



**Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier Maryland
City Council Meeting**

Date: 5-6-2014

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: None

Staff: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, City Treasurer Vijay Manjani,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

MNCPPC- Robert Walker

Mayor and Council Reports

City Department Reports

Special Work Session

New Business

Ordinance 3-14

Budget Ordinance

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Councilwoman Thompson

2nd Councilman Christopherson

Motion to Approve the Minutes

Councilwoman Thompson

2nd Councilman Tarlau

Robert Walker – MNCPPC

- On April 19th, the Spring Greening Fair was held
- MNCPPC will have a table at Mount Rainier Day

Ward I

Councilman Christopherson (No new reports at this time)

Councilman Tarlau

- Open Studio Tours will be held this Saturday from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Mount Rainier Manor is planning a new addition. Councilman Tarlau and residents went to a hearing a few weeks ago to voice opinions on the site plan.
- Some of the senior citizens need help cutting their lawns.

Mayor Miles: The Department of Aging promised \$5,000. The city treasurer will send out a letter this week to draw down \$2,500. We will create a list of people who need help with their lawns.

Ward II

Councilwoman Thompson:

- Thomas Stone Elementary School Career Day will be held Friday, May 23, 2014.
- The Farmer's Market begins the 1st Saturday in June

Councilman Bolin

- On April 10th, with the assistance of the City Manager and City Clerk, Councilman Bolin hosted a workshop with Smart Growth America on Complete Streets. It is about making streets safer for bikers, kids and pedestrians.
- On April 28th, he went to Baltimore with Steve Paul from the redevelopment authority. They had a press conference for the governor at the Smart Growth Awards. They received from the redevelopment authority almost \$500,000 towards the purchase of the Singer Building from the State.
- He just did a walk-through of the Singer Building with the redevelopment authority. There are a lot of ideas for the space. He is against a tear down. Proposals will be due in June.
- Street sense has lined up an equity investor. The council is hoping for a conversation before the summer recess.
- The Green Team is going to be cancelled this month. Last month, it hosted the plant swap and community greening event.

Mayor

- May 15th - **Mount Rainier Elementary Career Day**
- Thomas Stone Elementary is rebuilding and developing a PTO for the school. They are inviting anyone who might be interested. Membership is \$5.00. The contact person is Michelle Brown.
- May 17th **Mount Rainier Day**. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. There will be a new bus service that will circle the City all day long. At the events, the army drill team will be performing after the parade, souvenir cups will be passed out, and Pepsi cola will be providing drinks.
- May 17th - **"Take the Kids to the Park Day"** will be hosted at the Park on 36th St.
- St. John's Episcopal Anglican Church celebrated the 95th Birthday of Ms. Estelle Miller
- Food Pantry Community Committee – located at the Mt. Rainier Christian Church- plan to give food out at least once a week as needed.
- On May 17th- canned goods will be collected for the Food Pantry all day long. A 42 in. color LED television will be raffled off at \$5 per tickets. Must be present to win. Between \$10 and \$25 gift cards that you can go to the store and use will be raffled for \$1.00.
- May 16th- **Peace Day Parade for Mt. Rainier Elementary** will start at 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday, May 18th 5:00 -7:00 p.m.- **Street Corner Supper Commodore Communitario** - Bunker Hill Road between 34th and 33rd St. Bring yourself and your family, your favorite dish to share, your plate, fork and cup. This is sponsored by enthusiastic neighbors, Mount Rainier Christian Church, Food Pantry, Joe's Movement Emporium, Trinity Lutheran Church, Little friends for Peace and More. This event is to increase hunger awareness and for neighbors to get to know one another.
- May 10th , 4:00-8:00 p.m.- A cookout will be held at the Mayor's house outside
- The Council will be meeting with the seniors at St. John's tomorrow at 5:30pm to address senior needs.
- The community garden will have some plots left over.

- The city is working on the potholes. For the last three weeks I have been trying to get a meeting with WSSC and Washington Gas to see what is going on.

City Manager's Report

- City Manager Jeannelle Wallace cites the **Arbor Day Proclamation**. The Council declares May 17, 2014 as Arbor Day and asks residents to honor it by either planting a tree or maintaining the health of existing trees.
- Has received 27 resumes for the Assistant City Manager Position. The deadline is May 15th.
- Has received a grant agreement asking for signatures from the Department of Housing and Community Development for the construction of the Bio-retention cell on Buchanan St. in the amount of \$120,000. The city will move forward with advertising for an RFP once signatures from the state are received.
- The next round of funding from Community Legacy is coming.
- There are residential vacant properties in the city. The properties need to be deemed condemned for a year before proceeding with court adjudication.
- Met with economic developers in Prince George's County. Had questions for them about salary and staff.
- States Attorney is going to work with the City to get officers training on proper procedures and coordination of court dates.
- Will have a discussion with City Treasurer about Affordable Care Act Compliance
- Have received approximately \$21,000 for property tax liens from people who have not been in compliance with abatements and vacant properties.

