



**Minutes  
for  
City of Mount Rainier  
Public Hearing  
and  
Mayor and Council Meeting**

**Public Hearing**

**Date: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712**

**Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles**

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

**Councilmember's absent: none**

**Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson and City Treasurer Vijay Manjani.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Reading of agenda**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**We are here to discuss the renewal of the Comcast franchise agreement. The Comcast agreement will expire in 2013 and we are looking for input from residents on future needs and services. A survey will be mailed to subscribers for their input on customer services**

**A percentage of the subscription money comes back to the city which makes it possible to run some of our programs.**

**Motion to close Public Hearing**

**Councilmember Tarlau**

**Second Councilmember Bolin**

**Vote 4-0**

## **Mayor and Council Meeting**

### **Agenda**

**Motion to approve agenda as presented  
Councilmember Tarlau  
Second Councilwoman Thompson  
Vote 4-0**

**Review and approval of minutes  
Move to approve minutes with corrections by the close of business on Friday.**

**Councilwoman Thompson  
Second Councilman William Updike  
Vote 4-0**

### **Official Reports**

**Ward I  
No reports**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:  
We have approval for our façade program for our business. We received a contract from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Once we get the counties signed agreement and then we move forward. MRBA is planning a quarterly meeting with property owners to go over MUTC guidelines in reference to some of the façade improvements. I will take the guidelines to MRBA. The Street Corp Program through the Police Department is moving along well. Our Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson was able to get in a grant for Chesapeake Bay Tourist for additional funding to make Buchannan Street a green street.**

**We are considered an electronic recycling city and that adds to our green efforts. Councilwoman Thompson says contact USFA to apply for a loan for our Civic Center and the loan is low interest and you get 40 years to repay the loan. Councilwoman Thompson feels it is a good project because it involves the library plus the Civic Center. Council Thompson and I will be working on that. We have a good chance of getting the funding.**

**Councilman Tarlau:  
How will the process of the façade be done?**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace**

**We have several businesses that were under a previous program where the business owners paid some money toward it but the program never got off the ground. That occurred when we had a transition in the CDC. The first two are Glut Food and Nisey's Boutique. They are in line to get goose neck lighting. Francis Carryout will get a new sign. Potomac Fish House is also in lined for a new sign. The city has recommendations to remove the grates on Rhode Island Avenue and replace them with open security grates behind the windows. There are three stores that have grates we would like to remove.**

**Mayor Miles:**

There were eight or ten businesses under the old façade program that put up money where it is?

**Treasurer Vijay Manjani:**

That was grant money that went back for some reason and five businesses put up some money for façade programs and waited for two years and got nothing. The Council decided to put up \$10,000.00 for those businesses. It was suggested that MRBA put up \$10,000.00 also and the criteria for that was façade only.

**Mayor Miles:** is asking if all the money is tied to signage.

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace** states some of it is signage but not all of it.

**Mayor Miles:**

I thought Mayor and Council said we didn't want to use any more money for signage because businesses leave and take the signs with them.

**Councilman Updike:**

Let's honor the ones that were already in the program and use the rest of the money for facades.

**Mayor Miles:**

There is a consensus on how the money is to be used.

**Councilman Tarlau:**

What is the status of the burnt house on 34<sup>th</sup> Street?

**City Manager:**

I sent the Council a copy of the last communication with the owner. He indicated they were waiting on permits from the county to sure up the foundation and we should see activity within a week or two which is what he said the last time I wrote him.

**Councilwoman Thompson:**

I suggest that we wait 30 days after Mrs. Wallace last e-mail and then take action.

**Councilman Bolin** agrees with Councilwoman Thompson and says we should definitely follow up.

**Mayor Miles:**

Determine who owns the property and once an owner is determined then site them and move forward.

**City Manager:**

We will contact D.E.R. and have them move on the condemnation.

**Chief Scott:**

Crime is down 34% and the thefts are down 43% from February through March. 35<sup>th</sup> Street residents are very good with neighborhood watch. Corporal Ortiz is still on leave from accident and Aaron Wilson tendered his resignation.

**Luther Smith Director of Public Works:**

I had a meeting with Valerie Theberge from Joe's Movement to give equipment for the painting of the funeral home. Councilwoman Thompson congratulates Luther and the Public Works Department on the electronic recycle award.

**Mayor Miles:**

Did we tell residents on 30<sup>th</sup> Street about work being done by WSSC?

