

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: September 4, 2018

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
Councilmember Luke Chesek
Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz
City Clerk Da'rell Belton

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of Agenda with Amendments

Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Amended: Mayor Malinda Miles Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler Second: Councilmembers Celina Benitez and Shivali Shah Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed
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Reading of Agenda into Record

Announcements

New Director of Code Enforcement Introduction

The new Director of Code Enforcement for the City is Mark Davis. He introduced himself, reviewed his experience, and explained how he will uphold the City Code. He is dedicated to code enforcement and the Mount Rainier Community. The Mayor and Council welcomed him.

Public Comments

- Resident Scott Cecil – Requested that Nov. 6 meeting be moved as it conflicts with election night. Mayor and Council will move the meeting and announce the change.
- Resident Charnette Robinson
 - Reported back from July Community Meeting and asked the Mayor and Council to allow voting resident to be able to introduce an ordinance or change one and have it read into record.
 - Request procedure for written feedback to resident that has a complaint against a City employee.
 - Mayor said he request have been received and will be addressed at a future work session.
- Resident Ms. Boston
 - Requests timeline for Ethics Board
 - Requests timeline for hiring of Chief of Police and if there is a Citizen's Committee involved in the hiring process.
 - Miranda said there will be a public meeting for citizens to meet with a recruiter to give feedback on qualities needed in a new Police Chief.
 - Requests that an Agenda for meeting should be posted prior to the meeting.
 - City Manager Miranda Braatz said the Agenda is finalized the Friday before the meeting and posted to the Facebook, and the City Website and Listserv.
 - Requests publication of violations letter on Open Meeting
- Resident Ophelia Baxter
 - Requests budget is itemized by Dept.
 - Requests two trash pick-ups in the summertime to help with smell and sanitation.
 - How can residents submit items for the City newsletter? Please put this in the next newsletter.
 - Requests Mayor and Council to please state the number and name descriptor for any Ordinance mentioned in Council Meetings.
- Resident Nicole Moore discussed the police department culture that is a concern to her after several encounters. She is concerned about ticketing for meter at Bus Zone and officer was nasty. The interim Chief removed meter. She wants reimbursement for this ticket paid and review of City's Police culture. Mayor Malinda Miles said she and Council are aware of her complaint, it is being addressed, and she will hear from them.

Mayor Malinda Miles said the Council Work Session is the meeting format where issues the public brings up are address. They are added to rolling agenda.

Old Business

Ordinance 9-2018 Procurement Policy Second Reading

Ordinance 9-2018 creates City Code Chapter 1E that allows for procurement options for the City to consider including emergency purchases, \$3500 for every 1 million would propel the City to go out to bid on a contract. Current budget would make the limit about \$21,000. Any purchase under \$500 would need a two-price bid comparison. Any purchase over \$500 requires 3 price bids.

- Mayor Malinda Miles wants to add general practice language to Ordinance 9-2018 that says the City has exhausted resources from General Services prior to spending revenue. This will be for nonemergency buys. Storage may be an issue for bulk items. Councilmember Shivali Shah needs a mechanism in this Ordinance's language that makes it easy for City staff that does procurement to implement getting items from General Services for free that balances staff time and transport cost. The Mayor said there is training by General Services that will teach City employees on how to use the system to get these free or low-cost items.
 - o Ordinance 9-2018 will be moved as presented, but it will be amended with language to include practice language that includes General Services. It is assigned to Sept. Work Session.

Motion to Bring Ordinance 9-2018 Creating Procurement Policy in City Code to Vote: Mayor Malinda Miles
 Move: Councilmember Shivali Shah
 Second: Councilmember Luke Chesek
 Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Public Comment

- Resident Ophelia Baxter was concerned the Council was hesitant to amend Ordinance language to take advantage of free items from General Services. Council and Mayor said they are not hesitant, and the language will be added.
- Resident Cornelius Gault, 28th St. – Requested City staff or Council responsible for procurement go to training for General Services procurement. Council and Mayor were agreed.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 9-2018 Creating Procurement Policy in City Code: Mayor Malinda Miles
 Approve: Ayes 4-0-0
 Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Reading of Rolling Agenda

Recommendation for New CPA Firm for Auditing Services

On June 29, 2018, a RFP was issued for a CPA firm to conduct Audits FY17, FY18, FY19. RFP ended July 31, 2018. The City received 6 responses from: Bridget Mock & Assoc.; CohnReznick; Lindsay & Assoc; YHW; Linden, Schaffer, Warfield and Garrett; Deleon and Stang; and Waywick, Cronen, and Sowa. City Director of Finance Kevin Greenville told the Council his recommendation for a CPA Firm was CohnReznick based on the experience, reputation, references, professionalism, and price point. Partner assigned to the City would be Daniel J. Kenney based in Baltimore. He currently handles several local municipalities including Bowie and Greenbelt, Howard County Library, and Maryland General Assembly. They were also the only firm that came to City to review accounts.

