

**Agenda of the Budget Work Session  
Mayor & City Council  
City of Mount Rainier  
Virtual Meeting**

**Continuation of Budget Work Session  
From May 26, 2020**

**Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Items for discussion:**

**Suggested Discussion  
Time:**

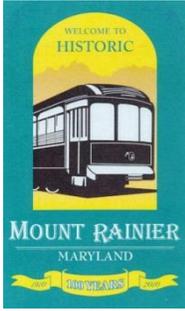
**1. Call To Order**

**2. Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Discussion**

**(60 Min)**

*Mayor & City Council will continue their discussion of the  
Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.*

**3. Adjournment**



# Agenda of the Legislative Meeting of the Mayor and City Council City of Mount Rainier

**Tuesday, June 2, 2020  
8:00 PM, Virtual Meeting**

## Action Taken

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Review of the Agenda**

*The Mayor and Council review the agenda for the meeting adding or deleting topics of interest or discussion.*

**3. Mayor and Councilmember Event Announcements**

**4. Vice Mayor Luke Chesek Reads Closed Session Summary From  
May 5, 2020 & May 19, 2020**

**5. Mount Rainier Youth Scholarship Awards Presentation**

*Mayor & City Council will present the Mount Rainier Youth Scholarship Award to residents of Mount Rainier.*

**6. Public Comment**

*Please see page 4 of agenda, where the rules for Public Comment are listed. If you wish to speak, please advise during the virtual meeting.*

## OLD BUSINESS

**7. Vote Adopting Ordinance 04-2020: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

*Mayor & City Council will vote on Ordinance 04-2020: Adopting Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.*

**(Vote)**\_\_\_\_\_

**8. MOU Spring Park / Peace Park**

*Mayor & City Council will vote on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Little Friends of Peace & City of Mount Rainier regarding Spring Park / Peace Park (33<sup>rd</sup> & Shephard Street).*

**(Vote)**\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Emergency Tenant Relief / Rent Stabilization During & Post COVID-19 Emergency**

*Mayor & City Council will vote on Emergency Tenant Relief / Rent Stabilization During & Post COVID-19 Emergency.*

**(Vote)**\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

*April 21, 2020 Work Session*

**(Vote)**\_\_\_\_\_

**New Business**

**11. Vote To Go Into Recess**

*Mayor and City Council will vote to go into recess following the June Work Session. (July & August 2020)*

**(Vote)**\_\_\_\_\_

**12. Mayor, Council & City Manager Reports**

*Mayor, City Council & City Manager will provide reports.*

**13. Adjournment**

### ***Rules for Public Comment***

The Mayor and City Council invite and welcome comments at public meetings. The Mayor or presiding officer will recognize you. Please introduce yourself (spelling your last name, for recording purposes) and give the name of your street and block number (e.g., 4300 block of 34<sup>th</sup> St.). Public Comment has a time limit of 3 minutes per speaker, unless otherwise agreed upon by Mayor and Council.

While speaking, please maintain a courteous tone and avoid personal attacks. If you wish to lodge a complaint about the performance or conduct of any City employee, please bring your concern to the attention of the City Manager, who will look into the matter and respond to you.

As a courtesy to other residents and businesses, the Council requests that speakers not use specific addresses or names of individuals when describing a situation or making a complaint. Noting the block is preferred over a specific address.

Code Compliance and public safety issues should first be brought to the attention of the appropriate department and/or one of your Councilmembers.

### **Please Note:**

*Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article Section 10-508(a), the Council by majority vote may retire to executive or closed session at any time during the meeting. Should the Council retire to executive or closed session; the chair will announce the reasons and a report will be issued at a future meeting disclosing the reasons for such session.*

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY SHEET TO BE READ INTO RECORD**

**Date:** May 5, 2020

**Time:** 9:10 PM

**Location:** Teleconference Format

Open Meeting was recessed at 9:00pm and go into Closed Session at 9:10pm. Quorum present with Mayor, City Council, City Manager & City Attorney present.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler made the motion to go into closed session and read the appropriate statutory section for consult legal counsel. Councilmember Celina Benitez seconded the motion.

