

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: February 5, 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UPPER-LEVEL CITY HALL

Call to Order

7:00 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier MD

Presiding Officer

Mayor Malinda Miles

Officials Present

Councilmember Celina Benitez (Vice Mayor)

Councilmember Luke Chesek

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Amendments to Agenda by Mayor Malinda Miles

Motion to Approve Amended Agenda: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Celina Benitez

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Reading of Agenda into Record by Councilmember Celina Benitez

Announcements

Swearing in City Mount Rainier Board of Elections

Mayor Malinda Miles and Councilmember Celina Benitez (Vice Mayor) formally swore in the members of the City Mount Rainier Board of Elections.

Greetings from Community Liaison from Office Representative Del Diana Fennel

Mr. Brown introduce himself to the Council and residents. He is community liaison for District 47th. He gave an update on the fight for 15 Bill, which would raise minimum wage to \$15. He implored residents to let him know good news and issues in the community. Councilmember Luke Chesek said there is a regular District 47th and rising property taxes are big issue they all are discussing.

Tree Commission Appointment

Motion to Appoint Rebecca Christopher to Tree Commission: Mayor Malinda Miles Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah and Councilmember Luke Chesek Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

There is still vacancy on the Tree Commission. If interested contact Councilmember Bryan Knedler or City Hall.

Reading of Closed Session Summary

Summary is for Closed Meeting held on January 24, 2019 by Councilmember Celina Benitez on collective bargaining in personnel matters.

Dept. of Economic Development Report

Head of Dept. of Economic Development gave summary of his quarterly report. 3200 Mount Rainier Town Center negotiations are moving forward. He set up a networking meeting between the Mount Rainier Business Association (MRBA) and the County's Economic Development Corporation at Joe's. He is building a relationship with MRBA. He had a update on the Kaywood Theater Feasibility Study and their will be a pubic meeting on it on March 11, 2019. Council said they have not seen the report and that must happen prior to the public meeting. The Council asked it be presented at February 19, 2019 Council Work Session. He will send report by email now and have paper copies for Feb. 19. The new businesses at old Bird's and Artosphere's locations are working on their permits and are on track to open in April or May. He and City Manager Miranda Braatz have met with Head of Prince George's Economic Development Corporation. He will also meet with their staff to discuss economic incentives. International Conference of Shopping Center at Gaylord is on March 4 and 5 and the theme is Mount Rainier Experience winning through collaboration. As of January 31st, he has established 99 business contacts and met with 17 developers. Mayor Malinda Miles wants businesses of Varnum an Queen Chapel Road to come to MRBA meeting. He is going to invite those businesses.

Public Comment

- Danielle Carter 3200 Sheppard Street – She wants to discuss water issue on 3200. Department of Public Works has tried to remedy the issue, but the water table is too high. She wants Council to review engineering report down last year, which requires taking up the side walk. Mayor Malinda Miles said the issue is all over the City. Councilmember Luke Chesek said we need a city-wide report on storm water management and need to allocate money and get grant. Mayor Malinda Miles said we need get money

- Alex owner Mediterranean Café – He pays all the fees, but no license for three years. Finally, code enforcement came and cited violations. He feels he is mistreated. He is being dragged to court. Mayor Malinda Miles said that she wants City Manager, Code Enforcement, and Owner to have a meeting. Council reviewed rules with owner explaining how to discuss issue with talk about personnel. He was cited by City for violations, but the County has come and says there is no violations. Council will take this under advisement. He was asked to send his info to Council. He asked for more time to fix violation before more violation. He feel its abuse of power. Mayor Malinda Miles says that the City wants to be business friendly town.
- Charnette Robinson 3500 Perry Street – Mount Rainier Maryland Ethical and Fiscal Accountability Group it will be LLC soon. All residents can join. She is looking for long-term strategic plan for the City. Mayor Malinda Miles said there is not a City-wide plan yet. There is plan to do a plan. Does the streetscape include crosswalk from 34th with traffic lights and addressing Jay walking. She does not want another pole in front of her house, so no G5 pole. She wants meeting with City Manager to review the budget. City Manager Miranda Braatz will respond to her requests. Councilmember Luke Chesek said that now that City has a team to do the strategic plan, but we need operational infrastructure, which we are working on. He asked for her support on this for budget. Council there are individual or Dept. plans, but now the City is getting ready for city-wide plan.
- Mr. Will Jolly Dynasty Capital Ventures – He toured City with Head of Economic Development and looks forward to working with City. His firms does residential development.
- Uriel Oriana 3237 Rhode Island – He is here representing Latino businesses. He is concerned about how Mount Rainier Police handles customers in his establishment.
- Scott Cecil 4100 – He thanked the Mayor for brining up Narcan. He is willing to help bring training for Narcan to City of Mount Rainier. His nonprofit works on substance abuse issues. He supports public drug consumption spaces and he is working with some DC Council on this. He is advocating for this in Maryland. Mayor Malinda Miles said he contact State Public Health Dept.

