



**Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier Maryland
City Council Work Session**

Date: 5-20-2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: Jimmy Tarlau

Staff: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm

Agenda

Traffic Calming Petition for the 3200 block of Shepherd Street

Complete Streets Program

Special Meeting

Resolution 6-2014 3300 Rhode Island Development Project

Ordinance 4-2014 establishes the tax rate adopting the annual budget and appropriating funds for FY2015 beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015.

Motion to Approve the Agenda Pending Additions

Councilwoman Thompson

2nd Councilman Christopherson

3-0

Announcements

Councilwoman Thompson: This Saturday, Mount Rainier Library is having its Kick-off for summer reading program from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Christopherson encourages parents to send their children to schools locally.

Mayor Miles encourages parents to join the PTO. Thomas Stone Elementary is having its Career Day on Friday, May 23rd. She thanks everyone who participated in the Street Supper on Sunday night; and apologizes to the residents for the last minute change in the parade route. Some of the

streets were determined to be unsafe late. She thanks Reverend Adams and volunteers for the Food Pantry and asks for continued support.

If you are in need of food, please go to the Mount Rainier Christian Church on Bunker Hill Road.

Petition for a traffic calming device on the 3200 block of Shepherd Street.

Ms. Hines (3200 Shepherd Street) and other block residents are requesting a traffic calming device because of the tendency of traffic to speed up while coming down the street or not heed to the stop signs. There are schools on Shepherd Street and 33rd; Kids cross the streets frequently. One neighbor on 3100 Shepherd Street almost became a tragedy due to speeding. She received injuries and is at home healing.

The City Manager has assured that the number of signatures required, which is 60% of the people on the block, have been obtained.

Councilwoman Thompson thanks the residents for bringing this issue up. She believes it deserves attention. Mayor Miles will have the Chief review it.

Complete Streets

It is a new program for the area to make the streets safer and compatible for residents of all ages and types of transformation. Through the program, the streets are no longer seen as a place for cars. The City of Mount Rainier has been requested to pass a resolution that accepts the concept of complete streets. A workshop was held in the Greenbelt Municipal Center for this program.

FY2015 Budget

Councilman Christopherson: Are we going to adopt 254,000 for the highways. Is that paid for with taxes or reserve money? Are we taking salaries out of the reserves? How much is that going to increase taxes?

Councilman Christopherson thinks the police department budget of \$13,000 for capital improvement projects is insufficient. The Chief of Police requested several capital improvement projects that he feels the city needs to do, including completing the basement renovation, constructing a fitness room wall, replacing the training room carpet, and structural repairs. Those four items cost \$16,200. The parking lot at the Police Station also needs to be replaced (an estimated \$15,000). The councilman is considering a green parking lot. The chief requested security cameras for FY2016 but the councilman feels that is too long to wait because there has been vandalism at the Police department parking lot. It will cost \$16,600 for a new security system. Also, the police department needs a written promotions test, which will cost \$1,000. The total amount requested is 48, 200.

Councilwoman Thompson asserts that with the budget we have, we will have to prioritize our issues. The streets have not been done for years and that is a major budgetary priority.

Councilman Bolin feels these improvements are all good priorities for the police, but he feels any capital investment should go towards the stations roof problem. There have been stop-gap repairs on the roof but it has not been fully completed.

Councilwoman Thompson communicates that all the department buildings need money for repairs.

Mayor Miles is not in favor of putting up a structural wall for the fitness room at this time. The roof is a priority for her. The public works station has been in disrepair for twenty years. The police station building is a semi-new building. At public works, the showers for the men are not repaired. Any capital improvements in the city would be put into public works because there have not been any. She is for solving the parking lot issue. She suggests finding a grant for that. The security cameras are a priority. The funding can be pulled out of a contingency fund.

Councilman Bolin relates that some of the public spaces within the Police Department need touch up and believes the city should write a grant to do a green parking lot.

Motion to re-budget \$16,600 to improve the security system, \$13,500 for two additional vehicles and \$1,000 for a written test.

Councilman Christopherson

No second

Motion to remove \$1,100 from the City budget for iPads

Councilman Christopherson

No Second

Councilman Bolin talks about the greater utility with the iPad device to share information and discuss via the internet.

Councilman Bolin supports spending the money for the Economic Development position.

\$254,000 is now budgeted for capital outlay. Councilwoman Thompson explains that some streets have been in disrepair for 20 years, this is a priority the City needs to tackle now.

Councilman Christopherson supports improvement of the streets, but we need to have the right mix of financing. Will we pay it with all taxes or take some money from the contingency fund?

Councilman Bolin supports taking \$100,000 out of the contingency fund. Councilwoman Thompson supports cutting the Code Enforcement position.

Mayor Miles and Councilman Bolin are interested in forming partnerships with the Utility companies. Some streets like Bunker Hill only needed part of the street done, but they did the whole one. Mayor Miles states that the city will go after CDBG funds again.

Mayor Miles is opposed to the \$254,000 out of the contingency fund. Councilwoman Thompson states that the money will be used to match funds.

Councilman Bolin endorses a CIP resolution to show how the funding will be put to use. We should look at each project on a case by case basis instead of picking an amount to set aside. He wants to see if we can get resources from the state. He suggests the general CIP to be 65 year to year and have a separate resolution for how we want to pursue the roads. The city needs to have a road policy.

The Council supports allocating \$130,000 for this line item instead of the \$254,000.

Councilman Bolin and Councilman Christopherson are in favor of increasing taxes. Councilwoman Thompson does not agree to raise taxes by \$0.02 each year. That is a piecemeal approach. She is also weary that once the city raises it, it will not bring the rate down.

Mayor Miles and Councilwoman Thompson are not in favor of a tax increase. Mayor Miles suggests letting the businesses carry more of the load for improving the streets instead of the residents.

Councilman Christopherson suggests \$100,000 for capital improvements. Councilman Bolin, Councilwoman Thompson, and Mayor Miles support keeping capital improvements at \$130,000.

Motion to leave work session and move to a special Meeting to address the reading and approval of Ordinance 6-2014 and Resolution 6-2014.

Councilman Bolin
2nd Councilwoman Thompson
Vote 3-1

Special Meeting

Resolution 6-2014 (1st Reading)

A resolution authorizing the project by the redevelopment authority to purchase and redevelop the 3300 Block of Rhode Island Avenue based on the grant from the Neighborhood Revitalization program

Ordinance 4-2014 (2nd and Final Reading)

An ordinance establishing the tax rate adopting the annual budget and appropriating funds for FY2015 beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015.

Capital Improvements Outlay was reduced by \$124,000, leaving \$159,600 for that line item.

Councilwoman Thompson
2nd Councilman Bolin
Vote 3-1

**Motion to adjourn at
Councilman Bolin
2nd Councilwoman Thompson
Vote 4-0**

Mayor Miles: Senior Program Grant was signed. Several events will be planned for the upcoming weeks. She asks that anyone interested in the events contact her.