 zone.

We have sent out a letter to affected property owners and municipalities who are within a one-mile radius within the Gateway Arts District DDOZ boundary. Following this briefing, we will go to the Town of Brentwood and we are meeting with the City of Hyattsville Planning Committee on the 18th of March. Our next steps are to solicit formal comments from the impacted municipalities, to prepare a staff report, and to go before the planning board. Our tentative schedule is late May, early June so that the district council is able to call up this item and hold its own hearing at its own discretion. Or if the planning board's decision is appealed, it can also go to district council. We are anticipating a final decision either in July or September of this year.

In addition to another letter going out in the coming month to six weeks and a public hearing, we wanted to discuss with the council whether or not the supporting regulations that are associated with CB39 should be accompanied with this proposed amendment.

Councilman Christopherson thinks that the additional regulations should be included.

Mayor Miles speaks for the council in saying that they support it, especially when the council found out about Hyattsville being negatively impacted. So we supported the amendment to include them in the overlay zone. However, she wishes to look at the added items more closely, including the parking. But she gives Tamara permission to include letters from the City of Mount Rainier to support the amendment and the add.

Nelda Rodriguez addresses the council. She is a planner and coordinator for Area 68. She will be involved specifically with the MUTC in the City of Mount Rainier and will be working with the

Assistant City Manager in that effort. She looks forward to working with the council, city residents, and the committee.

Mayor Miles mentions that Councilman Bolin is the assigned liaison and suggests she connect with him.

Arundel Road Levy Project Presentation and Discussion- Gnesh (Prince Georges County Department of Environmental Resources)

Arundel Road Green Street Project

In November 2013, we presented three options to the city. Last week, we received a letter from the city communicating that option B was selected. However, many concerns were expressed. A new concept was created based on suggestions.

Strong water main at the median - will have to lower the median. The problem with this is that this may jam the road. But we will go with this, refine the concept and present to the city.

Trees – Dept. of Public works will work with the city for selection of the species

Low maintenance landscape plan – This item will be added to the 2 year warranty construction contract.

Large traffic should be restricted to avoid damage to the trees- If the city wants to do something to avoid traffic, the city does not have any problem.

Under Plan B, there is an 8 ft. bike lane and 10ft lane on the north side. The city has asked for 3 feet of shoulder, which can be done. But on the south side, there is 10 ft. of lane and seven feet of parking and that will be too tight. We will go with this option and refine the concept later. There are different scenarios that can be worked out.

Councilman Christopherson: The reason why we wanted the north lane to be so wide is because we needed emergency vehicle access. It is an emergency route. Please touch base with the Police and Fire Truck department when you make the adjustments to see if they can fit.

Mayor Miles: Will we be able to overcome the issue of a broken down car in either one of those lanes on either side?

Gnesh: It will be very tight.

Mayor Miles: Let's wait and see if you can make it happen.

Gnesh: What is the height discrepancy between the trail and the roadway in the current plan? There is 6 inches of difference there. It will merge with the splash spread that we are doing for the Allison Street Project. So we need to pay attention to how the configurations will look like in that particular region. That will be refined under the concept refinement stage.

Will sidewalk improvement along Arundel road be necessary to include strong water management? The County will be considering this and if it is necessary, we will improve the sidewalk also.

Elimination of the free ride at the intersection of 34th Street and Arundel Road. The city is more concerned with pedestrian safety than vehicular traffic so they want to remove the slip lane, which the county can do. The intersection is owned by the city, so any alignment the city will be responsible for.

Mayor Miles: We came up with the solution to have a right turn lane

Councilman Christopherson inquires about whether Brentwood has shown interest in the project. Gnesch communicates that they will be meeting with them the following week.

Mayor Miles: We are very interested in what you said about everything you can do, but it is also driven by the fact that the county is being more proactive about storm water management. And if we are taking the time to put this much money in a project, I think that ought to be a primary consideration and I think my council thinks the same. So anything we can do to improve that is absolutely necessary and appreciated.

The council received binders containing the county's street restoration program.

