



**The City of Mount Rainier Maryland
Mayor and Council Work-Session**

Date: 10-16-2012

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Jimmy Tarlau, Brent Bolin

Councilmember's absent: Councilwoman Thompson and Councilman Bolin

Staff present:

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace and Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson.

Meeting called to order @ 7:10 pm

Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 3-0

The Public Works presentation is presented by Director Luther Smith highlighting the duties of the public works staff and the services this department brings to the city.

Councilman Tarlau:

How long does it take for each crew to go through the city on a trash day?

Luther Smith:

Trash = 1 driver, 2 laborers on a truck and using two trucks. The crew normally finishes by 11: am and on their way to the dump.

Councilman Tarlau:

Who does the work when people are out sick?

Luther Smith:

Mike Barnes or myself and on Wednesday trash pick-up is all day. Luther elaborates to the council what his department does.

Mayor Miles wants Luther to investigate when WSSC and the Gas Company will complete their work and also wants a meeting setup with WSSC, Washington Gas and Pepco on the impact their work has on the residents.

Parking on Upshur Street

There are parking restrictions in the 3200 blk. of Upshur Street and there is a petition from the residents on Upshur Street.

Resident Sarah Lilly is here to discuss the issue in the 3200 blk. of Upshur Street

I would like the side of the street where parking is permitted changed and I am representing myself and 4 other residents. There are two problems with the current parking situation; the parking does not meet the needs of residents that live on that street. It's endangering some residents and creating an environmental crisis for others. Problems occur when exiting the vehicle on the side of the street with no side walk is tricky and there are trenches on that side of the street. It's creating erosion because there is no curb. The solution being proposed is to change the side of the street for parking and the signs have to be moved.

Councilman Tarlau:

Councilman Tarlau feels there is an argument here and exiting a car to walk on someone's lawn is not good, it's better for the passenger to exit your car and walk on the side walk.

Resident Sarah Lilly:

The Mount Rainier police department came out and surveyed the area to determine there would be more parking needed on the opposite side of the street.

Mayor Miles:

I need more information and would like to see the survey the police department completed.

Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Simpson:

There are two fire hydrants in the 3200 block of Upshur Street and you can't park within 15 feet of a hydrant and that takes up more space.

Councilman Bolin:

People can get confused if the rest of the street stays south side parking and one block switches to north side parking that can be an issue. The turn from 34th Street on to Upshur Street is a bad turn and if we switch it to the north side we would need a yellow stripe. People could drive down expecting cars to be on one side and hit the cars because the street parking has changed.

Resident Mendy Connelly

Because of the trench and erosion there is no place for people to get out on the passenger's side. You can't get a stroller or car seat out. They leave the doors open while they do that from the street side. For the safety side of it I would encourage your support.

Prince George's County Non-Profit Base Research (Gregg)

They are working to promote zero waste policies across the state and local level.

Councilman Bolin:

Brent is supporting what Gregg said that we are sending things to the land fill that we don't need to which is shorting the life span in the county and our trucks. The county (DER) is revising a ten year solid waste plan. The decision the county makes comes back and impacts our budget. They are criticizing or revising the county waste program. The county landfill is filling. Composting has a cheaper tipping fee.

The Mayor suggest that we come with our own legislation on what we will do and feels we should do more than send a letter. Let's not move forward with the county's current proposal of the ten year waste plan. Councilman Bolin will take the letter in hand and draft a letter from that and convey that the waste plan should not be business as usual and give them things they can look at from the city of Mount Rainier that the waste plan is not business as usual. Jeannelle should get the letter drafted and sent out.

Backyard hens:

Jacob Howley Resident:

Back yard hens are allowed in a dozen of cities across the state of Maryland and they have been made legal. The benefit of having hens is the production of eggs at a cheaper price. They reduce food waste to 7lbs per chicken. For every 24 birds you are saving one ton of tipping fees and their droppings can be used as fertilizer for the lawn. They promote pest control and there is a petition being circulated in Mount Rainier and 114 people have signed the petition.

Councilman Bolin doesn't have an issue with this and feels the proposal for this is reasonable.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau is supportive and wants to let residents know we are considering the possibility.

Mayor Miles says no and she will vote against it. It's a cost factor for the city and they belong on a farm.

Councilman Bolin:

I oppose the Mayor's position and believe that making this proposal legal will encourage people to do the right thing instead of hiding the chickens and doing the wrong thing.

Mayor Miles:

Chickens are not loving animals.

Jacob Howley:

They are breeding dependent.

Councilman Tarlau feels the community should voice their opinion and would we have to pass our own legislation?

Jacob Howley states that the county would be the one to make it permissible.

Cats

CB 41-2012 Animal Control Ear Tip Cats

Councilman Tarlau:

The number of stray cats is not a large number.

Mayor Miles:

The county councilwoman doesn't want to put any more cats asleep.

Resident Jacob Howley seconds what Councilman said that neuter and release is not a good idea.

Resident Devin Brown:

This bill puts no limits on people who decide they are going to harbor cats and it takes away the responsibility of ownership for these cats. It a very bad bill and presents a lot of health issues.

Mayor Miles, Councilman Tarlau and Bolin will vote against the bill.

Mr. Tarlau wants to put the cats on the next agenda with a vote.

Councilman Tarlau:

The 37th Street Park was referred to Youth & Recreation Commission to come up with some recommendations and they did a rigorous process of getting community input.

**Ashley Herbert Resident reporting for Youth & Recreation. **

Option B is the winner.

Move to adjourn

Councilman Bolin

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 3-0

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