Motion to Adopt the Recommendation of City Director of Finance to Hire CohnReznick as the City CPA Firm: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmembers Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

No Public Comments

Motion to Approve the Recommendation of City Director of Finance to Hire CohnReznick as the City CPA
Firm: Mayor Malinda Miles
Approve: Ayes 4-0-0
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Department of Public Works Report

Mr. Kamali Director of Public Works was present and his new staff member, Roscio, read highlights of his two-year report. The full report was given to the Council and Mayor. Councilmember Bryan Knedler will include highlights in the newsletter. Councilmember Luke Cheseck checked with Mr. Kamali and residents there will be two-week gap where we keep old trash cans and new ones. Mayor and Council asked Public Works to pick up trash from all cans (with or without lids) until new trash can are out by October. Roscio is a new administrative assistant and liaison with Green Team and Tree Commission. Councilmember Shivali Shah said that Mayor and Council has gotten great feedback on Dept. in last two years. Thank you! City Manager Miranda Braatz said she is impressed by snow removal procedures.

- Councilmember Celina Benitez asked the report to be posted and commended Dept. for translating their information.
- Mayor wants report from Mr. Kamali and Mr. Davis to look at structure issues in the Arts building.

3201 Bunker Hill Road Variance

A garage was built on the property and the Builder is asking for variance for this, because the drainage is too close to the neighbor's house. Code Enforcement recommends a trench be built to handle the water and another type of gravel that helps water drainage. Builder was present and said the permit was approved and then County retroactively said it is out of compliance. Builder said County must approve the trench. Mayor Malinda Miles asked the Builder to get back to Council with ways to mitigate water problem for neighbors. Mayor and Council have consensus to let variance happen. Mayor said builder must pay impervious pavement fee and present receipt to Council and show where the County signed off on storm management before they will approve the variance.

Motion to Approve Variance Request and Send Letter of Support: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Luke Cheseck
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Ethics Ordinance

Ordinance 10-2018 Ethics Ordinance must be in place by Oct. 2, 2018. This Ethnic Ordinance will ensure the City's Ethics Law complies with updates to Maryland State Law. This Summary was read as first reading into record. It will go to Council Work Session.

Closed Session Summaries Were Read.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Mayor Malinda Miles

Mover: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Ayes: 4-0-0

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

DATE: September 18, 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UPPER-LEVEL CITY HALL

Call to Order

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

Presiding Officer

Vice Mayor and Councilmember Celina Benitez
Mayor Malinda Miles Not in Attendance

Officials Present

Councilmember Luke Chesek
Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz
City Clerk Da'rrell Belton

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Agenda into Record

Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Vice-Mayor Celina Benitez Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler Second: Councilmembers Shivali Shah Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed
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Investigation into Sexual Harassment Allegations in City of Mount Rainier Police Department

City Manager Miranda Braatz read official 9/14/18 Statement on Sexual Harassment Allegations in City of Mount Rainier Police Department and recommendations. The letter has been made public via the City's website and will be printed in the City newsletter. Allegations were against a small group within the Department and most officers were cooperative with the investigation. The City will implement both administration, policy, and training recommendations of the investigators. This investigation did not affect policing in the City. Councilmember Shivali Shah said there is separate investigation into the Police Department finances. The results of that investigation will be shared once the investigation is complete.

Speed Bump Petition from 3804 31st Street from June 1, 2018

Councilmember Bryan Knedler said the Petition number for 3800 block are good, but the petitioner needs 60% of dwelling units on the 4000 block. He needs to get signature from 4 more dwellings. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said there is a speed bump on the street and wanted to know where to put another bump. The Petitioner wants some type of calming device that is near his house, but not near the stop sign. Once he has all the signatures and submits them to the City, the Department of Works will determine costs and the City will hold public meeting on the issue.

Ethic Ordinance 10-2018

The City Attorney reviewed the proposed Ordinance 10-2018 that changes to City Code that are required for the City to be compliance with State Law. Changes are:

- Page 4, Paragraph 6, Top - Excluded exchanges of traded funds from definitions of interest from annual disclosure and conflict of interest statements.
- Page 9, C2 – Restrict former Council Members from lobbying for one-year after office for another party while being compensated.
- Page 9, Next Paragraph - Previous lobbyist who are now City employees from lobbying on issues they lobbied for before joining the City.
- Page 10, E12 – Prohibits using prestige of office to influence award of government contracts.
- Page 10, E2 – Prohibits steering people to specific lobbyists.
- Page 10 E4 – Prohibits appointed officials or employees to using public resources or their title to solicit campaign contribution.
- Next Paragraph - Prohibits public officials from using public resources to solicit campaign contributions. For example, no use of public email and postage for contributions.
- Page 14, Paragraph 2, Top – Required redaction of official and employee home addresses from financial disclosures statements before they are released from the public.
- Page 18, Paragraph 3, Top-Elected officials who spouses are registered lobbyist must disclose the spouses client.

Second reading of Ordinance 10-2018 will be done at October 2, Council Meeting.

Monopoles

City Attorney suggested that the Council enact legislation that updates public right of way process so the City can have more say in the size, location, and aesthetic consideration, insurance and reporting requirements etc. Vice Mayor and Councilmember Celina Benitez want language about removal of poles. FCC will soon implement rules that makes it easier companies to put poles where they want and limit municipalities. City Attorney says once the FCC rules a implemented in two weeks, the City should use them as a guideline to update City legislation. Issue was moved to Oct. Work Session when the FCC ruling will be out and the City Lawyer can report back on legal options.