Public Comment

Former Councilman Brian Knedler (Bunker Hill Road): I believe this whole thing is driven by the flood insurance issue. They were reporting in the news yesterday or the day before that congress is intending to delay the flood insurance issuance for several years or wipe it out completely. If that happens, then the law changes back to the way it was. Then is this all off the table? We are doing all this planning but in the next few weeks they may pull the rug out. So we need to keep that in mind. I do not know whether the county is still committed to spending all this money if they are not worried about the flood insurance issue.

Mayor Miles: the flood insurance issue as they stated when we were there is certainly an issue because right now, even under the current plan, they encourage insurance but you still don't have to have it. Under the new plan, they encourage insurance but you still don't have to have it. If it doesn't get done, they are proud of where they are now because they still have to meet FEMA requirements to get to where they need to be. That is one piece in terms of why they ought to keep moving forward. The second piece is the storm water issue. They are making that a serious issue in the county. And this is another opportunity to use some of that storm water funding to make another street or area in the city that has storm water issues compliant or better.

Mr. Knedler: The news was saying, which I agree, that you don't have to have insurance but if you do want to have insurance, with the new regulations, the price is much higher. And that is

why all across the nation, people are screaming to the congress people about this. That is why they considering delaying it or cancelling it all together.

Mayor Miles: But even if they do it now, our residents that are impacted along that levy can opt to not have the insurance even though they are encouraged to do it. They can either choose to have the cost or not to.

Mary Lee Howard (4000 block 31st Street): For the DER, I am curious to know how the street will be engineered to what magnitude of a storm event? With the area that we are removing in terms of the slip lane, there is going to be more bio-retention potential, so I was curious what the DER plans for that area are in terms of design and storm water retention?

Gnesh: Normally, we are required to treat each for low-impact storm water management practices. We will eliminate the slip lane, design it and based on the drainage area information, they will size the facility and that is how the design will progress.

Mayor Miles: You have to submit in March. We would like to see the results before you submit. How quickly can you turn it around so we can get an idea of low-impact that you put over there for retention because one of the things we do not want is something that isn't pretty, functional, or doesn't do what it is supposed to do.

Gnesh: We are designing the facility by what Maryland Department has certified. Those are the only facilities we can install throughout the county.

Sarah Christopherson: I was just going to speak very quickly to the question about flood insurance although I'm not sure if I can answer the specifics of how this would affect the levy project. The house did pass tonight a pretty strong three hundred plus votes, legislation that would delay some of the 2012 bigger waters reforms. The senate has passed a similar measure by an equally strong measure so the two versions need to be conferenced out together. We probably will vote given the way that vote took place to see some changes. Some of the really high rate increases that had been proposed under 2012, we are not going to see anymore. Properties that were quote built to code, under existing flood maps will still be able to receive kind of the same subsidized rate they had before. But you will see some rate increases.

Gnesh will review the congressional legislation and its impact on the levy project and submit findings to Mayor and Council.

Ordinance 12-2013 (Councilman Christopherson)

Urban Force Ordinance was passed on January 7th, was a culmination of a long public process that involved the tree commission, the roadside tree expert, the city council, and the attorney. It addresses concerns that residents have about preserving the ecosystem and the beauty of our town. Mr. Gabriel Popkin, a member of the tree commission, wrote a blog post the other day relating to tree protection. It mentions our ordinance specifically and it points out in general the

importance of preservation. The most salient point to me was looking at a satellite picture he posted. This post is linked to my website, which is www.jesseformountrainier.com under the new section. I reposted what he wrote. There is a satellite image that includes Takoma Park. When you are looking from up above, Takoma Park is very distinct from its neighbors because of all its trees. It is beautiful when you are driving through. Now, we do not want to be Takoma Park exactly. What is good for Takoma Park is not necessarily good for Mount Rainier. We want to keep up our standards. We want people when they come to Mount Rainier, to feel like they have arrived somewhere where the residence care about what the city looks like. We want them to feel like they have arrived somewhere special. That is a lot of impetus behind this ordinance. It allows people to keep logs and branches in your yard, whereas before, code enforcement would cite you for that kind of thing. As long as the branches and logs are not disease factors and promoting termites it shouldn't be a problem. This ordinance requires the city to replace trees they remove and to preserve natural areas. That includes protection for urban forest trees, which includes trees above a certain size.