Chief Scott's Report

- In the month of April, crime was down 8% compared to 2013.
- The number of crimes reported is the lowest in the last 10 years.
- Most of crimes have to do with theft, mostly motor-vehicle related.
- Officers handled 916 calls for police service.
- 81 calls for suspicious persons
- Impounded 25 motor-vehicles.
- One officer is out until the end of June due a broken foot.
- Captain Clemens, a former Mount Rainier Police Officer in the 60's, was buried at Fort Lincoln cemetery last Saturday alongside his brother.
- Citations are electronic and filed with the state through the e-citation program.
- Officer Paul Corridean coordinated for the Army drill team to come to Mount Rainier Day.

Department of Public Works- Michael Barnes

- Purchased 60 compost bins. To receive one, you pay \$20.00 at city hall and take the receipt to public works.
- New regulations at the county yard ways plant state that they are not taking any plastic bags anymore. You may use paper bags or trash bins.
- The city banner came in today and will be up this week.

Public Comment

A resident has had an injury recently and she needs help with getting her grass cut.

New Business

**Ordinance 3-2014 (1st Reading)
Amends Chapter 3 Building Code, Chapter 7 Licenses and Permits, and Chapter 11 Refuse
Collection of the Mount Rainier Code.**

Permit Fees

For new construction, alteration, and repair of \$10,000 or less, except as provided in other sections in the chapter, the charge for a building permit is \$100 plus 50% of the Prince George County permit for new construction regardless of the estimated costs. For installation and construction of a new fence on a property with a single street address, the charge for the permit fee is \$35. A maintenance repair or repair of the existing fence does not require a permit, provided that the height of the fence is in compliance with city code.

Business License and registration fees

The Business license fee is \$100.00. If the license is revoked, reinstatement is also \$100.00
Yard sale fee is \$25.00 and valid for two consecutive days. News rack and public pay phone language are being removed. One rental unit in a multi-family dwelling will be the same as a single family dwelling unit, that is, \$100 per unit per year. Public works is sending out invoices for annual collection of fees for multi-family units of 4 or less. Residents were previously invoiced quarterly.

Councilman Bolin is in favor of all the raises for fees except for the Yard sale fee. The yard sale fee will remain at \$5.00.

Councilman Christopherson: Why are we billing in advance for multi-use trash collection?
The City Manager and Mayor Miles communicate that billing once a year as opposed to four times a year is easier to manage.

Councilman Tarlau: With the permit for construction, \$100.00 seems steep for small construction.
City Manager Wallace: This fee fits the range of projects.

A second meeting will be held to discuss this on the 1st Tuesday in June.

Councilman Bolin discusses inappropriate places to put campaign signs up, including right of ways and commercial corners.

Mayor and Council will attend the Maryland Municipal League Convention in June 2014. This year the theme was "Community Engagement Gets It Done." The City Manager submitted an application for the Award of Excellence competition and the City of Mount Rainier won an award for its Green Team efforts.

Motion to recess from Public Session and move into a work session to discuss the establishment of an economic development committee and the FY2015 proposed budget.

Councilman Bolin

2nd Councilman Christopherson

Vote 4-0

Economic Development Commission

Councilman Christopherson suggests this implementation to help the prospective economic development staffer. This item will be added to the work session for this month.

City Treasurer Manjani discusses the salary options for the Assistant City Manager and Director of Code Enforcement position; and provides a summary of the FY2015 Budget.

Councilman Bolin favors 4th scenario where the assistant city manager position is broken in two. One deals with economic development and the other deals with code enforcement. It is not economically prudent to support three positions in this economy.

Councilwoman Thompson agrees with having two positions but not the breakdown of time and attention to economic development and code enforcement that is provided in scenario 4.

Councilman Christopherson agrees with the 4th scenario

Councilman Tarlau agrees with Councilman Bolin

Mayor Miles believes that the city should have an economic developer and assistant city manager position but not the director of Code Enforcement position. Code enforcement should fall under the director of public works.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace discusses the issue of ownership in regards to economic development. The city does not own any properties, so it cannot control what businesses come into the city. A separate position for an economic director will cause more work, not reduce it so she supports having a joint assistant city manager and economic development manager position. She would like to fill the Assistant City Manager Position and Code Enforcement director position.

Mayor Miles reminds the council that the city can only do economic development through the city's buildings. In regards to storefronts, owners need incentives. The first thing the council needs to do is create a strategic plan.

The council is allocating \$200,000 for two staff positions; an economic development position and assistant city manager who will supervise code enforcement.

Motion to move from work session to the general public meeting

Councilman Tarlau

2nd Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 4-0

Budget Ordinance

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

Councilman Bolin believes in increasing the tax rate to balance the budget and reduce the amount taken out of the reserves.

Mayor Miles: We can create a special taxing district for our economic development areas. My idea is to get it in the budget and then talk about the possibilities.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 9:30 p.m.
Councilwoman Thompson
2nd Councilman Tarlau
Vote 4-0