Amendment to Procurement Policy

Mayor Malinda Miles asked Councilmember Luke Chesek to draft an amendment to require the City Manager to develop a relationship with State General Services to get free or low cost office supplies. It will require City Manager or their designee or other City employees look at General Services first, but then buy from another vendor if item is not available, accessible, or not meet needed standards. General Services items are online. City Manager Miranda Braatz has been using Police Surplus and Community Forklift for items as well. Councilmember Luke Chesek will send language to City's Manager and Attorney for review.

Memorial Park Redesign

Memorial Park is next to the Menkiti development near the Rhode Island Circle. Councilmember Luke Chesek has been working with University of Maryland (UMD) graduate students to redesign Memorial Park and Streetscape for under 10K. The City has 30K to do the design. UMD designed the Rhode Island Circle and they want to support local town. The cost would be 100K. He wants to ask the State to cover the cost via a grant. Councilmember Bryan Knedler would like UMD to consider Rodgers Park and other parks as projects. Councilmember Luke Chesek said that there are graduate students that can do a business development projects too.

Trash and Recycle Can Delivery

September 24 – 28 is when residents will get new cans. The back-up date for can delivery is September 29. Inside the can will be note about getting rid of the old containers, or you can keep them for yard waste.

Public Comment/Charnette Resident 3500 Block Perry - Is there opt out for the smaller trash cans? If you get the big can and realize its to big because your disabled or senior, how can you opt out beyond two-year grace period? How much does a second trash can cost? Council said smaller can opt-out requests will be handled on case by case basis and Council will work on rule to address this. In meantime, resident should call Public Works. Second trash can will cost approximately \$35 - \$50 and there is no timeframe. Contact Public Works to buy an extra can.

Budget Amendment 1 for FY19

Budget amendments moves items between budget lines to cover anticipated items. Budget Amendment 1 covers three items below at a total of \$76, 182. This amendment does not dip into City's reserves.

- Funding to bring the property 3409 Rhode Island Ave. that is above old City Hall. This property is not up to code. This funding will bring the building up to code and then Code Enforcement can occupy the space which is currently vacant. \$27, 500 will be needed to complete the code work and roof repair for 20,000 that will be included in FY20.
- Part-time Front Desk Admin Employee at \$12, 515
- Event and Community Events Employee \$36,176

Item 1 -\$27,500 from Contingency Reserve to cover code fixes at 3409 Rhode Island. \$48,682 unspent salary will cover cost of new positions. Councilmember Luke Chesek asked about ADA. City Manager Miranda Braatz said if there are residents that cannot go up the stairs the code enforcement officer will meet resident in City Hall to conduct business. Councilmember Luke Chesek wants to sell the buildings in the future. Councilmember Shivali Shah asked if Parking Officer can go there. City Manager Miranda Braatz can accommodate Parking in the space. Council agrees to move forward with this item.

Item 2 - Part-time Front Desk Admin Employee will greet and help residents, answer phones, help with paperwork, cover the City Clerk for lunch, and allow City Clerk to focus on his work. They will work 10am to 3pm. Councilmember Luke Chesek suggested City Clerk also supervised the admin. This funds 7-months of this position from FY 19 budget.

Item 3 – Fulltime Communication and Community Event Coordinator will be responsible for the City's newsletter, PSAs, MRTV, Social Media, press releases and relations, and proofreading. They will plan community events and be a contact and overseer for all City Committees and their procedures. This funds 7-months of this position from FY 19 budget. Councilmembers want the new hire to handle website content and maintenance, newsletter, and community committees. City Manager Miranda Braatz said the layout for newsletter will have to be discussed.

Public Comment

Dorothy 4000 Block - Where does unspent salaries come from? City Manager Miranda Braatz answered Code Enforcement and other Departments. As the City fills positions in these departments, how will the City pay for the new positions? City Manager Miranda Braatz answered The City will have less funding going to public works and that savings can be allocated for positions in FY20 Budget.

Sept 6, 2018 Closed Sessions Summary Reports

Vice Mayor and Councilmember Celina Benitez read the Summary Report for Sept. 6, 2018 and the Open Meeting Letter signed by Council.

Three Priorities

Councilmember Luke Chesek led Council Members to state their three priorities. The Council tabled full discussion till October 2018 Work Session when Mayor Malinda Miles is present. Priorities are:

Vice Mayor and Councilmember Celina Benitez

- Infrastructure (Civic Center/Library)
- Tax Reform
- Youth Scholarship/Translation

Councilmember Luke Chesek

- Tax Reform (Impact on Resident Diversity and Fixed-Income Resident)
- Memorial Park and Streetscape
- Stormwater Management

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

- Annexation
- Civic Center

- City Archives moved to Lower Level of Police Station into Archives

Councilmember Shivali Shah

- HR and City Administration Procedures
- Tax Reform and taking burden for single family homeowners
- Code Enforcement

City Manager Miranda

- Tax Reform

Councilmember Shivali Shah thinks a Top Ten list might show more common issues between Councilmembers. Mayor Malinda Miles will add her list at next Work Session.

