



Minutes for City of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council Meeting

Date: 5-7-2013

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Called to order at 7:10 pm

Mayor Miles thanks the residence for voting.

Agenda,

Councilman Tarlau: Adding the solicitation of bids on the singer building.

Councilmember Updike is adding letter of support for the Washington Area Bicycling Assoc. for a grant.

Motion to approve agenda

Councilman Updike

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 4-

Maxine Drake ford, Supervisor of election. Mrs. Drake ford is here to announce the results of the May 2013 election.

The results are as follows

Ward I = 47

Ward II = 92

Absentee – 3

Total 142

Mayor 97

Jesse Christopherson =38

Ivy = 46

Write INS = 3

Councilman Bolin:

Mistakes are made on the website about the time of voting.

Mayor Miles:

Many people didn't know the election was happening because signs didn't go up until late.

There will be a meeting with the election committee to discuss issue.

Motion to accept certification of election from supervisor

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote 4-0

Mayor Miles:

The swearing in of the organizational Meeting at City Hall will be held on May 13th 2013.at 7: pm.

Ward II

Councilwoman Thompson:

I would like to thank the people who came out to vote.

Councilman Bolin:

Mr. Bolin is thanking the people who came out to vote and giving Councilman Updike a farewell speech of thanks from everyone. I sit on the MUTC Committee and have been reviewing some concept designs from Street Sense and the Neighborhood Design Center for 3200 block of R.I. Avenue.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

The city has been involved with fifteen other municipalities in a collaboration grant for Maryland Energy.

The city received a notice that they have an opening for other residents to apply. They ask us to put information back on the website about the Empower Clean Energy program. The criteria for this is you must provide your I.R.S. tax statement from the previous year and sign an affidavit of income to be eligible for the program and it's for energy appliances in your home. Go on the website and download the application and complete it. The Redevelopment Authority has foreclosed on the Circle Café property. They now retain ownership of the café and have moved forward with getting a quick claim deed on the singer building. They plan to bid on the tax sale of the former pawn shop.

There is a lot of interest in Mount Rainier in terms development. Michael Jackson met with the department of Environmental Resources and they have plans approved for the flooding on the 4200 blk. of 32nd Street to install storm drain inlets. After five days they have plans approved for storm drains on Rhode Island Avenue. I consulted with the city attorney on the ordinances that will have a first reading tonight. The synthetic drug ordinance and the trash ordinance will affect a lot of our businesses.

All trip hazards in the city will be repaired and the Otis Street alley as soon as the weather clears up. We normally have at least 60 vacant properties and we are now down to 27 vacant properties and there seems to be a lot of interest in the city.

Mayor Miles:

The County Executive visited our city for the production of Art Lives Here which was put on with a grant given to Joe's Movement Emporium. A video was put together by Joe's Movement. The Mayor is asking MRTV to run the video on our cable channel.

Graciela Carbonell Director of MRTV:

It's already running.

Mayor Miles:

Peter Shapiro from Gateway Art District came to town with discussion around Art Lives Here project.

City Manager:

Bike racks are here and the Farmers Market started.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Taralu wants to know about the façade program and the timing of it.

City Manager:

Hopefully it will happen this summer and be complete.

Councilman Updike:

Can you talk about a meeting with EPA?

City Manager:

Mike Jackson went to that meeting trying to get some funding to install drains at our intersection and we received some grant funding to do upgrades here at City Hall.

Luther Smith Director of Public Works:

Mr. Smith congratulates the Council on the election results and gives a summary on Mount Rainier Day. Queenstown Drive and Chillum Rd. and also the crosswalks at Shepherd Street and 32nd Street have been complete with striping by Mr. Smith. This is for our residents

Public Works is not allowed to take hazardous material to the dump. Our residents should take it to the county land field. Public Works has a new roof and windows and the staff is very happy about that.

Councilman Tarlau:

Mr. Tarlau is thanking the public works department for their work with the 5K Run and suggest we use the electric event board more often.

Luther Smith:

It's a fee for the use of the message board. It's a fee to program the board in terms of how many letters you want.

Mayor Miles:

I need a Motion to accept the minutes with any changes given to the clerk by Friday.

Second: Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Mayor Miles:

This is Municipal Clerks week and I wish the clerk a happy week.

Chief Scott:

I'm reporting a crime increase for the month due to the 24 burglaries this year. There were eleven in the apartment complexes, twelve in single family homes and 1 in commercial. Theft is the majority of the crime. We are placing no loitering signs around the city. We are keeping a close eye on the businesses on 34th Street and Bunker Hill Rd. and those selling the scoo-b-doo drug.

Mayor Miles:

Gave congrats to the new elected team in Brentwood Maryland.

Councilman Updike: suggest the city of Brentwood Maryland passes the same ordinance as Mount Rainier in reference to the synthetic drugs because a young man in a very bad way got scoo-b-doo drugs from a store in Brentwood MD.