**Closed Under Annotated Code:** 3-305 b for the reasons of subsection seven (7) "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

**Those Who Voted To Go Into Closed Session:** Mayor Malinda Miles, Councilmember Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Scott Cecil, Councilmember Celina Benitez & Councilmember Luke Chesek

**Unanimous Of Elected Officials In Attendance:** 4-0-0

**Those In Attendance:** Mayor Malinda Miles, Councilmember Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Scott Cecil, Councilmember Celina Benitez, Councilmember Luke Chesek, City Manager Latasha C. Gatling & City Attorney Elissa Levan.

**Actions Taken:** No Votes Were Taken

**Topics Discussed:** Mayor & City Council discussed a pending litigation issue and personnel issues with the city attorney.

**Relevant Notes:** None.

The motion to leave the closed session was made by Mayor Malinda Miles and seconded by Councilmember Luke Chesek. Vote 4-0-0.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler made the motion to adjourn the open session and seconded by Councilmember Celina Benitez. Vote 4-0-0.

Proceedings ended at 10:04pm

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malinda Miles", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY SHEET TO BE READ INTO RECORD**

**Date:** May 19, 2020

**Time:** 10:35 PM

**Location:** Teleconference Format

Councilmember Celina Benitez made the motion to go into closed session and Mayor Miles seconded the motion.

**Closed Under Annotated Code:** 3-305 b 1 & 3: (1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (3) "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto".

**Those Who Voted To Go Into Closed Session:** Mayor Malinda Miles, Councilmember Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Scott Cecil, Councilmember Celina Benitez & Councilmember Luke Chesek

**Unanimous Of Elected Officials In Attendance:** 4-0-0

**Those In Attendance:** Mayor Malinda Miles, Councilmember Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Scott Cecil, Councilmember Celina Benitez, Councilmember Luke Chesek.

**Actions Taken:** No Votes Were Taken

**Topics Discussed:** Directive for Mayor Malinda Miles and Councilmember Bryan Knedler to speak to Latasha C. Gatling, City Manager about Finance Director vacancy announcement / salary and directed Mayor Malinda Miles to discuss acquisition of property with property owners.

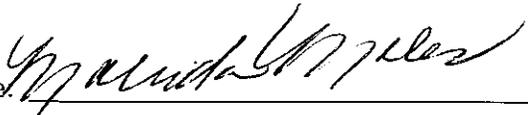
**Relevant Notes:** None

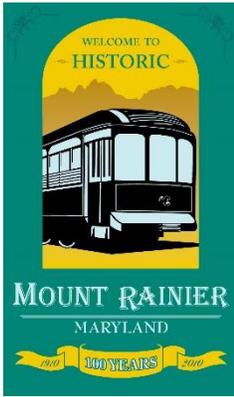
The motion to leave the closed session was made by Councilmember Celina Benitez and seconded by Councilmember Scott Cecil. Vote 4-0-0.

Councilmember Luke Chesek made the motion to end the open session and seconded by Councilmember Celina Benitez. Vote 4-0-0.

Proceedings ended

Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Introduced and Read: May 19, 2020  
Second Reading & Adoption June 2, 2020**

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND  
ORDINANCE 04 - 2020**

**Introduced by: Interim City Manager Latasha C. Gatling**

**An Ordinance Establishing the Tax Rate,  
Adopting an Annual Budget, and Appropriating Funds  
for Fiscal Year 2021, Beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 6-303 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, by July 15 of each year, the Council of the City of Mount Rainier shall set the tax rate for the next fiscal year on all assessments of property subject to municipal corporation property tax; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing must be held prior to the establishment of the municipal corporation tax rate if the new tax rate will exceed the constant yield tax rate as calculated by the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021 will exceed the constant yield tax rate of \$0.7812 per \$100 of assessed valuation; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to City of Mount Rainier Charter Section 702.A, the City Manager submitted a recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2021 to the Council for its review and consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget provides a complete financial plan for Fiscal Year 2021 and contains estimates of anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Mount Rainier Charter Section 702.B. requires the Council to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budget prior to adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, after giving public notice, the Council held a public hearing on the constant yield tax rate and to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget and tax rates on April 18, 2020 and

**WHEREAS**, after considering the recommended Fiscal Year 2021 budget submitted by the City Manager and the comments that were made at the public hearing on the budget and tax rate, the Council adopts the budget and tax rates as set forth in this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND, THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Tax Rate - Real Property.**

**The tax rate for all single-family residential real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.81 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**The tax rate for all townhouse residential real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.81 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**The tax rate for all multi-family residential real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.86 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**The tax rate for all commercial real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.81 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**The tax rate for all industrial real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.81 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**The tax rate for all vacant developed real property** subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$2.50 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**SECTION 2. Tax Rate - Business Personal Property.**