Public Comments

- Resident - My Top Three are: Annexation, Civic Center, and City Archives moved to Lower Level of Police Station into Archives
- Resident: Please poll residents for their input. Councilmembers said that they get their priority list from residents via one on one meetings and community meetings. However, a poll to residents is doable too.

Police Chief Recruiter Meeting with Residents

City Manager Miranda Braatz said at Sept 27, 2018 from 6:30pm – 9pm at Potts Hall the Police Recruiter will be there to meet with residence. Please RSVP.

Motion to Move to Closed Session 8:52pm: Vice-Mayor Celina Benitez

Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: October 2, 2018

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 Celjna Benitez

Councilmember Luke Cheseck

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

City Clerk Da'rrell Belton

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Agenda into Record

Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmembers Shivali Shah

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Announcements

Public Comments

- Daniel Carter 3200 Sheppard Street – Stated Reminder about City Yard Sale.
- Resident 3109 Upshur – Concerned about a tree that was planted on City Property that may cause damage as it grows. It is at 31st and 34th Upshur Street. Councilmember Luke Cheseck said it's a Crepe Myrtle it will not get big enough to affect water or electrical line. She was advised to speak to the City's Tree commission.
- Ophelia Baxter –

- Wanted to know what City sponsored events can be in “The Message” and MRTV? Council said they need to set guidelines at next Work Session.
- New trash can are too small. Can we keep the small ones? Council responded that current rules do not allow for keeping old trash cans beyond two year, but the rules can be changed.
- Cindy Alexander 36th Street – There are many unfilled positions in the City including Economic Director, Police Chief, and Code Enforcement, and we need to look at this budget and what is going on now. 25% of position we are paying for that are not filled. It is concerning me. The Closed Meetings Summary need to be done and put in the Minutes of the next meeting.
- Charnette Robinson 3506
 - She has petition about the parking on Perry Street since 2003, she wants \$20 fee for parking stickers. Has petition on nuisance property and owner lives in New York City. Wants consideration for resident parking on Perry Street. Petition will reviewed.
 - 3600 Perry Street is now a boarding house and the grass is not cut. Neighbors have been cutting grass. Council said that Code Enforcement will intervene.
- Resident 34th Street
 - Back alley of 3017 34th Street where the gate is a mess. He tries to clean the area but it is too much for him. It’s the alley right by Bird’s. Council said Public Work will review.
 - He would like a grant to spruce up the front of his store. Who does talk to? Council stated there will be a meeting of MRBA to help you with grants and you that he should reach out to them.
- Scott Cecil
 - He had questions about the Police Department Investigation Letter that was posted. He asked if officers that did not cooperate the accused? Are they still on the force? Mayor Malinda Miles said Council is still processing the investigation and will provide more information in the future.
 - He just founded Rights Restoration Project for those that need criminal record expungement or sealing in the City to email him at scottbcecil@gmail.com.
 - He asked the City not celebrate Columbus Day instead of Indigenous People Day. The Council agreed with this suggestion.
- Business Owner - She has been in the City since 2004, she wants the Council to come to the businesses introduce themselves. She wants City and Council to be more people friendly.

Review of Rules for Public Comment and Petitions

- Public Comment allows one person three minutes. Person representing groups get 5 minutes. Comments and response/questions are allotted 10 minutes.
- Residents can give a petition in writing to City Clerk who will read it. Council can give an answer, relay petition to City Department or Committee to handle, move to Work Session, add it to Agenda, or Dismiss the petition (no further action). Person that submits petition is not given floor to speak unless Council decides to hear from them or question them.

Report from Code Enforcement

The Director of Code of Enforcement reviewed work from September 4 -28, 2018. Code Enforcement has issued 22 permits, 15 violations, and 3 inspections. There is improvement needed on inspections. He reviewed revenue generated via permits and licenses. He also brought up building violations and vacant lot liens that need to be paid both current and past.

- He will be collecting past due fines and following up on court liens. Arundel Park Apartment owes 84K to City and more due to court liens. Arundel Park Apartments owes 16,200K plus more owed due to court liens.
- The Art Lofts are current for permits and he is making sure that they take care of structural damage. Code Enforcement will hire a structural engineer to review the space and help the City. Mayor Malinda Miles asked the Director to review issues at the Artist Loft. Artist Loft is an apartment building and tenant had damage to the truss in apartment 216 and affects apartment 316. Code Enforcement informed the owners. There was meeting with Code Enforcement, Mayor, and Owners to come up with work plan to fix the Truss. He worked with owner to make sure this get rectified. There are up two five apartments that have the issues.

Questions from Council:

- Councilmember Shivali Shah
 - How is it ascertained that a building is vacant? Director of Code Enforcement: It has to be vacant for 60 days. Code reviews utilities bills and an Inspector goes out to review if property is vacant by site inspection looking at level of upkeep, like cut grass.
 - How you report a suspected vacant property and the compliant anonymous? Contact Code Enforcement about vacant property and any complaints are anonymous.
- Resident
 - Structural issues in past were referred to County for insurance and expertise issues. Why is City working on these issues?
 - Are residents getting double permitted for work on residences? Mayor Malinda Miles said City is hiring more qualified and certified code inspectors that can handle work and residents get permits from County for homebuilding and renovations.
- Cathy Foster – What is being done about boarding houses in the community? Councilmember Shivali Shah said residents renting room or Airbnb need to register with the City as rentals.
- Resident – Is rental permit under City Hall or Code Enforcement? Council said it falls under Code Enforcement.

