



Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier
Mayor & Council Meeting and Work-Session

Date: October 2nd, 2012

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Malinda Miles

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

Councilmember's absent: None

Staff present:

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Assistant City Manager Michael Jackson, Chief Michael Scott

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

Motion to approve agenda

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Motion to review minutes with corrections to the clerk by close of business 10-5-2012

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Ward I Report

Councilman Tarlau is looking for homes for the house tour and needs to coordinate dates with Mount Rainier Business Association. The Brentwood MD and Mount Rainier runners group is trying to schedule along with maybe Mount Rainier Youth and Recreation Committee a 5 K run and a one mile walk. This should happen in the spring.

Ward II Report

Councilwoman Thompson:

The farmers market will continue through the end of October. Councilwoman Thompson received an employee fellowship to travel to Germany this month and her stay will be for 10 days.

Councilman Bolin is thanking people for the cleanup of Mount Rainier and the resources they provided. A service that is available is the Master Watershed Steward program.

Ward I

Councilman Updike: We are one of four in the state certified as a Sustainable MD Certified Municipality. We received 280 points more than any other municipality. The city received a grant to do a green infrastructure plan. The Tool Shed and Bike Co-op received their shed for that property which will allow them to clean up the property. We are kicking off our first community garden at 31st and Arundel Rd. For community garden information please call Joe Robbins.

City Manager Report

We are having problems with people responding with quote about the bike share program. We spoke with someone in Canada whose goal is to implement bike share programs in smaller cities. They are the company that has done most of the programs in the country.

Councilman Updike:

Is this company different from the one in DC?

City Manager:

Yes, they turned us down.

Councilman Tarlau:

Can we have a partnership with another town?

City Manager:

Yes

Mayor Miles suggest that we come up with some other ways of addressing it and see what the other possibilities are and provide it to the staff.

Chief Scott:

Is the biggest expense the bikes?

City Manager:

No, it's the docking stations.

Mayor Miles:

We have \$25,000.00 that we need to do something with within a year with regard to bike sharing. Put it on the next work-session.

City Manager:

I received an invitation from Neighborhood Development and Street Sense hosted a reception at Georgia and Lamont Street on the green roof. Mike and I attended and it was nice. The city is preparing for our audit. We lost a laborer /driver from our public works department and we have advertised for that position.

Councilwoman Thompson:

The Rhode Island Avenue development would like to have a special meeting to have a vote and I would like to be present if that vote occurs. I don't feel as though the vote should continue to be delayed. I will request that we have a special session next week Tuesday or Wednesday for a vote prior to my leaving.

Councilman Updike is asking for an update on abatements on the singer building.

City Manager:

The abatements are to correct the code violations such as roof, windows and boarding doors. We have received a final approval on the city abating the conditions from the court and we will follow up on that.

Luther Smith Director of Public Works Report

The electronic pick-up is on 12-29-2012, the two trees on Wells Avenue were taken care of by me and it saved us from hiring a contractor. Public Works will be able to get water to the community garden without running a line. WSSC says you need a Plummer and they won't do it.

Councilman Bolin:

You can buy a large plastic cistern of several hundred gallons. You can get them on Craig's list.

Luther: I need to know when they want it sit up.

Councilman Tarlau:

The area that's next to the skate park at 37th and Otis Street maybe we could do a garden there. Its county owned and they said they would partner with the city. The Youth & Recreation Committee is interested in putting a garden there.

Councilman Updike wants the council to take a look at compose units and it will save the city money. He would like a letter sent to the county about being more serious about recycling and composting.

Chief Scott:

The crime stats are down for the month of September. This is the lowest total in over 10 years. Staffing is down by five. The generator is up and running. This provides service when bad weather hits and we lose power. We have reduced crime about 54% since 2004.

Councilman Tarlau:

The officers say the working conditions are the reason why they continue to stay with the city and because of Chief Scott.

City Manager:

I would like to give shouts to Mike Jackson and Michael Barnes for working hard to get the generator in the police station.

Councilman Bolin:

My thoughts go towards developing a storm water restoration program. I will follow up with a bill passed this year. In the general assembly, house bill 987. It requires certain counties to develop a storm water restoration program. It sets up a funding mechanism to generate income to deal with storm water infrastructure. This gives you some means to deal with run off in neighborhoods, inadequate drainage, and wet basements. Municipalities can choose to go with the county or do their own program. It's a fee system for property owners.