The tax rate for all business personal property subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$0.99 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**SECTION 3. Tax Rate - Operating Property of Railroads and Public Utilities.**

The tax rate for all operating property of railroads and public utilities subject to taxation by the City of Mount Rainier shall be \$2.75 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

**SECTION 4. GENERAL FUND - REVENUES**

The following amounts shall be adopted and appropriated as the general fund budget for all revenue for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

TAX REVENUE	\$5,244,000
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$726,180
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	\$378,255
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$38,500
FINES & FOREFEITURES MISCELLANEOUS	\$245,000
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	\$108,720
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,740,655</b>

**SECTION 5. GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES**

The following amounts shall be adopted and appropriated as the general fund budget for all expenditure categories for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

WAGES & LEAVE PAY	\$3,043,306
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & SERVICES	\$1,211,727
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$253,500
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	\$89,000
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$568,600
OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	\$561,514
INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITY MAINTENANCE	\$330,500
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$398,000
DEBT SERVICES	\$284,508
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$6,740,655</b>

**SECTION 6. GENERAL FUND-EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES BY DEPARTMENT.**

The following amounts shall be adopted and appropriated as the general fund budget for all expenditure categories by department for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

CITY GOVERNANCE	\$134,100
CITY HALL	\$1,095,319
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	\$542,494
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (POLICE)	\$2,414,299
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE	\$1,721,326
DEPARTMENT OF CODE COMPLIANCE	\$307,162
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$191,447
DEBT SERVICES	\$284,508
CONTINGENCY	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$6,740,655</b>

TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE'S) FOR EACH DEPARTMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	<b>Budget FY 19</b>	<b>Budget FY 20</b>	<b>Budget FY 21</b>
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3	5	6
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	2	4	4.5
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1	1	1
PUBLIC SAFETY (POLICE)	21.625	18.625	20.625
CODE ENFORCEMENT	3,625	5	3
PUBLIC WORKS	10	11	11
TOTAL BUDGETED FTEs	41.25	44.625	46.125

THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2020, AND IS EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2020.

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Latasha C. Gatling, City Manager**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Malinda Miles, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward 1**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward 1**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward 2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward 2**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND  
AND  
LITTLE FRIENDS FOR PEACE

This Memorandum of Understanding is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, by and between the City of Mount Rainier (“the City”), a Maryland municipal corporation and body politic, and Little Friends for Peace (“LFFP”), a Maryland non-profit corporation, located at 4405 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712.

Whereas, the City proposes to complete a project known as the Peace Park of Mount Rainier (“the Project”) with the assistance of LFFP; and

Whereas, LFFP has procured grant funding from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George’s County (“the RDA”) in the amount of \$50,000 for the Project; and

Whereas, the City has agreed to expend funds for the Project in an amount up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) (“the City Funds”); and

Whereas, the City and LFFP wish to set forth the parties’ respective understandings of their obligations with respect to the Project.

Now therefore, the City and LFFP understand as follows:

I. The Project

The Project will comprise a labyrinth and path, the restoration and reactivation of a historic well, and the installation of lighting, seating and signage, as more specifically set forth in Exhibits A and B hereto. The Project is anticipated to be completed within a period of one (1) year from the date hereof.

II. The City’s Responsibilities

A. The City will manage and control the Project and will pay an amount not to exceed Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) (“the City Funds”) toward Project expenses.

B. Notwithstanding anything in this MOU to the contrary, from the total City Funds, an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$10,500.00) shall be paid by the City to the University of Maryland for the benefit of Department of Plant Science and Landscape Services (“the Department”) in accordance with the terms of an Agreement between the City and the Department dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

C. The City shall be responsible for the completion of the Project within the Project budget and shall let and supervise all contracts with third parties necessary to perform the work. Under no circumstances shall LFFP be liable or responsible to the City for the payment of any

funds other than the contribution of RDA grant funds as set forth in Section III.B. of this MOU.

D. The completion of the Project is contingent upon the annual appropriation of funds by the City Council for the purpose of the Project, which shall at all times remain in the discretion of the City Council.

### III. LFFP's Responsibilities

A. LFFP, through its volunteers and agents, shall perform those activities set forth in Exhibit C under the City's supervision promptly upon notice from the City that the activity should commence.

