

**Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**DATE: February 20, 2018**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UPPER-LEVEL CITY HALL**

**Call to Order**

7:25 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD

**Presiding Officer**

Mayor Malinda Miles

**Officials Present**

Councilmember Celina Benitez  
Councilmember Luke Chesek  
Councilmember Bryan Knedler  
Councilmember Shivali Shah

**Staff Present**

Shantay Dabney

**Minutes provided by:**

City Clerk

**Mount Rainier Bike Co-op Remodel**

There was a presentation by The Neighborhood Design Center on the proposed improvements to the Bike Co-op building. The new design will provide enhancements to the building. Neighborhood Design Center is leading this effort with input from The Bike Co-op members and North East Regional Council of Carpenters (NRCC) is providing materials and labor. Phase 1 will tackle interior and exterior work that does not require permits. Phase 2 will include work that requires permits, artistic design, and landscaping. The specifics of the enhancements were reviewed.

In April, Neighborhood Design will return with renovation designs for Council to review.
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**Proposed Changes to Procedures for Trash and Recycling Rules**

Councilmember Luke Chesek reviewed the proposal to change the recycling and trash system to one that encourages less trash and more recycling. The proposal calls for the City to purchase for residents a 65-gallon recycling container and a 45-gallon trash container; lifts for the City dump trucks; and develop a communication plan to inform residents of changes. The cost to implement this proposal is \$130,000. The Council took questions, comments, and opinions on these proposed new rules.

Motion to Adjourn to Special Meeting: Mayor Malinda Miles  
Mover: Councilmember Celina Benitez  
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah  
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

### **Review and Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Mayor Malinda Miles  
Second: All Council  
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

### **Update on New Brookland Farm**

Resident Doug Adams presented on his effort to develop the New Brookland Farm on a vacant lot. He proposes that that Farm will be a public farm and education space for Mount Rainier. Phase 1 – Build a Green House by April 2018 using USDA grant funds. Phase 2 - Open the front half of the lot as a public green space for Mount Rainier community. Phase 3 - Build a façade of the historic home that used to be on site and use the back of the façade as a vertical planter. Phase 4 – Build two micro houses for revolving caretakers to run the business to ensure innovation and diversity of ideas. Phase 5 – Restore the garage on the property and repurpose for commercial use. A video rendering of the project was screened. Mayor Malinda Miles stated that the City Council has not discussed nor endorsed this project, but they are supportive of the concept.

### **Recap of DRB Meeting on 3803 34<sup>th</sup> Street Property**

Councilmember Bryan Knedler said that Design Review Board (DRB) met with the owners of 3803 a month ago. They need a variance because the lot lines are too close. DRB is in support of the design and wrote a letter stating so. There will be a vote on March 6, to show that the windows are one pane of glass over one pane of glass. The owners will like to be on March 6, Council Meeting Agenda.

Motion to put 3803 34<sup>th</sup> Property on the March Agenda: Mayor Malinda Miles  
Second: All Council  
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

### **Amendment on Elections Procedures**

A representative from the Election Board presented highlights from their report detailing lesson learned from the 2017 elections. The election process improved in many areas including increase of voters from 524 to 932 and holding monthly election board meetings. The Board is working now to ensure all elections forms are standardized, are printed in English and Spanish, and have version numbers. Election Board asked for City or The Council action on items listed below:

- The Council and Election Board to review all election procedures for clarity and consistency.
- The Council representative should attend the Board Election Retreat.
- The timeline around absentee voting needs to be reviewed and then communicated to voters.
- The Council needs to form an Ethics Board and then connect them to the Election Board.
- The Election Board requests that The Council appoint an Ombudsman to decide if issues should go to Election Board, Ethnic Board, or City Council and settle any complaints about the Election or Ethnic Boards. The City lawyer handled that role for 2017 election, but that is a very costly solution. Mayor Malinda Miles wants further discussion on this issue.

There was also discussion of revising the Election Ordinances. Councilmember Knedler wants the Board of Elections changes to the Ordinances by April.

### **Parking and Parking Ticket Issues**

The Chief of Police explained various parking procedures to the Council and on record.

- Waiving of Tickets - He and the City Manager can waive ticket at their discretion.
- Cars Parking on Perry 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and at Kaywood Apartments - Police will ticket DC or out of state vehicles that should not be there and under certain circumstances tow them.
- Law for Time Allotted for Street Parking – Mount Rainier has a law that allows people to keep their car on a the street for 48 hours. The intent of the law is to remove unregistered cars and broken cars, but not to tow resident cars because they have not moved car in exactly 48 hours.
- Stop sign at Lutheran Church is not being followed – The Chief agreed to put an officer their intermittently to encourage commuters to stop.
- Cars on Lawns – Residents should call City’s Code Enforcement for vehicles on lawns, not police.
- Speeding on Perry - Do not enter signs at 38<sup>th</sup> are working, but there is no sign from the Circle. Councilmembers asked if can there be a sign on the circle side? The Chief said that is up to the Council. Mayor Malinda Miles put it to the Council for discussion. It was decided that the upcoming traffic study will be needed to discuss any additional signage, speed bumps, or police monitoring of the streets.
- Perry Street Parking Zone - Resident Ms. Robinson spoke on submitting a petition to the Council last year on creating a Parking Residential Zone for Perry Street. She wanted to know what the Council has decided. Mayor Malinda Miles said the ball was dropped on this issue due to the elections and on-boarding of new Councilmembers who are not aware of the petition.

To move forward, City Hall will retrieve files or video on the meeting where the petition was given and give to the Council. Ms. Robinson will resubmit copies of her petition documents to the Council.

### **Tool Shed Relocation**

Tool Shed Committee requested a larger and more secure space for the Tool Shed. The space should have bathroom, heat and AC, be on street level, and have designated day, evening, and weekend accessibility. They proposed the Tool Shed be managed via co-op membership model or by one staff person to coordinate volunteers and inventory tools. An online system for tool inventory and volunteer coordination is also needed. Proposed locations for the Tool Shed are the Department of Public Works (DPW), the old Bike Co-op garage, Potts Hall, and the Police Stations.

Mayor Malinda Miles wants this issue moved to a work session for a decision on the Tool Shed.

### **Branding the City Meetings**

There are meetings being held on how to brand the City along Route 1 corridor. Mayor Myles will get information on these meetings to the Council.

The discussion was tabled until City Manager Miranda Braatz is in attendance.

### **City Newsletter Deadlines**

Councilmember Shivali Shah asked Shantay Dabney to state the deadline for the City's Newsletter. She said **the deadline is the 11<sup>th</sup> of the month**, but asked Council to send items as early as possible.

### **Mayor and Councilmember Announcements**

Announcements were read. Mayor Malinda Miles addressed the school shooting in Florida saying it has prompted the Council and City of Mount Rainier to review how prepared it his to handle a school shooting or any active shooter scenario. Council has had active shooter training.

She also wants to start a conversation about this issue in the City.

### **Adjournments**

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Mayor Malinda Miles  
Mover: Councilmember Celina Benitez and Councilmember Luke Chesek  
Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler  
Ayes: 4-0-0