It provides a permanent process if you want to cut down a tree that is greater than 18 in. in diameter on your property. These measures are not as strict as in Takoma Park or in Hyattsville but it is a measure of protection that will have an effect on the reputation of Mount Rainier as a beautiful place.

Trees Q &A Handout was provided at the meeting. City Attorney was present to answer any questions about the permitting process.

Steve McKinley (4100 Block of 30th Street): I have one major concern and that is the involvement of the tree commission. I have two concerns. 1) The tree commission is a group of volunteers that contribute as they can to help with tree decision making in the city. Up till now, it has just been public street trees. Now we are entering very touchy grounds here, private property. Unless I am reading Section 12B13 Permit Denial wrong, that is giving us a lot of power over our neighbor. This situation creates animosity from one neighbor to another. I think final decision making should be handled by some city staff member or some independent agent but not the next door neighbor. The second concern is that this will amount to quite a bit of work. As a worker for DDOT Urban Forestry that enforcing and monitoring, managing what we call in DC a special tree permit, which is what we are talking about is managed entirely by DC government staff. It is a good step. Trees are community assets. It makes sense that they be treated as such.

Assistant City Attorney Ken Sigman.: The scope of the tree commission review is going to be relatively narrow. It is only for street trees that a private individual wants to remove from the right away in front of their property in conjunction with construction. It wouldn't make sense for the city to pay to remove that tree. The other time that the tree commission would review permits for trees on private property is when there is an exceptional tree and those are trees designated by the city council as having some natural or historic significance. As of now there are no exceptional trees in the city. Going forward, I do not think there will be a lot of trees.

Mayor Miles: In regards to the exceptional tree, how are the Mayor and Council to determine when that tree is exceptional and do they consult with the resident? Does the resident have any say? Or is this the tree commission governing their property?

Assistant City Attorney Ken: It is legislative action so it can arise that somebody suggests to the council a specific tree or the council knows of a tree that has some historical significance. But like any legislation, it is subject to public discourse.

The attorney reads Section 12B-20 on Exceptional Trees. He says it leaves the council some self-discretion but gives guidance.

Councilman Tarlau: The ordinance does say that you cannot remove trees that are larger than 24 inches, which goes beyond exceptional trees. Then the Q & A talks about trees that are over more than 18 inches. Where is that referenced what you say in the Q & A and in the ordinance?

Attorney Ken: The 18 inch trees are protected. Protected Urban Forest Trees Section 12B-2 includes them. And Section 12B-9 talks about what trees on private property are protected. 12B-12 talks about the permit process. 12B-12A is what covers 18 inch trees on private property. It says if you want to take them down, you can. You will receive a permit without second guessing from the tree commission, but you have to replace those trees. The 24 inch trees are addressed in 12B-13 and that says you can't take down two 24 inch diameter trees within a 5 year period.

Mayor Miles: In effect, our ordinance gives our tree commission and the city, the right to determine what trees on your property you can take down that are 18 inches or over, or have to keep, or have to replace or pay to some fund to replace the trees that you take down. Is that correct?

Attorney Ken: No, that is not exactly correct. You can take down an 18 inch tree, but you have to replace them or pay to a fund.

Mayor Miles is in support of trees being in the city. She brought her house because of the perfectly tree lined streets. However, she does not support this ordinance because she feels it goes too far in regulating trees on private property.

Brian Knedler gives an idea of what an 18 inch tree looks like and how to measure it. He says all small trees can be cut down without permit, but 18 inches or more need one. He also suggests more content in the exceptional tree criteria. There should be a public hearing to have some public discussion.

If the tree is over 18 inches and it is diseased or dangerous, does the person still have to pay to take it down and replace?

Attorney Ken: There is a waiver for that. The city arborist grants the waiver.

Bryan Knedler: We have a lot 150 year old trees that are falling apart. So those people would not need to pay into a fund to replace the trees. Another question is I assume you are putting the city arborist into the budget for next year since this takes effect in July? I assume there will be a contractor. He or she will be the first layer or first call on this process right? That person will not be a staff person or tree commissioner right? It will be an expert.

Attorney Ken: The thinking is that for issues of safety, we have good people on the commission and a good road side tree expert but we are going to have volunteers qualified and able.