B. LFFP shall contribute \$50,000 in funds received by it through a grant from the RDA. LFFP warrants and represents that its contribution of those funds to the City for this Project does not violate any provision of its grant agreement with the RDA. The City shall expend the RDA Grant Funds and the City Funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to the maximum available City Funds.

C. LFFP hereby represents and warrants the following:

1. The individual executing and delivering this MOU on behalf of LFFP is authorized to do so and to legally bind LFFP to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2. All information LFFP has provided or will provide to the City is true and correct and can be relied upon by the City. Any false or misleading information is a basis for the City to terminate this MOU and to pursue any other appropriate remedy.

3. No officer, director, employee, or person responsible for the governance or management of LFFP will financially benefit from the Project.

### IV. Termination

A. If the City fails to appropriate funds in any subsequent fiscal year, this MOU shall be terminated. LFFP shall not be entitled to recover damages for said termination and it shall not be entitled to reimbursement of any funds contributed that have already been expended.

B. The City may terminate this MOU for LFFP's failure to fulfill its obligations hereunder this Agreement properly and on time.

C. If the Project cannot be completed within the \$90,000 Project budget, despite the City's good faith efforts, the City may cease activity towards the Project and the City shall have no liability to LFFP or to any third party in connection with the Project whether for reimbursement of grant funds or upon any other claim, except that it shall pay any contractors who have properly and satisfactorily performed work on the Project under a valid contract with the City.

V. Assignment of Agreement

LFFP shall not assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of its obligations hereunder to any other person, firm, or corporation, without the previous written consent of the City, but in no case shall such consent relieve LFFP from its obligations, or change the terms of this MOU.

VI. Indemnification

LFFP shall indemnify the City and hold it harmless, together with its agents, officials and employees, from any liability, claims, losses, expenses, or costs arising from or out of the acts, failures to act, or negligence of LFFP, its agents and employees, in connection with or arising out of or in connection with this MOU including but not limited to personal injury and property damage. LFFP shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefrom or incurred in connection therewith, and if any judgment shall be rendered against the City in any such action, LFFP shall at its own expense, satisfy and discharge same. LFFP agrees that any performance bond or any insurance protection required by this Agreement or otherwise provided by LFFP shall in no way limit LFFP's responsibility to indemnify, keep and save harmless and defend the county as herein provided. The City does not waive any right or defense, or forebear any action, in connection herewith.

VII. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

This MOU shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland. Any suit to enforce the terms hereof or for remedy for breach hereof shall be brought exclusively in the courts of the State of Maryland in and for Prince George's County, and the parties expressly consent to the jurisdiction thereof and waive any right that they may otherwise have to bring, transfer or remove such suit to the courts of any other jurisdiction.

VIII. Maryland Public Information Act

This MOU is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article, § 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

IX. Miscellaneous

A. LFFP shall have no right, title, or interest in or to any of the undisbursed Project funds upon the completion of the Project or termination of this Agreement. Unexpended Grant Funds shall be returned to RDA.

B. If the City brings any legal action or proceeding to enforce the terms and conditions of this MOU, the City shall be entitled to payment of costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.

C. LFFP warrants and represents that it has paid all taxes, fees and charges owed by it to any governmental entity. In addition, it warrants and represents that any parent or subsidiary or other business entity with which it is affiliated or has been affiliated has paid all taxes, fees and

charges owed by it to any governmental agency accrued during any period during which the Contractor was affiliated with the entity. LFFP warrants and represents that it is incorporated in Maryland and is in good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and that it will remain in good standing until the Project is completed or the MOU is terminated.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, as of the date hereinabove set forth, the parties hereto have executed this MOU in two duplicate originals, any one of these shall be adequate proof of this MOU without locating or accounting for the other.