Petitions

12 Petitions by Concerned Citizens of City of Mount Rainier to the Mayor and Council and City Manager were read into record by City Clerk Da'rrell Belton. Petitions will be kept in City Hall Records. Petitions were referred to the appropriate City Department, City Committee, Councilmember and/or slated for discussion in Work Session or dismissed by Council.

Five Minute Intermission

Councilmember Celina Benitez

Councilmember Luke Chesek
Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Councilmember Shivali Shah

Discussion Change to Ethics Ordinance 10-2018

Councilmember Shivali Shah requested changes to Ordinance 10-2018. Discussion ensued on how to amend it, but it required suspension of Council rule to vote on only clean copy of Ordinance due to approaching deadline.

Motion to Suspend Council Rules for Vote on Only Clean Copy of Ordinances Due to Impending Deadline: Mayor Miles
Move: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Councilmember Shivali Shah amended language was debated by Mayor and Council. It was concluded the entire Mount Rainier Board of Elections should be included in the amended Ethic Ordinance. A severability law is included that will deal with any restriction on Police Officer due to laws or Union rules. Councilmember Luke Chesek wrote final language to amend the Ethic Ordinance 10-2018 and moved this language for vote.

Move to Amend Ethic Ordinance 10-2018 to Section 7A: This section only applies to the following appointed officials and employees: the City Manager, Director of City Departments, Code Enforcement Officers, Members of City Board of Elections, and, to the extent permitted by the law or collective bargaining agreements, Police Officers: Mayor Miles
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

No Public Comment

Move to Approve Amended Ethic Ordinance 10-2018:
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

First Reading of Ordinance 11-2018 Procurement Amendment

City Manager Miranda Braatz gave fair summary for the first reading of Ordinance 11-2018 Procurement Amendment. The Amendment ensures City Manager and their designee and City Department Directors and designated employee will seek to acquire office and other general supplies via state General Services at no or low cost.

Reading of Closed Session Summary

Councilmember Celina Benitez read the Closed Session Summary into record for September 20, 2018 and October 2, 2018 meetings.

First Reading Ordinance 12-2018 FY2019

City Manager Miranda Braatz gave fair summary for the first reading of Ordinance 12-2018 Budget Amendment covers three items below at a total of approximately \$75,775. This amendment does not dip into City's reserves. Budget lines from unspent salaries in department will be moved to cover administrative services. This is 1.1% of overall FY19 Budget.

- Funding to bring the property 3409 Rhode Island Ave. that is above old City Hall. \$27,500.
- Part-time Front Desk Admin Employee at \$12,500
- Event and Community Events Employee \$35,775

Petition #1 Discussion that would halt expenditures stated in Ordinance 12-2018

Council asked if Code Enforcement could instead go into Potts Hall or Public Work versus spending \$27,500 to repair old City Hall. They had concerns about the space is being accessible. List of repairs would be helpful. There were concerns about hiring more staff at this time and a need for a long-time plan for where Code Enforcement will go. There is support for part-time administration help from Council, but Mayor Malinda Miles did not agree. There also concern with amount of open positions in the City already that should be filled before more hires..

Public Comments

Resident – Renovation of 3909 Top Floor should require a strong look at Code. With open positions in the City, taking money from one line will that open position be unfunded or close?. After the other positions are filled, she be open to these new positions. Subcontract staff to handle "The Message."

Closed Meeting will be held Thursday, October 4, 2018, 7pm.

Councilmember Celina Benitez Exit Meeting

Resident – Does not want money spent on repair or for new hires. Once current vacancies are filled, City can make new hires. Asked if Media Lab can be used for Code Enforcement. Mayor Malinda Miles said the Media Lab cannot be used due to privacy issues.

Mount Rainier Library

Mayor Malinda Miles discussed how she is working to keep the Library open and renovate the building. Councilmember Shivali Shah wants Library discussion to go to Work Session.

Public Comment

Resident said the resident should be asked to help with Library fundraising. Mayor Malinda Miles said this has not happened as of now.

Return to Discussion of Ordinance 12-2018

We need discussions for proper work space and proper positions for City workers, so employees and prospects feel respected Councilmember Bryan Knedler said there should be cubicles in upstairs City Hall space and move Council to Potts Hall.