Resolution 01-2019 for City of Mount Rainier Departments Public Quarterly Reports and Quarterly Council Evaluation of City Manager

Second Reading was made by Councilmember Luke Chesek

Motion to Accept Resolution 01-2019 for City of Mount Rainier Departments Public Quarterly Reports and Quarterly Council Evaluation of City Manager: Mayor Malinda Miles
 Move: Councilmember Celina Benitez
 Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
 Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Council debated the resolution. Councilmember Shivali Shah really like the quarterly reports, but she wants structure on how Council can engage the departments on the reports. She wants it in the rules in the resolution and Council rules.

Motion to Question Resolution 01-2019 to add language that says “Be further resolved that the City Manager shall publish a calendar of dates when Council and public can review reports with Dept. Heads: Mayor Malinda Miles
 Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
 Second: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Councilmember Shivali Shah reread proposed language for Mayor Malinda Miles “Be further resolved that the City Manager shall publish a calendar of dates when Council and public can review reports with Council and Public.

Motion to Propose Amendment to Resolution 01-2019 to add language that says “Be further resolved that the City Manager shall publish a calendar of dates when Council and public can review reports with Dept. Heads:
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

The amended wording for Resolution 01-2019 was prepared City Manager for later vote.

Motion to Approve Amendment to Resolution 01-2019 with inclusion of Amended Language: Mayor Malind Miles
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 3-1-0, Motion Passed (Mayor Abstained)

Approval of Minutes for Sept. 4 and 18; Oct 7 and 16, and Nov 6 with Correction by COB Next Friday

Motion of Approval of Minutes for Sept. 4 and 18; Oct 7 and 16, and Nov 6 Council Meetins and Session with Corrections by Council given to City Manager by Close of Business Next Friday: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Celina Benitez
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Al Whitley PG Plaza Community Center Liaison for Parks and Recreation introduced himself to Mayor and Council and Public.

Rolling Agenda Reviewed

- 3200 Rhode Island Sale – Landmark rejected final offer. Real Estate agent is marketing the property.
- Civic Center Design – Architects are working on it. There is issues with PEPCO that the working on it.
- Civic Center Bond Bills – City is working on Bond Bill out ASAP.
- City Lawyer has given the vacant tax bill language to City for new Ordinance.
- Committee Calendar - Councilmember Shivali Shah is waiting for calendar from City Clerk to give to Committees or review and posting.
- Parks and Open Space Maintenance Ordinance – Setting up a special meeting to deal with this.
- City Event Calendar - Councilmember Celina Benitez said its work in progress. City and Committee Calendar will be on the website.
- Charter Review – Move to Work Session in March. Council will nominate people and ask for applications. Council to create the Committee’s guidelines. It will go into March newsletter.
- Parks Intern – City Manager to budget for this and set up internship

- Well Avenue Real Estate Offer – City has made counter offer.
- Audits – Working on FY17 and FY18 now.
- Tax Rate and Homestead – Handled in budget and their will be legislation on Homestead.
- Noise Compliant – Article will go out on next The Message.
- CIP Request to MPCC – Converting the Nature Center request is in. Awaiting word.
- Art Space Structural Issue – City Manager will follow up with Code Enforcement.
- Personnel Handbook – It is being developed for Sept. 2019 presentation.
- Volunteer Rules and Procedures Handbook – Council has to review the existing handbook it see if there updates needed.
- Community Engagement Committee Rules – Removed from Rolling Agenda
- Safe Route to Schools Grant – This is being review for submission next deadline.
- Tool Shed – This is a problem. The Tool are holing up renovation of building.
- Police LL Code Compliance – Progress made and City Manager will report soon.
- Youth Scholarship – On agenda tonight.
- Anne Arundel Green Street and Levey– On hold till levy is done. 30 Street will be Phase One.
- Parking Meter - Phase One will be done this Spring
- Kaywood Theater – Feasibility Study will be discussed next Work Session.
- Bond for Treasurer and City Manager – Needs to fixed in Code.
- Annexation – In progress, letters went to property owner, no responses yet
- Transparency Rules – On Feb. Council Agenda
- Retiree Health Benefits – It will be discussed in Budge
- Website – Council has sent comment and vendor be at Feb. 19 Work Session
- Junk Cars – Councilmember Bryan Knedler and
- City Hall Solar Panel - Councilmember Bryan Knedler and Councilmember Shivali Shah working on it.
- Volunteer Appreciation – Councilmember Shivali Shah said there was not open house this year, but we have one she will have volunteer awards.
- Zoning Rewrite – It passed. Neighborhood rules to be written. Implementation is 2020 for regs.
- Resolution on Monopoles – City Lawyer is working on this.
- Reimbursement on Structural Inspection by City on Private Bldg. – Need a City Rule on this.
- Food Truck Hub – Reviewed in April or May.
- Perry Street Traffic Calming Effectiveness at Circle Study – Mayor Malinda Miles said pnly Brentwood end was implemented and there is need for Mount Rainier side implementation. This should be priority for new Police Chief.
- 31st Park Repurposing – Lease has been signed.
- Spring Park - Councilmember Shivali Shah has submitted with Little Friends for Peace to redevelopment authority a grants
- Rogers Park - Councilmember Shivali Shah is close to doing community survey. Mayor said she submitted plan for Parks across the City.
- Public Information Act Request – City Manager will share with Council info from City Lawyer on Public Info Request.
- Editorial Policy – No movement. New Communication person can look into it.
- Homeowner Flood Insurance –
- Postal Issues - Feb 12 9:30am Postal Service will meet at City Hall.
- AFLAC – Removed from Rolling Agenda