Mayor Miles: My point Mr. Knedler is very simple. I am a roadside tree expert as well. I am one of the first in the city. One of the reasons we did that was because we could not afford an arborist to handle just the city trees. So we felt at the time, it was necessary for one of us or someone to become a road side tree expert just to handle city trees. We also did not have a very functioning tree commission. There is no guarantee we will have one in the future. And yet we are going to put this in place without the funding and with all those issues we just talked about. So I have concerns about where we are with this.

Mr. Knedler: This has been a huge amount of work. I would call it a compromise. Some of our neighboring towns maybe are a little more green than we are have done more to protect their private trees, in which case you can't cut them down. They won't let you if they are healthy. We aren't saying that. We are in the middle road saying, if it is a huge tree, it's healthy, and you want to take it down...fine. But because we are a green community, we will expect you to pay for a fund to buy trees to replace in that ward or have you place on your property. It may stick in your craw but it is a compromise. That is what life is about. Go to Hyattsville or D.C. and they have stricter rules than this. I would suggest giving it a chance, a year or two to see how it works. As a green community, I think it is worthwhile to try.

Mayor Miles: I think we agree on that. But there is a lot of ambiguity in this ordinance. As it stands, I am opposed to some sections. I am willing to work to move it up and forward.

Councilman Tarlau: Kaywood has a lot of big trees. With the rule that you can only take one tree down within five years, how does that affect them?

Mr. Knedler: That rule only applies to healthy trees. If you have diseased trees, you can take down however many you like. It is also expensive to take down a tree, about \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Councilman Tarlau suggests looking at a person with one lot versus someone with more land or acres and how the five year rule applies to them.

Mr. Knedler: The Mayor and Council can make an exception to that two tree limit.

Sarah Christopherson: I am a property owner. I came to talk about this bill because I am very passionate about it. On the handout that was just passed out, I know that it says by the standard, the urban force provisions are on par with the existing standards in the city. If I am a private property owner and I leave a bunch of trash in my front yard, I assume that even though it is my private property, I am still paying the city a fee for that. Is that correct? Aren't I subject to code enforcement violations?

Attorney Ken: You could be subject to a fine. Yes.

Sarah Christopherson: And if I build on my private property and I want to put in a fabulous porch and I don't go through the permitting process, and I just go ahead, I could still be presumably assigned a fee for that even though it is my private property and I am making the decision that it is best for my private property right? So is the council talking about fundamentally restructuring the way we treat private property and the balance of public good versus private property or is it just the question of trees for this sort of philosophical problem.

Councilman Tarlau: I believe your analysis is not completely consistent with reviewing changes in your property by putting up a porch versus changing the existing things that are in your yard.

Sarah Christopherson: And you want to make a change and cut it down right?

Councilman Tarlau: I don't think there is anything about removing something. Again, when you are talking about the front where it has sight onto the city, I don't think we have enough ordinances talking about changing the back yard. We do have permits about the front.

Sarah Christopherson: So if I have a big pile of trash in my backyard that was visible from the front, I would not be subject to code enforcement restrictions? Or if I built property in my back yard I would be subject to code regulations?

Mayor Miles: This is something we will have to look into but there are some differences at least in my head. We are going to need to keep dancing around this until we get there. I think we all are very clear on what we think about this legislation and what needs to be done or where we need to go with it. It takes effect July 1, 2014. So we need to be very clear with procedures and etc.

General Public Comments- *There were no general public comments*

City Manager and City Treasurer Presentation- Budget Document Proposal FY15

Letter from the City Manager

The City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Chief Financial Officer worked diligently on this budget document that in their best estimation presents the most fiscally responsible position the city should take at this time. The Management team took into account the budget priorities of

the Mayor and Council as well as those of the department director. Similar to the prior fiscal years, the departmental budgets could not be fully supported at the funding levels requested.

The Executive Summary

The real property tax rate will remain the same at \$0.86 per \$100 of the assessed valuation. Business Personal Property tax is the same \$1.98 per \$100 for assessment. The Railroad and Utility tax is the same \$2.50 per \$100 for assessment.