Old Business-

Ordinance 5-2013 (to adopt a fiscal year budget of 2014 & tax rate)

Vijay Manjani City Treasurer:

Amendments from the last meeting were made.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

Changes to the budget are as follows

Pg.2 Charges for services originally were

\$ 47,250.00 increased to 72,250.00

Misc. revenue originally \$32250.00 -33,250.00

Funds from undesignated balance \$210,000.00-\$224,000.00

Total for General fund revenue is an increase from \$4,983,250.00 –\$ 5,023,250.00

Pg.3 section 5

Professional Services-\$385,250.00-decreased to \$358,250.00

Other services and charges-Original-\$599,000.00 increased to \$666,000.00

Total General Fund expenditures of \$4983250.00 increased to \$5,023,250.00.

Public Works \$739,000.00 - \$741,000.00

Code Enforcement \$163,850.00 -\$173,850.00

Legal & Elections decreased from \$71,000.00 to \$41,000.00.

Pg. 4 Community programs increased from -\$8500.00 -16,750.00

Contingency increased from \$28,000.00-\$32,250.00

Reserves 0-\$45,000.00

Total \$4,983,250.00 -\$5023, 250.00 General Fund Expenditures.

The grant reserve is the same with no other charges in ordinance.

Councilman Tarlau:

I would like to thank the city staff and Mr. Manjani on putting together the budget. Shouldn't there be an ordinance or resolution that we pass? We talked about two things, increasing parking fees by doubling and a \$50.00 increase in rental units.

City Manager:

That's a separate ordinance, where we go through the entire code.

Mayor Miles:

Those two things must get done before July 1st, 2013 in order to be implemented.

Motion to approve Ordinance 5-2013

Councilwoman Ivy Thompson

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Ordinance 2-2013 1st reading (Amending the city code chapter 11 requiring dumpsters to be on concrete pads.

The city attorney added language about asphalt and impervious surfaces.

Ordinance 3-2013 1st Reading (Bans the sale and distribution of synthetic drugs)

Councilman Updike:

Are those limitations set by the state?

City Manager:

The most you can do as a municipality is a fine of \$1000.00.

Ordinance 4-2013 1st Reading (Amending the personnel policy)

The second reading is expected in June 2013. Mr. Tarlau will look over carefully because he might make some changes.

Ordinance 6-2013 1st Reading (Amending chapter 7A Commercial District Management Authority to increase the annual fees to businesses and business property owners

City Manager:

Bids on the Singer Building, removing feces and other debris from building the amount went up from \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 and they are asking for more.

Councilman Tarlau:

They asked for solicitation of bids and I don't find a problem with it. However, I do feel that the city should get something in writing so we won't take a total loss.

Councilman Bolin:

The Redevelopment Authority has offered to put up the money for purchase of the Singer Building and asked the city to partner with them by putting up money to do remediation of dangerous conditions inside the building. R.D.A. as part of their purchase they plan to repair the roof and make the building weather tight again. The city wants to know if they recover some of their money through purchase then the city should also recover some of their money and we would like to have that in writing. It will be better for everyone if we get some clarity. Residents ask and want to know what's going on with the Singer Building.

Councilman Updike will support.

Councilwoman Thompson:

She will support with information from Redevelopment Authority. The Councilwoman feels this is a positive move but would like something in writing. It's a partnership but nothing is in writing. She wants the city to move forward cautiously and have something in writing with the county. She spoke with Mr. Ways from the county.

Councilman Tarlau:

We should instruct the city manager to move ahead with Howard and if RDA gets their money back then the city should get some back.

Mayor Miles:

What is the max in terms of what the city is willing to allocate in the removal of debris from the building.

Councilman Bolin:

What's the ball park on bids for the singer building?

City Manager:

\$50,000.00 - \$65,000.00

Councilman Bolin:

If they want to do all three buildings we can round it off to a total commitment of \$75,000.00 to start. If the Council is comfortable with this then we can direct the city manager to get something in writing and authorize an expenditure of up to \$75,000.00 to move forward on the Singer Building and other 3300 block of R.I. Avenue properties.

Councilman Tarlau is against giving \$75,000.00 on properties that we don't own.

Councilman Updike supports moving forward.

Councilman Tarlau supports Councilman Bolin's proposal of up to \$75,000.00 but not spend the money without getting an agreement from R.D.A. on a return for our money and not just do an open and end at \$75,000.00.

Councilman Bolin:

Motion for the city to spend up to \$75,000.00 in the help of the cleaning up of the three properties with the understanding that there will be a 50-50 split in terms of the cost of clean up between R.D.A. and the city of Mount Rainier and should RDA sell the property and get its money back the city and the city should also get its investment back on a return.

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 4-0

We have a directive to our city manager and make sure our attorney looks it over.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Updike

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 4-0