Motion to Recess to Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7 pm Closed Session: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

DATE: October 16, 2018

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 (via telephone)

Councilmember Luke Chesek

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

City Clerk Darrell Belton (Absent)

Minutes provided by:

City Clerk

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Amended Agenda

Discussion of Memorial Park and University of Maryland (UMD) Partnership

This was a discussion led by Councilmember Luke Chesek on the redesign of Memorial Park and surrounding streetscape, which is next to the Menkiti development and includes area around 33/34th, Perry and Rhode Island. Maria Marshall from the Coleman Institute at UMD and Jack Coleman from Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at UMD were in attendance to present to Mayor and Council a MOU with a scope of work and deliverables that they can commit to for work on the Memorial Park Project. UMD has partnered on this project with the City in the past, including the design of Rhode Island Avenue Circle. Menkiti previously presented their cost estimates for work on Memorial Park. One was for \$18K and another was for \$23K. The UMD estimate for the work is \$15K and the work will be done by graduate students supervised by faculty. UMD also included time for soliciting input from community to inform their design. Maria Marshall briefly discussed working with the City on a revitalization plan and discussed what Coleman Center and related Depts. can do for the City. She explained engaging Jack Coleman and the Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture to work specifically on the Memorial Park and Streetscape Project. He is a registered landscape architect and he presented examples of work that he and his students have completed.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler asked what is the amount City allocated to this? The City has budget \$30K for the Memorial Park and Streetscape Project. He said that the businesses that surround that area need to be added as stakeholders for feedback. He asked what will happen to the Memorial Park Stone? There was brief discussion on whether to move the stone or not. No consensus was reached on the stone. The Council agreed to move forward and move this issue to the next Council Legislative Session. By that Session, Mayor Malinda Miles wants deadlines for advertising to the community how and when to give their input and she agreed that the surrounding businesses need to be engaged in the process. She also wants the boundary and size of the Park and stone in the MOU. Council said the City has to do this. The Mayor Malinda Miles agreed and wants it included in the MOU. She wants the utility survey to be found and/or be ready too. Councilmember Shivali Shah asked who will be the City point person for this Project? Mayor said that this will be determined by City Manager Miranda Braatz. Councilmember Luke Cheseck said key points for City staff designee is to set a date for a community meeting in November, securing map of Project Area, and securing the utility survey. He suggested she reach out to Mark Rangel for maps. Mayor Malinda Miles asked for clarification on type of photos that the UMD students need. UMD representatives said any images that show the Project area are helpful. Mayor Malinda Miles assigned finding images to Councilmember Bryan Knedler. She assigned this to Councilmember Shivali Shah to put UMD team in touch with MRBA and attend a meeting to discuss the Project and get business data requested.

Stop Signs at 34th/Otis and 32nd/Rainier Discussion

- **32nd/Rainier** discussion was led by Councilmember Luke Cheseck. He said it also included Taylor and 33rd street. He gets steady complaints about speeding. Some residents want a Stop Sign others want cameras. At the bottom of the street at the easement, Councilmember Luke Cheseck suggested a trail and sidewalk. The Interim Police Chief suggested a Stop Sign. Mayor Malinda Miles asked where do you put it? No agreement. Councilmember Bryan Knedler asked about cameras. The Police Chief said first step is the Stop Sign. Mayor Malinda Miles said that works at first, but then enforcement is an issue. City Miranda Braatz said we ticket for safety not fees. Mayor Malinda Miles would like numbers on amount of tickets for running Stop Sign. She believes the City is not ticketing for running Stop Signs. Council would like to look at cameras for enforcement. Councilmember Shivali Shah said we need cameras that are not hostage to a company that will take it away if it's not generating enough tickets for them to make a profit. Can we own our own companies? The Mayor and Council were favor of adding a Stop Sign and looking into camera solution to address enforcement.
- Mary, a resident, said she represents half the people on **Rainier and Upshur**. She laid out concerns of her neighbors with children and disabilities. She said the weekends are worst and their also concerns about the speeders hitting deer. She would like a sporadic police presence. Lastly, 32nd is alt route for speeding trucks and that need a deterrent too. She also discussed a motorcyclists that are problematic. Mayor Malinda Miles and Police Chief told her call the police when you see the motorcyclist speeding.
- **34th/Otis** discussion was led by Councilmember Shivali Shah. She said residents would like 4-Way Stop Sign and for people to stop parking at the bus stop. Interim Police Chief agrees with adding the 4-Way Stop. Mayor Malinda Miles said to check State Law on how close the Stop Sign can be to a light and also the light is near Washington, DC. Interim Police Chief will call the State for approval. Mayor Malinda Miles said the approval should be in writing. Councilmember Bryan Knedler you may

need to move the bus stop and add a cross walk there. Mayor Malinda Miles wants the bus stop for the school to be moved farther down or to Otis Street. Head of Public Works says there is a huge tree is blocking the Stop Sign. Mayor Malinda Miles asked Public Works and Police to tell Mayor and Council to report back to Council with solutions. Councilmember Luke Cheseck said Tool Design said to narrow road and put in some stormwater management solution as traffic calming device and he will follow up with County/State agencies. Mayor Malinda Miles will look at humps at Stop Signs. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said there should be public hearing with a diagram of the streets available. Mayor and Council agreed on a Public Meeting on 34th/Otis traffic calming options on Nov. 2nd at 7pm before the regular meeting. Councilmember Shivali Shah there needs to be flyers on the houses affected. Mayor and Council agreed.