WITNESS: THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hoatson, City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Latasha Gatling, Interim City Manager

WITNESS: LITTLE FRIENDS OF PEACE

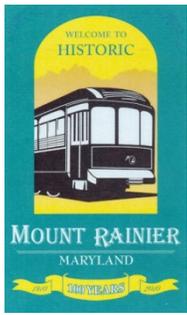
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary J. Park, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elissa D. Levan, City Attorney

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*City of Mount Rainier*  
*One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712*  
*Phone: (301) 985-6585 Fax: (301) 985-6595*

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June 2, 2020

Dear Apartment Management Companies:

We, the undersigned members of the Mount Rainier City Municipal Government urge you to address the critical emergency on behalf of renters in Mt Rainier at your apartment complex. Millions of people have lost their jobs across the county and our community in Mt Rainier has been particularly hard hit. A Washington Post article from April 27, pointed out how 20712 is one of the hardest hit zip codes in the state for positive Covid-19 cases. In addition, we have a community of renters that is often unable to access unemployment, let alone any other type of government aid. With the help of numerous organizations, we have been delivering food to hundreds of Mount Rainier residents that not only cannot pay rent, but cannot afford to eat.

We know that the state of emergency will end, but it will be a long time before our community can get back on their feet. People will have problems paying their future months' rents, let alone all of the past months' rents. These are unprecedented times that require unprecedented sacrifices. Further, we believe it is in your own self-interest to take these drastic steps, so that you will not spend months in eviction proceedings and looking for new tenants. Therefore, we urge you to alleviate the stress and trauma that is afflicting your community by taking steps to accommodate renters in the following ways:

- 1) Allow tenants 3 years to pay arrearages
- 2) Discount the months of May and all future months during the state of emergency by 25% for all tenants
- 3) Charge no interest or late fees to tenants
- 4) Make payment plans with tenants that allow for even further discounts than the 25%
- 5) Freeze all rent increases through the rest of 2020

6) Suspend sending any and all eviction suits to court for the rest of 2020

We look forward to discussing these possibilities with you. We cannot wait any longer to act to make accommodations to tenants in crises.

Sincerely,

Malinda Miles  
Mayor

Celina Benitez  
Councilmember Ward I

Luke Cheseck  
Councilmember Ward I

Scott Cecil  
Councilmember Ward II

Bryan Knedler  
Councilmember Ward II

Latasha C. Gatling  
City Manager

**Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**DATE: April 21, 2020**

**Wedex Meeting**

**Call to Order**

7:00 PM Webex Meeting

**Presiding Officer**

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

**Officials Present**

Councilmember Celina Benitez

Councilmember Scott Cecil

Councilmember Luke Chesek

**Staff Present**

Interim City Manager Latasha C. Gatling

City Clerk John Hoatson

**Minutes provided by:**

City Clerk

**Call to Order**

**Agenda Read by Councilmember Bryan Knedler**

**Motion to Approve Agenda: Councilmember Bryan Knedler**

**Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek**

**Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez**

**Vote Recorded: 3-0-0, Motion Passed**

**State of Emergency Update**

Interim City Manager Latasha C. Gatling stated continuously receiving donations from the community to the emergency fund. Providing food from World Central Kitchen. (Councilmember Deni Taveras and Councilmember Celina Benitez) Feeding 500 people per day. Waiting on masks to come in for residents that need them. Working with Sew Creative and sewing club to obtain some cloth masks. Chuck's Liquors donated \$2,000.00 to the Emergency fund. Was put into a press release last week. Also received a donation from Rachel Bush of \$800.00. Also Lions Club reached out to provide gifts cards to three families in need. They received 100.00 gift

cards to Aldi's Grocery Store. Any resident who may need help should call Michel Rosario, Social Services Coordinator at the Police Station.

If you feel you have COVID-19, please reach out to your doctor and the Prince George's County Health Department.

Economic Development Director Ronald Hopkins reached out to all businesses to see what they need. They are also assisting with completing funding applications. CERT team is sponsoring a food drive this weekend. Stop by Police Station between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

CERT Team is sponsoring another food drive on Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Police Station. If you have ability to donate, please stop by Police Station. 3249 Rhode Island Avenue.

Councilmember Celina Benitez Actively being on calls regarding COVID-19 - reported that 44 cases of COVID-19 in the City of Mount Rainier. Asking people not to panic. If you know people who have it wear your mask. Make sure you are washing your hands. 500 meals are being provided per day and working in conjunction with a bunch of people. County Executive is working very hard to find funding for small businesses. Today Governor Hogan spoke about obtaining more COVID-19 tests from South Korea.

### **COVID-19 Contingency Planning**

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated council could talk about the emergency fund.

Interim City Manager Latasha Gatling stated that 10,000 was allocated from contingency to the emergency fund. People could also make monetary donations to it. So far \$2,000.00 was donated from Chuck's Liquor Store and \$800.00 from Rachel Bush. Mayor and City Council would receive a report in the coming weeks about the fund.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler - Question that is being asked, is it tax deductible?