Mayor Miles:

Meet with DER and make a decision on what we will do. Councilman Bolin will follow up.

Councilman Updike:

If we go with the county give the fee they charge to the residents or back to the municipality to implement projects.

Mayor Miles:

We have to make the decision or you will automatically be in. Questions on this will be sent to Brent and me. Let's go and meet with them next week Monday or Tuesday.

Brook Kidd:

The citizens paint project was supported by morethan100 volunteers. They came out and supported the paint project on the funeral home located at Eastern Avenue and Rhode Island Avenue. We have received a national endowment for the art grant to do more work. The project is called Art lives here. This project will be an initiative to the Mount Rainier Town Center. This project has a big marketing component. We plan to have a community forum in mid November to get ideas on where we could paint and what it would look like. We will select a location and put out a R.F.P. for the process out.

Mayor Miles

Do you have any dates in mind for executing the projects?

Brook Kidd:

Concentrated efforts will be February through June.

Councilman Tarlau:

Can you do some of the painting in the northern side of the city?

Brook Kidd:

Yes

Ordinance 4-2012 2nd reading Amending chapter 1-D Ethics of the Mount Rainier Code. Minor changes were made and are indicated in the ordinance.

Motion to approve

Councilman Updike

Second Councilman Bolin

Vote4-0

Resolution10—2012 1st read. City to approve the application and financing for strategic demolition and smart growth impact fund project in Mount Rainier.

Motion to approve

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Motion to adjourn Council meeting and move to Work-Session

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0

Work-Session

Parking Restrictions

Mount Rainier resident Ed Scott is addressing the parking problem on 37th Street. This has been a big problem for the residents on 37th Street. What's the reason for the loss of parking spaces?

City Manager:

A request was made from residents at 37th Street and Shepherd to install a no parking sign a couple of years ago.

Councilman Tarlau:

How much parking has been restricted?

The Mayor instructs Captain Stoots to work with the Fire Department and give the Council an idea of what works on the parking situation on 37th Street.

Councilwoman Thompson:

I would like for the Council to consider crime free rental housing that I am proposing. The police department is entertaining the idea and the program. Officer Murphy is doing the research. This is a program for multifamily units that keep illegal activity out of rental properties.

Councilman Updike:

The materials are very impressive and it has a lot of potential.

The Mayor doesn't care for the idea and Councilman Tarlau agrees with Malinda.

Mayor Miles:

There are some down sides to this and the down sides have been used to keep certain elements out of apartment complexes and housing developments and I want to move slowly on this.

Chief Scott:

All three of our apartment complexes have clauses in their leases that address some of the illegal activity.

Councilwoman Thompson:

To date this has not been used in a negative way.

Mayor Miles:

We need to look at how it will be used

Councilman Updike:

I think there is a way to do it in a respectable way.

Councilman Tarlau:

I want to have a committee in the city charged with coordinating information. A community service committee who knows how to help with utilities down and with fires of resident homes.

Councilman Updike:

I suggest a community lottery and I will look into this more. I know of other places that have done this and it was successful.

Mayor Miles feels we need to get a resource guide out to our residents.

Councilman Tarlau will revise his suggestion about the committee and bring back to the council.

Bike Co-op

Mayor Miles:

The bike co-op needs a new sign and they need to clean up the property. They signed a MOU. Some restrictions need to be put on the co-op and also states that this is not an all-night facility.

Councilman Updike suggest that if there is money left over from the façade program then maybe we can use that towards putting up a sign.

Mayor Miles feels that bike co-op should buy their sign with no help from the city.

Councilman Tarlau:

The city should have an emergency preparedness committee. We should revitalize the committee and go over the plan.

Mayor Miles:

The Council needs to talk about the chain of command and where it will be. We need to talk about specific pieces of this plan

Councilman Tarlau:

I will work with the Chief on this.

Councilman Updike:

Motion to have the first meeting in November changed to the 8th of November.

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 4-0

We will have meeting on October 4th, 2012 to receive plans from developers and will have a meeting on October 9th, 2012 to vote on the development project.

Motion to adjourn

Councilwoman Thompson

Second Councilman Tarlau

Vote 4-0

Meeting adjourned