Perry Street Parking

Councilmember Bryan Knedler found old documents on Perry Street that the Council had. The Perry Street Petition was done years ago. Resident should not have to do another one, but residents will just have to comply with updated rules. There was vote on parking zones in general that was done and approved about 3 or 4 years ago. Council said there needs to be a public hearing as residents have changed from years ago and they must be heard and understand they have to pay to park in the Perry Zone. Also, what will the permits cost be? Will it be same as cost Anne Arundel street? How many cars? What about visitors? Will they just park on other streets not to pay, this is happening on Anne Arundel now. Mayor and Council agreed to have the public hearing. Councilmember Shivali Shah there needs to be flyers on the houses affected. Mayor Malinda Miles said that rule is out there for Perry, Council has not enforced it. The notice needs to say its about enforcing or rescinding the rule on permits in the Perry Street Parking Zone. To revoke the Ordinance, 60% of residents to sign petition to revoke. Council and Mayor will hold public meeting with the Otis/34th Meeting and flyers will be sent out to affected residents on Perry. Charnette said she has done the petition three times. Please act. She will update the petition if need be. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said she did not need a new petition, just ask her neighbors to come to the hearing.

Meeting with County Director of Stormwater Management

Councilmember Luke Cheseck talked with the County Director of Stormwater Management and how he liked the plan he laid out for the City. Churches get the County water fee removed if they let the County do major stormwater management projects on their property. Green Team is talking one by one with local churches for partnerships. To get a full plan for stormwater management for City will cost 100k and City allocated 20K. However, the City can apply for grants and \$20K can show the City's good faith. The City has applied for a grant for Bunker Hill and has a lead to an organization to help get other grants.

Anne Arundel Green Street Letter Approval by Council

Councilmember Luke Cheseck said the Green Team has not received a letter of approval for the Anne Arundel Green Street Project from the City that approves of their design. They are concerned that the approval has not happened. Once they get approval, they can get bid for the work. Council and Mayor will add this to the next meeting for a vote. Get any changes to Councilmember Luke Cheseck before the meeting.

Newton Street Sidewalk and Alley

Newton/37th has a missing sidewalk and a alley that is bit of mess. At the bottom where it meets 34th Street, water puddles. Councilmember Celina Benitez and Luke Chesek have heard from residents about the problem and they met with builders that want to build three townhomes there. Councilmember Luke Chesek wants to see if its possible for the builders to cover some needed work. The Builders meet with Historic Preservation Board soon. Councilmember Luke Chesek will get a summary of that meeting and the County hearing is Feb. 21st. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said Councilmember Luke Chesek and Benitez need to create their list of requirements and meet with Design Review Board to create a requirement letter, bring the letter to Council for vote, and then have letter sent to the County.

Website Launch

This discussion was led by Councilmember Shivali Shah. She wants the Mayor and Council to discuss creating a content schedule for the upcoming City Website, create a editing process for the Website content; and decide on the City logo; and send a community survey on Website needs. There was a discussion about the many versions of the Mount Rainier logo. Councilmember Celina Benitez said the Website designer recommend using lettering only or the logo for 100-yearo of Mount Rainier but remove with the banner. Right now, they are using a place holder of the logo featuring the trolley. Councilmember Shivali Shah will send it around to Mayor and Council. If its approved, we can use it. If not, we have to hire a graphic designer to make a vector file of the current Mount Rainier logo or make a new one. Mayor and Council agreed to create a Table of Contents for the Website, review current content to see what is still relevant, determine what new content is needed, and set a date with website developers to come to the City in December. Councilmember Shivali Shah asked City Manager Miranda Braatz to assign a staff person to coordinate this effort. The Developers have a survey to assess what people want from the website, Councilmember Shivali Shah wants this survey to go to the community. Councilmember Celina Benitez will connect with the Developers to make sure the survey is live and share the link. City Manager Miranda Braatz said the Muni Code has been paid for and will be integrated into the Website.

Community Calendar

Councilmember Shivali Shah presented eight calendars that were organized by City Clerk Da'rrell Belton. They are calendars for Mount Rainer Legislative Meetings, Staff Meetings, Monthly Department Head Meetings, Monthly Department Meetings, Monthly Personnel Closed Session Meetings, Department Head Verbal Reports, Community Conversations, and the Elected Official Calendar. Councilmember Shivali Shah has been working on City Community Organizations and Committees calendar for October to January. It has Legislative/Work Session Meeting, Committee Meetings, and Department of Public Work important dates, please review. This will go on the City Website. Each Committee is getting Open Meeting training.

Library Update

Mayor Malinda Miles, Councilmember Celina Benitez, and Councilmember Bryan Knedler went to the hearing on the Library and reported back to Council and public. The Library was closed due to needed repairs. Another site will not be open as the City does not have the staff to do so. Mr. Kamali, Head of

Dept. of Public Works, said Thursday at 1pm a lead and asbestos test will be done by Environmental Solutions and they will give a report with abatement options. He confirmed the boiler for the building was fixed last year. Besides asbestos and lead, the other issues are leaking roof, no public bathrooms (do to inappropriate use by public), broken window, and peeling paint. The County has not committed to a temporary Library. Councilmember Celina Benitez said there is a list from the Library of many items to be fixed in the space. Councilmember Shivali Shah is onboard with moving the Library to Potts Hall, but does not see it as a long-term solution. The County has the resources to run the Library, and she would like them to purchase the building and handle the Library services. Mayor and Council said that PG Libraries did not want the building event if it's given to them. Mayor Malinda Miles said the storytime at the Waterhole is going well and County was very pleased with it. How can we do events in other spaces? At What about Recreative Spaces. Councilmember Celina Benitez wants the City to get on the list of Libraries for capital improvements. Mayor Malinda Miles said we need to apply for grants. There is safety and supervision issues in the Library that has to be addressed. Moving forward Mayor Malinda Miles said she and Councilmember Bryan Knedler will meet with the County Library Executives. Council will explore Recreative Spaces, the Kaywood Theater, and Potts Hall for a space solution. The Environmental Solutions report will be back in two weeks. The Library should be discussed in November. A few residences are interested in helping with funding for new Library. Councilmember Celina Benitez will take the lead on that.

