



Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier

Mayor and Council Meeting

Date: 10-15-2013

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: None

Agenda

Moved by Councilman Tarlau

Second by Councilman Bolin

Vote 4-0

Announcements

Councilman Bolin: the Green Team will meet at City Hall on 10-21-2013 at 7: pm

On Tuesday Bladensburg Community Center one week from now @ 6:30 with the Rain Check Rebate Program

Wednesday October 23rd, 2013 @ 4:30 pm there is a ground for an extension of the trolley trail at 6100 Rhode Island Avenue Riverdale MD.

November 4th there is a bike friendly meeting at Hyattsville MD Library.

Councilman Tarlau: MRBA is holding a soup night On October 16th 2013. The particulars are forth coming.

Mayor Miles:

On 10-25-2013 the Gateway CDC Membership Drive will be held at our Mount Rainier Police Station from 6-8: pm

October 31st, 2013 is Fright Night being held at 4517 30th Street.

November 10th, 2013 is our Veterans Day Program at Star Potts Hall.

Mayor Miles: The city received a grant from the secretary at Maryland Department of Aging in the amount of \$5000.00 to kick off our seniors program. I would like to meet with residents in their homes and our residents in the multi-family units.

The 34th Street Pavement Project

Of the 4000 blk. of 34th Street to Rhode Island Avenue the Washington Gas Company will pave only one half of the street. The offer has been made to join them in paving the entire street from above one of our clothing stores Nisey's in the 4000 blk. of 34th Street down to Rhode Island Ave.

We didn't budget for that but it's an opportunity to reduce our cost and end up with a brand new street. The Mayor feels it's worth the investment for the city to consider doing this.

Councilman Tarlau is in support of the project. Councilwoman Thompson says they initially talked about storm water mitigation for that area.

Councilman Bolin:

Brent agrees with Councilwoman Thompson on the storm water drain but they have a contract rate and pay a certain amount to pave there half of the street.

Ordinance 9-2013 (residential parking permit)

Councilman Tarlau wants to amend the permits and the Mayor feels we need to give this more discussion.

Chief Scott does not feel that the multi-family units should be monitored by the Police Department and the parking spaces belong to Kay-wood Apartment Complex and it's their responsibility to manage it. Arundel Road parking is taken by the multi-family units and the residential residents have nowhere to park.

Councilman Bolin:

Eight months a year there are parking lots being leased for overflow parking.

Bryan Knedler – Ex- Mayor

You're baiting a specific instance which isn't on the table yet. You are debating something that's not on table because you haven't set up the process yet.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

The misconception is it's going to guarantee you a space and it doesn't and you can't favor one group of people and not the other.

Councilman Bolin:

We don't want to take on managing the apartment dwellers sites on parking.

Mayor Miles wants processes in place first and the ordinance for parking goes back on the agenda.

Ordinance 11-2013 (Wearable Body Camera)

Mayor Miles:

Our attorney has not responded to us on most of this.

Chief Scott does not want to debate the ACLU's recommendations will leave it to the attorney. Retention of records for three months is dangerous to do for us. If we let the evidence go to soon we would have nothing to refute claims.

Councilman Christopherson:

Would it be within the city government's purview to pass an ordinance that says you only have three months to file a complaint?

Chief Scott:

No, that's governed by state law.

Councilman Christopherson:

I'm happy with the issues that are being raised and policies are getting flushed out. I feel we can have an ordinance by the next meeting.

Councilman Tarlau:

Will an ordinance that we pass reference the general orders and it is referenced in Ordinance 11-2013. What is the procedure for changing the general orders?

Chief Scott:

The review process is every year, they look at what's being presented.

Directional Signs

Chief Scott:

What would the cost be?

Mayor Miles:

There is a consensus on purchasing signs and Councilman Bolin will work on that.

Chief Scott:

Should we work on making our police station more visible from the road?

Signage is assigned to Councilman Christopherson.

Ordinance 12-2013

Councilman Bolin:

The park at 34th and Upshur is in bad condition and unsafe. I called Park and Planning and they put in a work ticket.

Mayor Miles has asked for a maintenance park schedule and she also mentioned for problems please call Kaseem Baker at 301-864-1611.

Chief Scott:

Most patrol resources are to regional parks and often well used parks.

Councilman Tarlau:

Get some numbers to neighbors for them to call Park and Planning.

Chief Scott says we need a park watch sign put up.

Ordinance 12-2013

Councilman Christopherson:

Changes – Restriction – you have to submit a written request for a tree impact assessment to the city manager if they want to do certain activities within 50 feet of an urban forest tree.

There is a permit restriction if homeowner wants to trim more than 10% of their own tree and we are changing that to 30%.

The plan is to keep the roadside tree expert position as it is now except in cases where we are making a determination whether a resident can cut down a tree on their property and with those request you must contact the city arborist.

Bryan Knedler:

My biggest concern is the way this is written and may require the city to hire an arborist and I feel that will lock you in. Mr. Knedler is a roadside tree expert.

Confusion with public vs. private trees.

Section 12-B-12 – Permit approval Section

It appears the city manager must post a notice for a pruning situation. The pruning and removal permit into one section. This was done by one of the city lawyers. Pruning should be in one section and removal in another.

Bryan Knedler:

We appreciate the work that Ken Sigman has done. He's added a fee for tree permits and assessments. I don't know about enforcement on the trimming part.

Councilman Tarlau:

If an arborist says no to cutting down a tree in your yard then are you saying that you would need a permit?

Councilman Christopherson:

It would depend on the size of the tree. Section 12-B-9 elaborates on what trees are protected.

Councilman Bolin:

What level of trees are we getting at?

Mayor Miles doesn't feel that the city should tell people when or if they can cut down trees.

Councilman Christopherson:

We should set criteria for cutting down trees.

Councilman Tarlau:

I am not in agreement with telling residents that they can't cut down their trees.

Bryan Knedler:

One solution is to up the size of the tree and we should look at the original on this.

City committees will send quarterly reports.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

The Council will receive a draft agenda on the 4th Tuesday a week before the meeting and the final agenda will be issued on Friday by the close of business.

Councilman Christopherson: Rules and Regulations

I suggest that the rules and regulations be voted on for the next agenda.

I think we should specify whether Councilmember's should be on boards and commissions.

Do we want Councilmember's to be on Boards and Commissions?

Councilman Tarlau:

Are we prohibiting people from being on Committees?

Mayor Miles:

When councilmember's are elected to serve as councilmember's or Mayor they will lose their appointed position on any commission, advisory board or board but may serve as a liaison.

On page 7&8 on membership on advisory board at the very bottom strike that paragraph.

Typo on pg. 9

Change the word make to may.

Councilman Bolin:

Brent thinks we should keep it because it covers them on whether or not they have a quorum.

Mayor Miles:

One third of members present will constitute a quorum.

Pg. 14 the third paragraph etc. should be struck and put in all income.

Motion to adjourn

Councilman Bolin

Second Councilman Christopherson

Vote 4-0

