



## **Minutes for the City of Mount Rainier**

### **Mayor and Council Work-Session**

Date: 11-20-2012

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier Maryland 20712

Presiding officer: Vice Mayor William Updike

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

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace

Agenda

Follow up on the Police Task Force

Move to adopt

Councilman Tarlau

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0

MRTV makes a presentation on the duties and the activities and equipment of the department.

Presentation is given by the department director Graciela Carbonell.

Ranti and Joseph Akiyode

This couple is before the council to ask for the use of building 3299 Queens Chapel Road as a church and a day care center. They feel that one of the concerns of the city not wanting a church at that location is the church doesn't pay taxes and think that they are being penalized for that. Mrs. Akiyode spoke of other benefits to the community by having the church and it will also provide employment opportunities to city residents.

Councilwoman Thompson:

Are you buying or renting?

Mrs. Akiyode: We will start off renting.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

The site is not currently a permitted use for a church. Park and Planning will be looking to the city council to support this church being in the city or not.

Councilman Updike:

Are you currently at a location now and what's motivating you to move?

Mrs. Akiyode:

Yes, we are now in Hyattsville and space is the motivation to move.

Vice Mayor Updike

The council will reflect on what you said and make a decision on how we will proceed.

Councilwoman Thompson:

Would you consider having the day care if the church is not a permitted use?

Mrs. Akiyode: No

Mr. Adrienne Washington = Neighborhood Development

Mr. Guy Silverman = Street Sense

What are the next steps?

City Manager/Jeannelle Wallace

The Council needs to sit with the attorneys and staff and talk about priorities such as green elements. We need to look at the finance part of it.

Do we have retail potential tenants lined up? And we need to nail down the kind of support the county will provide.

Councilman Updike:

How do we see our rolls and who is the point of contact? I prefer the city manager as the point of contact.

City Manager:

We need Vijay to prepare a financial statement and we can set up a priority list to define what they want.

Councilman Updike:

When will this list happen? What is the time line?

Councilman Tarlau:

This should be a discussion among the council.

The city manager will make a list of the critical issues the council will present.

Councilman Bolin:

Is it useful to get this done or do we wait until the engineering studies are done?

Mr. Washington:

It's important for us to have a process and figure out what we are going to build there.

Jeannelle Wallace:

We need to have a meeting with the county and find out what their real commitments are in writing. Vijay myself and Mike will come up with some things from our perspective on what we feel needs to be ironed out and tweak it at the next meeting.

Councilman Tarlau:

What do you see as a general time line?

Gary Silverman:

We would like to deliver the project in 2015 and there are some variables which part of it is the design. The zoning is also a big process. One of the wild cards is the county in terms of how fast they move and how fast is the commitment. The end of 2015 we would like to have it completed. The next step is the contract and the meeting with the county.

Invasive plants- Bamboo

Jan:

In year 2010 Takoma Park MD made some changes with invasive plants. Bamboo in Takoma Park is undesirable vegetation. Things that spread like bamboo is invasive which is a class c infraction. If not corrected than the city will correct it and in College Park it is to prohibit the spread of bamboo onto adjoining properties and provide a penalty for violation. In College Park enforcement is complaint driven. Jan is explaining the problems with the spread of bamboo. One of the options in containing is to clear cut it.

Councilman Updike:

I'd like to see the following.

1. Banning the planting of bamboo
2. Requiring people to cut it back
3. Full mitigation

Councilwoman Thompson:

For those who don't want it we need to address it.

City Manager:

We can expand upon what's in the code and include bamboo.

Councilman Updike:

We can start an education process now and move forward with an ordinance.

The next step is to talk to Takoma Park and College Park about their experience with bamboo. We need a draft ordinance and we will have a draft ordinance in January.

Councilman Tarlau wants to get a list of resources out to the residents.

Councilman Tarlau wants to take another look at this program and Councilman Bolin wants more details about the program.

Councilwoman Thompson suggest a program that ask residents to move if someone in their apartment is convicted of a crime.

Councilman Updike is in favor of the idea and feels the program would be successful.

Move to adjourn

Councilman Bolin

Second Councilwoman Thompson

Vote 3-0