- Bilingual Newsletter – New Communication person will handle
- Call-A-Bus – No movement. YMCA is offering their bus.
- Temporary Storage Containers in Code - Councilmember Bryan Knedler
- Temp Sign County Permit – No discussion next week.
- Storm Water Management Plan – Councilmember Luke Chesek City needs a grant to do this and budget part of it.
- Gabezo – Need update on grant for Gabezo from Dept. of Public Work.
- 2020 Census – Need volunteers to help with the Census. UMD is holding training. City submitted a letter against single out immigrants.
- File Sharing – Google Apps for Government will be used by City and the switch over is in April.
- Rebranding of City – In progress with Dani Taveres and City liaison is Alan Bienstock. Flags will be removed in Spring.
- Columbus Day to Indigenous Day – to be discussed
- Women’s Memorial at Buchan and Chillum - On hold until levy is done.
- Commercial Trash Pick Up Violations – Being handled by Code Enforcement
- Complete Street Evaluation – With levy work, Thomas Stone should not be phase one. Council finish phase 2 work. Needs to go on next Work Session.
- Arundel Traffic Light – To be discussed with Brentwood by Mayor Malinda Miles.
- Budget Format – Removed from Rolling Agenda
- Thirty Car Rental Violations – Code enforcement issue.
- Public Art Guidelines - Councilmember Luke Chesek will talk to Rhonda Dallas of Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council. Mayor to send old draft legislation for reference.
- HSAMedian Funding – On hold
- 3601 NDC Agreement – In progress, needs to go Work Session for budget allocation
- Vacant Lot Registration Exception – This needs more thinking
- Urban Farm – Need update from Doug
- Halloween Event – Removed from Rolling Agenda
- Senior Health Center Brentwood – Thee meet regularly
- Egg Hunt - Removed from Rolling Agenda
- Regulate Hours Business Operate – City Lawyer is reviewing
- Breakfast with Santa – These events are on Rolling Agenda, so they are not forgotten and get on City Calendar
- Health Fair – In planning.
- Bunker Hill Fire Dept Status – There was conviction in Fire Dept, but City still needs to work with them and set up meeting.
- WMATA Bus Lane Purchase – This referred to Economic Development and Real Estate

Resolution 02-2019 Confirmation of Collective Agreement Time Table and Collective Bargaining Team

Results for Closed Meeting were:

- Collective Bargaining Team is City Manager and City Attorney are chief negotiators with Dept. Head as consultants as needed. No elected official will be present.
- Collective Bargaining on compensation, wage, time starts March 2019.
- Collective Bargaining on full agreement begins July 1, 2019.

Motion to Approve Resolution 02-2019 on Agreement Time Table and Collective Bargaining Team:
Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 3-1-0, Motion Passed (Mayor Opposed)

Councilmember Shivali Shah Departs

Resolution 03-2019 Budget Calendar Amendment Review and Adoption

Motion to Adopt Resolution 02-2019 Budget Calendar: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez
Vote Recorded: 3-0-0, Motion Passed

Youth Scholarship Grant Application

Mayor Malinda Miles said the issue is not application but how will the students be selected. There are seven grants for 1000K.

Motion to Adopt Approve Application for Youth Scholarship: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Vote Recorded: 3-0-0, Motion Passed

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Councilmember Celina Benitez
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Vote Recorded: 3-0-0, Motion Passed