**Mike Jackson Asst. City Manager:**

Currently WSSC is doing upgrades with the sewer projects throughout the city. WSSC was to send notices to the residents and did not. The residents will be notified with door knockers by the end of the week.

**Mayor Miles:**

Please make the list of those areas available on our website and cable channel.

**Mike Jackson:**

The project will last about two months.

**Luther Smith:**

I have been watering the trees two times a week. Mayor please resubmit the blanket permit for trees application for tree maintenance.

**Councilman Tarlau:**

ICBN people started digging holes on Bunker Hill Rd. and it wasn't what we thought they were doing. They were supposed to dig around the curbs and they dug close to and in people's yards.

**Mayor Miles:**

ICBN made a change in plans because a portion of people's yards includes part of the public right away. The first hole dug was to test and find the utility wires. I've asked them to stop until we are clear they are in the public right away and residents need to be notified. We need a commitment and agreement from them that those yards will be restored back to its original condition.

**Councilman Updike:**

They dug in front of my house and upset our rain garden. There was a major decision made that was not discussed in the council meeting and that was to shift the line from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. The residents on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street are now wondering what's going on.

**Councilman Bolin:**

There were a lot of concerns from the tree commission about digging in the tree boxes but the meeting with them never happened. They weren't in favor of the original plan and now they are deviating from that.

**Mayor Miles:**

I have asked them to stop the work until we meet and go over the new plans.

**Luther Smith:**

They are supposed to put down door knockers on the residents' doors and the work will not go forward until we meet.

**Resident of 3511 Bunker Hill Rd.**

It was our rain garden they dug into and they didn't get a door knocker. I received a knocker after they started digging in my garden. I called the number on the knocker to complain and it was a recording and they never returned the call. The residents need to know what will happen when the line goes in. They need to respect private property.

**Councilman Tarlau:**  
I feel they should apologize to people in the block.

**Councilman Updike:**  
I have a question about the right away, is it in the county's right away or the cities right away?

**Mayor Miles:**  
The county has no right away in the city. We own our streets, tree boxes and do our maintenance and I want a meeting with ICBN's top management.

**Councilman Bolin would like ICBN to come to City Hall and meet with the Council.**

**Mayor Miles:**  
Please consider that everyday their contract is delayed there is a cost.

**Councilman Bolin:**  
When scheduling the meeting I want a representative from the tree commission and I'm available during the day.

**Councilman Updike:**  
Mr. Updike suggests that the residents come to the meeting and the Mayor doesn't feel it's appropriate.

**Mayor Miles:**  
The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday's Work-Session and if not we will reschedule and do call ins with Councilmember's Bolin, Tarlau and the Mayor attending. If they can't come Tuesday at Work-Session than we will set up a day meeting and the rest of you can call in.

**Tony Lee Gateway CDC**  
We applied for a CDBG grant from the county to help fund some of our administrative needs in order to pursue programs in the arts district. We were turned down with no opportunity for redress. We are asking for the municipalities that we serve for a letter on our behalf to the department of Housing for re-consideration.

**Councilman Updike:**  
The other CDC's are on the list for funding. It seems strange that our CDC was left off. I'm in full support of not only a letter but meeting with county staff to see if we can get this resolved.

**Mayor Miles:**  
This isn't the first time the city has been left out of funding and there is a flaw in their process. We need to have some intervention including a meeting with Mr. Brown regarding their decision making.

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
Is Will Campos aware of this and what is his response?

**Tony Lee Gateway CDC**  
I think he's aware and we have sought his assistance in getting a letter sent to Executive Director Eric Brown.

**Laura Rogers is a Brentwood Maryland resident and President of Gateway CDC.**  
Councilman Will Campos is attempting to set up a meeting with Mr. Brown and myself and other representatives form Gateway. We are asking for the letters to show the support from the community and to show the organizations that will be impacted by not having that funding.

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
What other organizations have you sought their support?

**Laura Rogers:**  
We have asked for help from Atha, Senator Ramirez and the Anacostia Watershed Society and we have prepared a letter to go to Jolene Ivy.

**Mayor Miles:**  
What's the worst thing that would happen if you don't get the funding?

**Laura Rogers:**  
Some of our programs will be shut down.

**Councilman Tarlau:**  
If you lose the funding will you still have an executive director?

**Laura Rogers:**  
Yes, we can't continue with out an executive director so, we will make that happen. This is a drastic situation and we will lose our art center. We are the glue that holds the three towns together on Rhode Island Avenue. We would be reduced to administrative work only.