Merit Increases

In the FY 2012, Mayor and Council adopted 2% COLA increase. At the same time, there was increase in retirement, a mandatory employee contribution of 2% increase. No Cola increases for FY2013. Mayor and Council adopted 3% COLA for FY2014. Management proposes 3% again for FY2015 and no merit increases.

Capital Improvement Plan - The budget includes a \$27,600 for infrastructure, repairs and improvements.

Community Programs- The budget includes approximately \$77,000 for various programs which include Youth and recreational program, Bike Co-op, Tool Shed, Community Garden, City Tax Credit, Mount Rainier Day, and National Night Out.

Staffing Recommendation

The budget includes a director of code enforcement (new position), a Call-A-Bus driver (contracted 20 hours per week), Mount Rainier Television Director (contractual 16-20 hours per week), Mount Rainier Studio Technician 1 (contracted 8-10 hours per week), Television studio technician 2 (contracted 8-10 hours per week).

Recommendation but not Proposed for FY15

Economic Development Director- The focus of this position is incorporated into the function of the assistant city manager position due to familiarity with the properties, the constant access of desirable business opportunities, and more importantly, the fact that any of the vacant properties within the city are privately owned. The management team has explored some new ideas which can increase the cities new abilities to track investors, improve the type of potential businesses. These include but are not limited to the following: pedestrian and directional signage, reflector lighting, solar lighting, Marquee signage, business district incentive package, branding logo, engage university student interns. Due to funding request to support the director of code enforcement and the additional request in the capital improvement plan, it was determined that the FY15 budget could not support this position.

City Manager Intern- For this reason, this position is not recommended for funding but as a volunteer position.

Green Initiative Recommendations

Purchase a smart car for the director of code enforcement as a trial. If it goes well, replace all code enforcement and parking enforcement vehicles with this vehicle.

IPads for the City Manager and City Treasurer. This will help to reduce the copying and the paper consumption.

Currently the city employs 38 full staff. The only change will be the addition of the code enforcement director.

Budget Calendar Deadlines

Department Budget - February 7th

City Manager- March 3rd but moved to March 4th

Budget Presentation for all the departments – March 4th

Work Session- March 18th

Spatial Work Session- April 15th

Public Hearing on Tax Rate and Budget Ordinance 1st Reading - April 22nd

2nd Reading and Vote- May 6th

Constant G tax rate is 0.8520. Proposed city tax rate is 0.86 (same as last year). Each generates approximately \$34,000.

Combined Revenue & Expenditure

There are two funds we maintain, the General Fund and Special Fund. The proposed FY15 General Fund Revenue total is \$4,970, 450. Special Fund is \$213, 500.

Transfer from Reserves

We have requested transfer from reserves. For bond payments, we are requesting \$179,250. For day to day expense, we are requesting \$187,600 for Speed Camera Expense, we are requesting \$225,000.

General Fund Revenues

Tax Revenues	\$3,604,500
LIC & Permits	\$400,350
Inter Govt. Rev.	\$173,000

Charges for Services	\$4, 750
Fines & forfeit.	\$102,000
Miscellaneous	\$34,750
Speed Camera	\$6,000
Re-appropriation	\$591,850
Total Revenue	\$4, 970, 450

*Re-appropriation means a transfer from the reserves.

General Fund Expenditures

Wages & Pay	\$2,208,500
Employee Benefit	\$1,037,550
Material & Supply	\$208, 500
Repairs & Maintenance	\$97,000
Professional Services	\$422,050
Other Services and Charges	\$636, 750
Infrastructure	\$326, 500
Capital Outlay	\$27,600
Speed Camera Chg.	\$6,000
Total	\$4,970,450

Departmental Expenditures

General Govt.	\$900, 750
Rec & Outreach	\$41,750
Public Safety	\$2,433,350
Public Works	\$1,033,750
Library	\$8,250
Debt Services	\$334,750
Miscellaneous	\$190,250
Capital Outlay	\$27,600

*Capital Outlay is substantial less in FY15 because of insufficient funding, which is why money was requested from the reserves. The base was reduced on what was expected to come in.

