



**Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier  
Mayor and Council Meeting**

Date: 11-8-2012

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

Councilmember's present: Ivy Thompson, William Updike, Brent Bolin and Jimmy Tarlau

Councilmember's absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Review of agenda

Removing 3299 Queens Chapel Rd proposal for a church

Motion to approve agenda

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

CB 41-2012 Ear Tip Cats

This is not a city decision it's a county decision. What we vote on tonight will say whether we support or in opposition to the county bill. The city will send a letter either way if we are for or against it. Councilman Updike is in opposition to the bill and feels this would challenge our code officers.

Resident Devin Brown 4500 blk. of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Mr. Brown does not want the Council to support the Ear Tips Cat Bill. He states that there are a lot of health issues with them.

Resident Mrs. Mowatt: says that fecal matter from pets is dangerous and she does not support the bill.

Kevin Simpson Mount Rainier Code Officer:

Mr. Simpson is opposed to the bill. He is concerned that cats will be treated like wild animals and not like domestic animals as they are. The bill will not ensure the cats will stay vaccinated and creates incentives for people to hoard cats.

Motion

Councilman Tarlau to send the letter of the county in opposition to bill CB 41-2012

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

### **Resolution 12-2012 (Supporting legislation of hens)**

Councilman Bolin:

The community Planning Commission recommends that the county amend their zoning code to remove the prohibition which prohibits the keeping of chickens and hens on residential lots. The county will have to take action on this and it is up to us to provide encouragement to them.

Ms. Mowatt:

I thought it was against the law to have chickens.

The Green Team supports having chickens.

Motion to adopt Resolution 12-2012

Councilman Updike

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 4-1

Mayor Miles Vote No

### **Reports**

Luther Smith Public Works Director

Public Works is on schedule with leaf pick up and urging people to put their leaves out. One of the trees came down during the storm and id some damage to a car. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 Luther will do his first check on the generator at the police department.

Mayor Miles:

Did we reach to our neighboring municipalities to offer help?

Luther Smith: Yes, but they didn't need it.

Chief Scott:

Crime is down for the first 10 months of the year. This month we had 549 calls for service. We received 2 calls for suspicious persons and one of them lead to us arresting two people and solved 5 robberies. Residents that are calling in is valuable and we have closed 13 burglaries.

Councilman Updike thanks the Chief for his work.

Council Reports

Councilman Bolin met with Washington Gas to address the construction and utility situation on Bunker Hill Rd. in the 3000 block.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mount Rainier's Gateway is having their 5K run this spring on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and the Home Tour will be on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Councilman Updike:

People from our green team have been meeting to discuss our LED Street Lights conversion. There are some people exploring it and some possible solutions on finance.

Mayor Miles met with WSSC on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The project is taking longer than anticipated. They ran into problems with pipe replacement. Some solutions are on the table.

1. Deliver discoloration pills
2. Deliver water to each house impacted by rusted water on Bunker Hill Rd.
3. If you've had discolored water call WSSC to come out and test the water and you can ask for modification of your water bill one time in seven years regardless of circumstances.

The Mayor thanks residents for coming out to vote.

Mayor Miles: A couple of developers have withdrawn from consideration.

AHC's representative is giving the Council handouts.

Andrew Benson would like to know the time frame. 15 minutes to start.

AHC has an established relationship with Cunningham and Quill. They want City Hall to be a statement building and make it a green building. They feel as though they can reach lead goal and platinum. AHC has a 35 year track record for execution and strong financials. Lee Quill says the company has received three awards for the Mount Rainier plans. The plan was completed two years ago. They will give the council copies of reports. They would like to combine and work with Mr. Solomon's property. Information packets were submitted to the council.

Scott Mattie shows the council the packet that speaks to his work. The shell as a project they are currently working on with AHC.

Councilman Tarlau:

Your proposal doesn't incorporate some of the adjoining properties down Eastern Avenue and the proposal is smaller than Street Sense. The proposal is smaller. Is a smaller proposal more economically doable? Is there any reason why you have a smaller scale versus a larger scale?

Andrew Benson:

Land assembly can be tricky and difficult in real estate development. The vision could expand with those lots we didn't want it to depend on those lots.

Councilman Tarlau:

There will be approximately 6.5 million of GAF Financing and the county talked about 405 million. How do you see making up that difference.

Andrew Benson:

We should all sit at a table and see what we come up with.

Mr. Quill:

The size of the units is about 600-1000 ft. and about 141 units.

Councilman Bolin:

I'm concerned about the massing on the block and how it affects the homes on Perry Street. There is not a lot of massing behind the lots that impact the homes behind it.

Mr. Washington Neighborhood Development/ Guy Silverman Street Sense

One of the projects done is Hyattsville.

Mr. Washington:

Our project would be 250 units residential and 77 parking spaces, 18,000 feet of retail and additional parking for retail. We have a binding agreement with Mr. Solomon for his property so that's a done deal. We have reached out to other property and have not heard back from them.

Ellen 3100 block of Bunker Hill Rd feels the city is in a good place and thanking the Council for bringing us there. She feels its important to take a vote tonight and thinks that we have two good offers on the table.

Krista 3500 block of Bunker Hill Rd. has a concern that if there are no commitments to an anchor business then retail is going to have a hard time surviving. What are the time lines for developers and how long will it take?

Mary Davis = AHC

A large component of that will be the county process and 18 months is a good place to start.

Mayor Miles is thanking the developers for time and effort spent.

Motion to support the Street Sense project.

Councilman Updike

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 3-2

Updike=yes

Tarlau=yes

Mayor Miles=yes

Bolin =no

Ivy Thompson=no

Councilman Bolin:

We have a vision for our town center so what's going to be better for our existing businesses?

I don't think we have an answer to that question. We don't know how the retail fits into this project.

Councilman Updike:

Ask Street Sense if they are staying in ownership of the retail space.

Street Sense-Yes

Councilman Tarlau is voting Street Sense

Councilwoman Thompson says AHC is offering something the county doesn't have. Good quality housing and their vision. I'm voting for AHC

Councilman Bolin feels the city sends the wrong message when we do have projects. He is also concerned that the city is setting a poor precedent for the city of Mount Rainier in the long run because of the way we have managed this these last few months.

Motion to adjourn

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0