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
I suggest holding any action on this until council discusses CDBG later in the meeting.

Council wants to discuss this now.

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
The city staff has found out that no municipality can go with the state in doing CDBG funding. The city is no longer in the pipeline for CDBG funding form the county because we made the decision to go with the state. We are waiting for the County Executive to say Mount Rainier can participate in the next three year cycle.

**Councilman Tarlau:**  
Why have we not heard about this until now?

**Councilman Bolin:**  
I have two questions, why can't Prince George's Municipalities go with the state and how did we make this decision without knowing that?

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
We made the decision based on the information I was given which was incorrect. Because the city has a good record of expending CDBG funds we stand a good chance of getting back in. Our staff is still waiting to hear back from them.

**Councilman Bolin:**  
If the city made that decision based on bad information is there no business end to someone giving us bad information.

**Mayor Miles:**  
The state is going to be held accountable for giving us bad information. The rules that we adhere to are at the county level. We need to intervene at the county level to get that decision rectified.

**Councilman Tarlau:**  
I am concerned that this is the first we've heard about it.

**Councilman Updike:**  
Do we have something in writing?

**Councilwoman Thompson:**  
No

**Councilman Bolin:**  
What does this have to do with Gateway?

**Mayor Miles:**  
Nothing

**Councilman Updike:**  
Moves to send a letter on behalf of Gateway CDC to Mr. Eric Brown that Gateway CDC funding be restored.  
**Second Councilman Tarlau**  
Vote 4-0

**Councilman Bolin:**  
Moves that the city staff set up a meeting with Eric Brown on CDC's funding  
**Second Councilman Updike**  
Vote 4-0

**Councilman Tarlau:**  
I ask that the city be available to gateway if they put together a meeting about the funding with Mayor and Council of Brentwood, North Brentwood and Mount Rainier and engage in setting up a meeting with CDBG people to discuss the impact of non funding of CDC on our municipalities.

**Councilman Bolin:**  
This motion is for us to take steps to have the three townships to have a meeting with the Representatives of CDBG to talk about the non-funding of the Gateway CDC.

Vote 4-0

Mayor Miles gives directive to the city manager to contact the Mayors from Brentwood and North Brentwood to set up a meeting with Eric Brown to discuss what happen to the funding to Gateway CDC.

**Councilman Updike motions a meeting to occur with Mr. Brown on behalf of the city with Mount Rainier being included in the next round of funding for the next three years for CDBG funds.**  
**Second**  
**Councilwoman Thompson**  
Vote 4-0

**Councilwoman Thompson moves that the Council approve a contract extension for the Homing Group in the amount of \$4999.00**  
**Second**  
**Councilman Tarlau**

4-0

**Mayor Miles:**

The Sr. Vice President for Queens Manor Apartments ask the Council to reimburse them for the work they have done and will so to improve the curbs, streets, sidewalks and gutters. We asked him to work With Ms. Wallace on a favorable solution and this is what they have agreed on.

**Councilman Updike:**

I don't feel comfortable voting on this since we used CDBG money for infrastructure work until we know what's going to happen.

**Mike Jackson:**

We haven't used CDBG funding for that project.

**Councilman Updike:**

I'm not saying we have but we do use that money for infrastructure work.

**Mike- yes**

**Councilman Updike:**

I don't want to promise that money until we know if we will have infrastructure money for our next fiscal year.

**Mayor Miles:**

Mr. Mitchell ask us to reduce their taxes in exchange for the work they have already done and needs to be done and that we would be reducing their taxes by \$11,817.50.

**City Manager:**

They have taken care of our streets and not come to the city for any reimbursement.

**Mayor Miles:**

In front of us is to pay this portion so the work can get done and next year pay the balance and we will have to put something in the capital improvement budget.

**Motion to approve**

**Councilwoman Ivy Thompson**

**Second Councilman Tarlau**

**Vote3-1 1 nae Bill Updike**

**Motion to approve a proclamation for Arbor Day being**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Move Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Bill Updike**

**Vote 4-0**

**Motion to adjourn from Mayor & Council Meeting to Budget Work-Session**

**Councilman Bill Updike**

**Second Councilwoman Ivy Thompson**

**Vote 4-0**

**Discussions on changes in the budget**

**Motion to adjourn**

**Councilman Tarlau**

**Second Ivy Thompson**

**Vote 4-0**













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