General Government Expenditure

Mayor & Council	\$69, 500
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Legal & Elections	\$52,000
City Administration	\$630,000
3409 R.I. Ave.	\$10,000
3601 Bunker Hill	\$5,750
3200-3208 & 3405 R.I. Ave	\$11,000
Newsletter	\$33,750
MRTV	\$88,750

Public Safety Expenditures

Police Dept.	\$2,088,800
Parking Enforce.	\$85,950
Code Enforce.	\$258,600
Total	\$2,433,350

Public Works Expenditures

Public Works Dept.	\$748,750
Highways & Streets	\$80,000
Street Lighting	\$120,000
Waste Disposal	\$85,000
Total	\$1,033,750

Miscellaneous Expenditures

General Ins.	\$86,750
Fire Dept.	\$1,500
City Programs	\$22,750
City Tax Credit	\$26,000
Bike Coop/Tools	\$2,000
Mt. Rainier Day	\$20,500
National Night	\$5,750
Contingency	\$25,000
Reserve	\$0
Total	\$190,250

Capital Outlay FY15

Public Safety- 2 Police Vehicles	\$13,500
Code Enforcement- 1 Vehicle	\$10,000
Mayor and Council-I-pads	\$3,000
City Hall- I-pads	\$1,100
Total	\$27,600

Projected Special Fund Revenues

County Tree Grant	\$10,000
CDBG	\$100,000
Mount Rainier Day	\$2,500
National Night Out	\$1,000
Total Expected Revenue	\$213,500

Departmental Budgets

Capital CIP Plan

Councilwoman Thompson: Do you have any additional information about retirement contributions for councilmember?

Treasurer Manjani: Initially I included it but then I took it out because that item has not been decided and still they are working on legislation. At this point, they are not sure if it is going to get approved or not. If we know it is going to happen, we will come back to the Mayor and Council and let them decide.

Councilman Tarlau: Where did the FY14 123, 000 go?

FY 14 is not finished. We have bought two police vehicles and one public works truck.

Official Reports

Ward 1

- Councilman Christopherson
 - Thank you to the community for a successful Fundraiser to benefit the family of Graciela Carbonell. We pulled it together with the help of volunteers and donors. Thank you to everybody who contributed.
 - Mayor Miles thanks Councilman Christopherson for putting the event together.
 - Robert Paige, Graciela's husband, thanks everyone for their efforts on behalf of his family. It reminds us that community spirit is still here.
- Councilman Tarlau

- There is an issue of hunger in the community. Reverend Adams has started a food Pantry and another committee has put together a street corner supper. They meet once a week and the next meeting is this Thursday, 7pm at The Mount Rainier Christian Church. And Cassandra Perry who is leading our community services task force is involved in that.

No Reports from Ward II

Mayor Miles.

- The community garden is up and open for applications.

City Manager's Report will be posted online

Chief Scott's Report

- 46% increase in crime was reduced to a 26% increase in one month
- Property/ non-violent type crimes comprised of the majority of the crimes (82% committed in February). Those crimes were thefts.
- Stolen vehicles reduced significantly from January to February
- Handled approximately 6% more calls than in January
- February 19th there was a significant incident and on the 28th, several bar officers were recognized for outstanding performance in handling of a burglary call for service.
- we are trying to get better at communicating no parking on snow emergency route alerts

Mayor Miles: How do we handle getting information to residents that do not have access?

Councilman Bolin: Can we work with the apartment complexes to let residents know what the designated emergency routes are?

Mayor Miles: We have but I think it is time for us to do it again.

Chief Scott: Or we can get meter covers.

Motion to Approve the Minutes with the condition that any corrections are sent to the City Clerk by the end of the business day on Friday the 7th.

Councilman Tarlau

2nd Councilman Christopherson

4-0

New Business

Resolution 4-2014 Renaming Mount Rainier Television in memory of Graciela Carbonell. (1st reading and vote)

It is a way to recognize a public servant who was hired on June 16, 1986 as the Director for the Call-A-Bus Service and to Direct Mount Rainier Television. This recognizes all the years of service and how she has improved and developed our television station.

Hence forward, the television station studio shall hence forward and forever be known as the Graciela Carbonell Television Studio to be designated with a permanent memorial plaque made of a durable material such as bronze, brass or aluminum.

Councilman Tarlau
2nd Councilwoman Thompson
4-0

Motion to adjourn at 9:34pm

Councilwoman Thompson
2nd Councilman Bolin
4-0