Interim City Manager Latasha Gatling stated that yes it is.

Councilmember Scott Cecil would like a mechanism to move money from contingency into the fund if need be without holding it up.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated that various donations have been coming through to allow the funds to stretch. Fruits, vegetables, chicken, fish and other things. If food and supplies not come through City would have blown through the \$10,000.00.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler mentioned Michel Rosario, Social Services Coordinator and information on the City website regarding COVID resources.

Councilmember Luke Chesek stated he sent to Mayor and Council what Riverdale is doing to help small businesses. Information was sent from Jimmy Tarlau.

Would like a discussion at a future work session to discuss how the City could address this. County has a lot of resources.

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated that there is an existing Economic Incentive Fund. Would like to see if some of those funds could be reallocated to help small businesses within the City. Help to cover the payroll.

Has mixed feelings about municipalities taking the lead on these types of programs. Need to have options on the table.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated that the City is going to be hit with a lot of uncertainty in the next few months. May need to take care of some of the residents as well. \$6,000 to \$8,000 is a lot to pay in taxes and will be hard to pay without working.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated that there might be a process issue since money was not allocated that way. May need to amend the Ordinance. Problem is we have a bank partner that is vetting recipients of that money. Don't want to give money to a business that goes bankrupt. It is tax payers money.

Interim City Manager Latasha Gatling stated that Ronald Hopkins has reach out to the various businesses and assisting them with applications. Information is being provided to businesses where they can apply for assistance. Conversations have been had with landlords about evictions.

Need to be placed on the agenda for the Special Work Session next week. Speak to FSC First and have Ronald Hopkins give an update on the businesses.

Councilmember Scott Cecil had a question: To be clear – When will Mayor & City Council be getting a report of donations?

Interim City Manager Latasha C. Gatling will have receipts and report next week. Working with Finance Department on this.

### **Census 2020 Update**

Councilmember Celina Benitez provided an update on Census 2020.

Federal money will help the City. 80-85% level at the County level.

Census Logo was developed –

Currently Mount Rainier is 43.8 & and currently at 44.2%

County still needs some work.

3 areas Kaywood 36.7% (37%), Queenstown 37.4%, Residential Area

Have not hit 50% yet. Want to get to 80%

What is City doing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase –

Pushing phone number and website. English and Spanish where people can call and get their Census done.

Most homes have received brochure – have numbers to complete their Census.

Door hangers are being used in apartments. Door hangers have also been given out with food deliveries.

Working on putting a virtual party together – provide prizes.

Census got extended. Moved from August to October.

Remind your residents to complete the Census. Continue to push.

Councilmember Scott Cecil – ask a question – Census Committee –

Has the Census committee been meeting since the current crisis? Has requested to be invited.

Councilmember Celina Benitez responded that the Census Committee has been meeting on and off. A lot of one on one since the plan had to be redone. Priorities have changed.

Councilmember Scott Cecil would like to offer his assistance and be invited to future meetings. All hands on deck is better than one hand on deck.

Councilmember Luke Chesek -Thanked Celina for all the work and reminded residents to complete their Census.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated to give Celina some support and complete their Census.

### **Mount Rainier Arts Commission Mural Project**

Councilmember Luke Chesek - Arts Commission has gotten a partner in the business community who wants a mural. Put an RFP out. About ready to sign the contract with Yulia for 3300 Rhode Island Avenue Pennyroyal Station.

Have some contingency planning in case it has to be moved to next fiscal year.

This will be a powerful sign to the community that Mount Rainier is resilient. Demonstrates an investment in the community.

Alex Kozen, Chairman of Arts Commission – Thanked Mayor & City Council for allowing them to come and discuss their projects.

Provide community engagement with the arts.

Mission is to create capital projects for regional visibility and bring awareness to City of Mount Rainier.

Leads to improving business district and diversifying tax base.

2020 – 2 mural projects - 3310 Rhode Island Avenue Pennyroyal Station

Other project is 3840 34<sup>th</sup> Street – In planning stages.

Pennyroyal Station – was 9 month project working with community members and other partners.

Pending some final design changes – looking for feedback from Mayor & City Council & Community.

Smaller project for 3840 34<sup>th</sup> Street – \$3,750.00 - the money will go to a local artist in the DMV area with a strong preference for artist in the Gateway District.

