



## **Minutes for City of Mount Rainier Mayor and Council Council Meeting and Public Hearing**

**Date: 6-5-2012**

**Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD**

**Presiding officer: Mayor Miles**

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

**Councilmember's absent: none**

**Staff present:**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, City Treasurer Vijay Manjani City Clerk Janis Lomax**

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm**

**Vijay Manjani:**

**The budget was submitted on 3-5-12 and the tax rate for the last seven years is 0.79. There are two positions to be eliminated.**

**Resident Sarah Lilly 3200 block of Upshur Street disagrees with raising taxes and suggest the city get a traffic camera and use the revenues from that.**

**Resident Lorenzo Reyes 3212 Upshur Street does not agree with raising taxes and feels that Code Enforcement should live in the city.**

**Resident Mindy Connolly does not agree with the tax increase.**

**Resident Mary Jean Hayes 4300 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Street wants to keep the taxes as is. Do we have employees at City Hall that don't need to there? I don't think that we should cut the police.**

**Resident Marilyn Mowatt 4400 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Street doesn't want taxes raised and feels the city doesn't need Code Enforcement and the city bought a street sweeper that they don't need.**

**Resident Cleveland Richards says maybe cut one code officer and have a one cent increase instead of two for taxes.**

**Resident Amy Callmer 3714 36<sup>th</sup> Street speaks in favor of the tax increase.**

**Resident Barry Francis 3001 Upshur Street has mixed feelings about an increase and worried about those who can't pay. What other options are being looked at. Tell us what other creative options you checked. What is the commercial sector doing?**

**Resident Valerie Silensky 4100 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Street bought her house in 2005 and her house is worth less. Are the investment properties doing their fair share?**

**Phillip Koop man 4200 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Street is considering contesting his tax assessments.**

**Larry Solomon 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue feels the taxes impacts commercial owners as well. The city is losing money on property bought a year ago.**

**Resident Gwen Eldridge 4200 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Street wants to have a Wawa in the city and need to grow our commercial base.**

**Resident Karen Simmons 3800 33<sup>rd</sup> Street says the city needs more businesses and encourages everyone to check their assessments. This is a great place to live and will be happy to pay an extra two cents.**

**Resident Josephine Smith 29<sup>th</sup> Street says that seniors can't afford an increase and they are against it.**

**Captain Stoots:**

**Red light cameras need approval from the state and the city was denied. There is a restriction on speed cameras with how many you can have and where you can put them. They must be within a ½ mile of a school and speed cameras are for safety and not for revenue. A lot of the money goes back to the state from speed cameras.**

**Carol Gandee former Councilmember is not in favor of an increase and suggest the city go paper less and look harder at the budget and find cuts.**

**Vijay Manjani Treasurer:**

**I looked at other cities of our size and the scope is limited looking into residential rentals. WE are highly dense.**

**Mayor Miles:**

**We can't really comment on the amount of resources used by the apartment buildings. This is something we will look at.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:**

**Speaking to the abandon and vacant properties the city has difficulty contacting the property owners to get them to take care of their properties.**

**Motion to close Public Forum  
Councilwoman Ivy Thompson  
Second Councilman Brent Bolin  
Vote 4-0**

## **Council Meeting**

**Moved to approve agenda  
Councilman William Updike  
Second Councilman Brent Bolin**

**Ward II Councilwoman Thompson  
Parks & Recreation, keep your eyes open for meetings with Parks and Recreation.**

**Ward II Councilman Brent Bolin:  
The city has received three proposals for development on Rhode Island Avenue.**

**Ward I Councilman Jimmy Tarlau:  
I would like to have a meeting in two weeks to talk about the budget and there is a yard sale on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2012 @ 9-1: pm being held at the Fire Department. The \$5.00 fee will be waived. We are looking for homes to put in our house tour in October.**

**Ward I Councilman Updike:  
We are getting close to getting Mount Rainier certified and Mount Rainier Day was a good day.**

**Mayor Miles:  
The last peace parade is for Janet Reed who is the principal for Mount Rainier Elementary School and Helen Smith will leave Thomas Stone School as principal and we wish you well.  
National Night Out will be held at 37<sup>th</sup> and Otis Street on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 the first Tuesday in August.**

**City Manager Report:  
Mount Rainier Business Shops survey is on the table please take one and fill out and return to me or Nisey Baylor at Nisey's Boutique. We are still receiving complaints about Pepco. The project will be an 8 month project and they are trying to replace all poles. We have good press coming from DC Mud. Go to our website and type it in.**

**Public Works Director Luther Smith:  
We are working on the rat problem that we have. Our workers are eliminating food and water, putting mesh and concrete in some of the tree boxes to keep the rats away.**

**Captain Stoots:  
We have a decrease in crime.**

**City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:  
I will set up a meeting with the transit officers about the urinating and other things.**

**Ashley Herbert 3100 Webster Street offers her services from the nature center.**

**Councilman Updike will be Vice Mayor as of June 1, 2012.**

**Ashley Herbert 3100 Webster Street introduces herself to the Mayor & Council and offers her services as Supervisor of the Mount Rainier Nature Center.**

**Tyrese Robinson Chair of Youth & Recreations Committee**

**The Youth & Recreation Committee was reinstated 10 months ago. The committee now has 10 members and we are still looking for a few youth members. The amount requested for fiscal year 2012 is \$7000.00 and the committee voted to award \$4500.00 to the youth and residence of Mount Rainier.**

**Councilman Tarlau suggests we go ahead with the recommendations form the Youth & Recreation Committee.**

**Councilwoman Thompson:**

**Thank you to committee members for good work done. I have issues with the recommendations of awarding funding to the Nature Center and Park& Recreation does have a fee assistance program.**

**Ashley Herbert:**

**Fee assistance is for residence and non-residence fro any camp your kids want to attend. Just bring your tax forms. She feels the Message (City News Booklet) should be bi-lingual.**

**Barbara Johnson from Artworks Now Studio School and their e-mail is Artworksnow.org.**

**Artworks Now is sponsoring three camps starting June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 free for Mount Rainier residents and they have internship options and home schooling programs. We would like to see the city utilize some of these programs that we offer. The cost of the camp is \$150.00 and financial aid forms are available.**

**Valerie a resident of our Mount Rainier community says there is a need for the adult population in this city to have some recreation opportunities and community opportunities.**

**Councilman Tarlau moves to allocate the funds to the Youth & Recreation Committee.**

**Second Councilman Updike**

**Vote 3-0**

**Move to adjourn Councilman Updike**

**Second Councilman Bolin**

**Vote 3-0**