



**Minutes for Mount Rainier
Mayor and Council Work-Session**

Date: 1-18-2011

Place: One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD 20712

Presiding officer: Mayor Miles

Councilmember's present: William Updike, Bryan Knedler, Ivy Thompson and Jimmy Tarlau

Councilmember's absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Scott and Captain Stoots

Meeting called to order @ 7:15 pm

Agenda approved

Councilmember Thompson:

MHAA grant, think about ways to incorporate route 1 in MHAA grant.

Councilmember Tarlau has put in a proposal for the grant.

Speed Camera Revenue

Mayor Miles:

How will the city spend the revenue? The monies raised must be spent on public safety. What can the funding be used for? Anything above 10% of the city budget must go back to the state.

Councilman Tarlau:

Are we talking about this fiscal year?

Mayor Miles:

Yes

Councilman Tarlau:

The money that we have left over is to be spent between now and June.

Councilman Knedler:

We had planned for \$200,000.00 in this year's budget.

Chief Scott:

No, that \$200,000.00 is the priorities that the police department came up with, along with the two priorities that the treasurer came up with and asked me to reserve out of that money. We need money to pay off two existing vehicles in order to get those two loans off the books. The police department projected \$160,000.00 in the budget for this fiscal year.

Councilman Tarlau:

That money is already accounted for, how much above that are we getting in?

Chief Scott:

\$254,425.00 is still available.

Mayor Miles:

What things should we consider as far as public safety?

Councilman Knedler:

We need our back-up generator at the police department fixed. Trash it or get it fixed.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

A generator will cost \$100,000.00 at least.

Chief Scott:

We cannot hire a merit system employee based on a declining source of revenue. We have noticed a reduction in the number of citations. This is not a steady source of income where it would support the addition of staff. We are already claiming to the program ½ of the salary one full time police sergeant, the records manager and an admin. assistant. Each of them spends at least 50% of their working time on the speed camera program. Under the guidelines of the state that can be considered an expense to run the program and it's deductible from what we owe the state over and above 10% of our budget.

Mayor Miles:

Can we consider a contract officer? Can we increase the number of cameras?

Chief Scott:

We need to augment the cameras.

Councilman Knedler:

Maybe some of this money should be spent on reducing crime. Putting new street lights in Kaywood apartments. I would consider street lighting in a high crime area safety.

Chief Scott:

Kaywood apartment is a problem for us; we are using Kaywood as an example. Even if we get a partial grant I'm going to ask that those improvements be made in Kaywood.

Councilman Tarlau:

I'd like to do something big with the speed camera revenue.

Chief Scott:

Enabling legislation says that it must be used for public safety and pedestrian safety programs.

Mayor Miles introduced Alonzo Washington who is the aid to County Councilman Will Campos. The Mount Rainier sector plan is coming up for approval with the county and it will be approved with some amendments. The mayor asked for monetary funding support from the county for Mount Rainier Day and National Night Out.

Councilman Tarlau:

I want us to put some resources into our downtown area and schedule a meeting with SHA.

Chief Scott:

Both pedestrian crosswalks were turned down by SHA but we can bring it back to them again.

Our motor vehicle fleet is in need of some attention. We would like to replace the parking enforcement officer's vehicle since we purchased it in 1995, and equip the new one with a license plate reader. Three marked vehicles need to be replaced and one vehicle with an access of 100,000 miles on it and we need to add a four wheel drive to our fleet. We don't want to finance it, just pay for it up front.

Councilwoman Thompson:

Some of this funding should be used for pedestrian safety projects, curbs and gutters and that goes along with safety. I also agree that the generator needs to be replaced.

Councilman Tarlau:

I don't feel that the camera revenue is for items that are already in the budget. Use the money for something we normally wouldn't budget for.

Employee COLA

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace: has put this item on the agenda for the council to revisit after being a previous agenda item. The adopted budget FY-11 includes \$60,000.00 for employees C.O.L.A. across the board. We thought this would come out of reserves initially but it is in the salary line in each department.

There was a council split as to approval so the final decision was to re-visit this item at the mid year point. Employees are patiently waiting to see whether the council will approve it. We feel the city is okay now because our thresholds are being met. We knew if we did not get speed camera revenue we might experience some additional shortfalls.

Mayor Miles:

During negotiations with FOP they stated that they have had no raises in the past two years and with additional funds coming in there shouldn't be a problem. They would also like to see some increase in their salary schedule and they want a salary increase.

Councilman Tarlau:

I'm not clear about the effective date and what the \$60,000.00 does.

Councilman Updike:

Is the COLA different from raises?

Mayor Miles:

Yes

Councilman Tarlau:

Is there raises or steps where people can move up in the public works department.

City Manager Jeannelle Wallace:

Yes

Councilman Updike:

Was any of this budgeted? \$60,000.00

Mayor Miles:

The question is how do we use it? We reserve the right to allocate it to any deficits we might have had, but at this point we are being told it is available to allocate.

Councilman Tarlau:

Move to approve the employee COLA and retroactive July 1, 2010.

Second Councilman Updike

Chief Scott:

If raises are given to non-bargaining employees then the F.O.P (Fraternal Order of Police) will get the raises over and above what percent was allocated to non-bargaining employees.

Mayor Miles:

I have a motion on the floor that we can use the \$60,000.00 for COLA and retroactive July 1, 2010 for this fiscal year.

Councilman Tarlau:

Since it is already in the budget and has been reviewed it doesn't need a vote?

Mayor Miles:

You are absolutely right, because it's already been voted on and approved and will be used as a COLA. We have come back and re-visited. You don't have to make it available July 1, 2010 we can make it available today. I'm just being clear that we want to go back to July.

Councilman Knedler:

What was the motion, that it be retroactive?

Mayor Miles:

I can go with consensus and consensus says it's July 1, 2010.

Mayor Miles:

I would like to draft getting a resolution on Mount Rainier going green. The Council will submit any changes and this will be re-visited on the next work-session.

Councilwoman Thompson moves to adjourn

Second Councilman Updike

Vote 4-0