26 Applicants applied from the Gateway District for the Mural at Pennyroyal Station. Want to work with local artists and give one project to a local artist.

Been speaking with Rhonda Dallas – Director of the Arts Council.

Ready to implement other murals. Yulia is planning to come in June to work on the mural at Pennyroyal Station. Tentative due to COVID-19.

Interim City Manager Latasha Gatling stated that the person who is offering services will prepare the contract, then be provided to the City Attorney for any changes and then they get signatures.

Councilmember Luke Chesek stated that they worked with former City Attorney Ken Sigman to prepare the contract. They are now working with Elissa Levan.

Interim City Manager stated she would like Elissa Levan to look at the contract. Does not want her blindsided by it.

Councilmember Luke Chesek stated that Elissa has seen the contract.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated that the mural is definitely needed during these times and thanked the committee for their hard work. This will brighten up the community.

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated no reason to delay the work to be done. Move forward with the mural project you have selected. No reason to delay process.

Councilmember Byran Knedler stated he was queasy about spending this money. Entire process is basically done.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated there is a majority for the first art project, but not for the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wants it placed on the next Work Session.

Alex Kozen stated Arts Commission have not told Mayor & City Council about the second project. Have not done a call for artists yet. Final three selectees will be presented to Mayor & Council once the artist is selected. Project has not been discussed with MUTC.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated that it is the Lightbound Building and probably needs to go before the MUTC. Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated it needs to be added to the next Work Session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Toni George provided public comment to express that the mural project should be placed on hold until after the pandemic.

Letters of support were presented to Mayor & City Council by Mark Rengel: Menkiti, Shivali Shah, Margaret Boozer: Red Dirt Studios, Krista Schlyer.

34<sup>th</sup> Street mural presentation would be added to April 28, 2020 Work Session Agenda.

### **Native Plant Network Presentation**

Councilmember Luke Chesek presented the Native Plant Network. Create a pathway of native plants in the community. Encourage homes to plant native plants. So important for local ecosystem. Excitement is building for the idea. Sierra Club is also excited about this and wants Councilmember Chesek to come and present about this.

Idea may grow to other towns.

Native Plant Network is a way to acknowledge people who are planting native plants. It is a way to save the planet and be good stewards. This is also a way for people to connect.

Ways City can help - 3 core areas – help in branding, publicizing and support

Representatives of Tree Commission, Green Team and other volunteers: what would it look like to qualify as part of a Native Plant Network as a member.

Questions need to be answered by Mayor & City Council.

Use Google Maps to show what it would look like – Hold another event at Joe's Movement.

Publicizing – Working with private entities such as Sierra Club and residents from other Cities and Towns. Helping to build a native plant culture. Enter into "America in Bloom" Contest.

Not a lot of pressure on City Staff.

Support from City – 1. Idea to halt new sidewalk construction – several locations residents would support native plants in the easements.

What value would City get from this? Cost savings and improve stormwater management.

City can brand itself as the Mount Rainier Native Plant Network.

Next steps, drafting resolution creating Native Plant Network. Need to look at membership idea.

Should this be a resolution or ordinance

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated thanks for the presentation. Very supportive of work.

1. In favor to an open membership as opposed to a closed one.
2. Native plants in easements – need to build sidewalks because we need one. Need to be creative.
3. Resolution or Ordinance – It would be a resolution. Proponent to codify things in the City Code. Overlap of some things from the community garden.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated it is tied together with a lot of what Mount Rainier is already doing.

Work with Green Team and Tree Commission to get something done.

Going in the right perspective.

Tours would allow people to get to know the City.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated how do you create agreements when people come and go. Suppose to be a walkable City.

Charles – lives on one of the possible streets. City has never put a sidewalk in. Willing to put time and money into supporting it. Loves the tier level for membership.

Next steps: Luke will work on drafting resolution.

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated that Rogers Park should also be included in this. It would be an improvement.

Public comment - Against making sidewalks illegal on both sides of the same block.

Councilmember Luke Chesek stated it would not be taking away a sidewalk. It would be a native plant habitat.

### **Youth Scholarship Timeline**

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated deadline is already here. Needs another month for the Youth Scholarship.

Allows time for participants to be able to submit the credentials they need.

Includes extending deadline to May 15, 2020.

Letters of recommendation could be sent to City Clerk.

Applications will be scanned and coded and sent to the committee members.

Applicants will be scheduled for an interview with the committee members.

Students will be struggling for tuition.

Awardees will be named before the end of the fiscal year.

Volunteer commitment will be a two week process.

Councilmember Luke Cheseck stated no comments and appreciated the hard work.

Councilmember Scott Cecil asked if their was an ask of Mayor & City Council.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated that just to move the deadline to May 15, 2020.

City Manager Latasha Gatling stated that people can submit applications at City Hall through the mail slot.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler ask if this was advertised yet. He was fine with the extension.

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated thank you for making it available virtually. Wants to make sure the May 15, 2020 deadline will not mess up applicants and their schedule.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated that Mayor & City Council need to decide who will represent them on the Youth Scholarship Committee. Needs the names before the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Schedule of Fees – Dumpster & Home Business Licenses**

Lt. Col Alston asked to look at fee schedule and provide recommendations for Construction Dumpster and Home Business License.

\$75.00 currently for Homes Business License Occupancy – recommendation is to lower to \$25.00 per year.

\$50.00 per dumpster maximum of three months / 2 dumpsters per site – recommendation is \$50.00 per dumpster on private property for max of three months not to exceed 6 months. 2 dumpsters per site at \$125 on public roadways.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler wanted to know if that is the current definition of the home occupancy license.

Lt. Col Alston stated that it is

Councilmember Luke Cheseck liked the distinction of private property and public roadway. Fine with dropping down the home business license to \$25.00.

Councilmember Scott Cecil stated 100% on the Home Occupancy License Fee at \$25.00. Public Roadway Dumpster Fee is low. Thinks it should be \$250.00. Wants to see if higher. Wants to know what is the penalty if they exceed 6 months?

Lt. Col Alston stated he would look into it and get back to Mayor & Council.

Councilmember Celina Benitez stated she is in agreement with both of these. Appreciated the work on this.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated so maximum of 6 months. Does the ordinance define the size of the dumpster.

Lt. Col Alston stated they could look into sizes.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler asked if we have guidelines on to where dumpsters can be placed?

Lt. Col Alston stated he would make notes on that.

Councilmember Scott Cecil asked Lt. Col Alston to get back on what the fines would be.

### **Remaining Uses of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

Councilmember Bryan Knedler asked if they needed to do an official freeze on hiring. Are we certain about the revenue that is coming in.

Latasha Gatling, City Manager stated if you give her a week or two, she will be able to provide a more accurate outlook on revenue.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler asked if she thought they may need to do a budget amendment.

Latasha Gatling, City Manager responded no.

Councilmember Scott Cecil requested updated actuals for May meetings.

Councilmember Celina Benitez mentioned the franchise checks.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler mentioned snow removal which was not spent.

Latasha Gatling City Manager mentioned there is a Code position available, janitor position. That person would clean City Hall, Police and Public Works. There is an actual position that needs to be filled.

Councilmember Scott Cecil asked if the Janitor position was under Public Works?

Latasha Gatling confirmed that position was under Public Works.

Latasha Gatling also mentioned that two checks have come in from Comcast for the franchise agreement.

### **Cooperation Agreement Regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Qualification - Federal FY 2021**

Latasha Gatling stated they received the Grant Application. There was a letter directed to Mayor & City Council. There was a mention on a call that CDBG, City would be eligible for the Grant. Have to do a corporate agreement which is a resolution. Need to apply for Grant through County. On agenda for next Legislative Meeting of Mayor & City Council.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler stated that we need to fill this out to qualify? What is the deadline for actual projects?

June 7<sup>th</sup> is to send the resolution back. They have not updated the dates. October, 2020 possible deadline.

Councilmember Celina Benitez has learned that some of the Towns did not previously qualify.

Councilmember Celina Benitez needs to be on the May agenda. 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve.

Final Comments:

Councilmember Bryan Knedler advised residents that elected officials and City staff are listening on COVID calls to gain important information to assist residents.

Latasha Gatling thanked Mayor & City Council for the support they provide.

Councilmember Celina Benitez thanked Code, Police and Social Worker.

If you need help, please call the CERT hotline.

Councilmember thanked staff for all the hard work.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Councilmember Bryan Knedler**

**Move: Councilmember Scott Cecil**

**Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez**

**Vote Recorded: 3-0-0, Motion Passed**