Petitions and Requests

Discussion about how to handle petitions and requests at Council Meetings. Mayor Malinda Miles sent the Council her thoughts on rules. Councilmember Shivali Shah would like petitioners to have a process to have their issues handled before creating petition. Mayor Malinda Miles reviewed petition procedure in other municipalities for best practices. She submitted her findings to the Council. Possible procedures could be to have residents' hand in petitions to the City Clerk two weeks prior to Council Meetings. They will be time stamped. Only those petitions that require a Council response, make it to the Council. All other will be referred to appropriate City staff or committees. Councilmember Bryan Knedler wants petitioners to have more than 20 signatures for changes to Ordinances. Signatures should be based on percentage of registered voters.

Public Comment

- Resident Charnette said that residents realized the process is flawed too. She is fine with suspending petitions until the procedures are in place. She would like to the ability to submit petitions electronically.
- Resident said Council should not make a distinction between individual or group for petitions if they meet requirements. Don't make requirements to stringent as there would be little distinguish petition from a ballot initiative.
- Resident said Council does not respond to requests and that is why there were so many petitions. There are different standards for residents in Council responses. Residents feel ignored.

Council does not respond to questions on social media. Council and Mayor will suspend listening to petitions until rules are in place. They will work on rules at the November 2, Meeting and vote in December. Residents can still submit petitions to City Hall during the suspension period.

Budget Amendment 1 Discussion

- **Code Enforcement Department Space** - City Manager Miranda Braatz was reviewed for specific costs for update of 6 office spaces to house the Code Enforcement Department asked for in Budget Amendment for \$27,500. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said he does support this without knowing cost for Library repairs and that is more important. There is an empty office and board room in Police Dept. or we can use Potts Hall. These spaces can be used for little cost. Councilmember Shivali Shah said the police officer would like their own cubicle space and upstairs of City Hall is too small. She also wants the Library and downstairs of Police Department fixed first. City Manager Miranda Braatz said Code Enforcement cannot be moved without checking laws on access. Police Department is restricted access for non-police staff and the public. She is aware of police officer's wish to have desks and cubicles. Councilmember Celina Benitez said there is a need to repair our buildings so they don't get to state of Library. Code Enforcement Department needs a space for staff, desks, and there files. Councilmember Bryan Knedler and Mayor Malinda Miles do not support the use of the space. Mayor Malinda Miles said we should look at the Department of Public Works. Council and Mayor wants in writing a plan from City Manager Miranda Braatz that outlines staffing, space, and space renovation needs across the City. Mayor Malinda Miles would like to use unspent salaries vs. contingency for space renovations. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said contingency should be used. The space that shares the roof with the Library needs repair. She was Mr. Kamali Director of Public Works will review the roof again, but the roof will cost 20K and that is a priority.
- **Personnel** - There was discussion Communication and Events Position and Part-time Administrative Assistant. City Manager Miranda Braatz will send Mayor and Council the position for Communications. Admin position does not have enough votes. A special meeting can be called to review budget.
- **Procurement** - Add green statement and amend. It can go to second reading.

Minutes

Mayor and Council should review minutes and give any changes to City Manager Miranda Braatz.

Councilmember Shivali Shah asked to move first Council Meeting of 2019 to Jan. 8, 2018. Mayor and Council agreed. This request will be addressed at the next Council Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Mayor Malinda Miles Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed
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Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: November 6, 2018

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

Councilmember Luke Chesek

Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Councilmember Shivali Shah

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz

City Clerk Da'rrell Belton

Minutes provided by: City Clerk

Call to Order 7:08 pm and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Amended Agenda

Motion to Adopt the Amended Agenda with Possible Two Additions: Mayor Malinda Miles Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed
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Public Hearings and Petitions: Perry Street Parking Zones and Stop Signs

Mayor Malinda Miles reviewed rules for comments and petitions. Councilmember Luke Chesek asked for the Record to be open so residents can comment until Dec 3, 2018. The normal rule is for the Record to be open for 7 days after the Legislative Session. He wants the change because tonight's meeting is happening on national election night. Mayor Malinda Miles agreed.

Motion to Hold Record Open on Perry Street Parking Zone and Stop Sign Petitions until Next Legislative Session, to allow in-person comment as today meeting is being held on a national election night: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Perry Street Parking Zone

City Clerk Da'rrell Belton read into record three written comments in support of the enforcement of the Perry Street Parking Zone received by City Hall. Resident Charnette Robinson submitted a packet in support of Perry Street Parking Zone that included a review of the history of efforts for the Zone and current issues residents on Perry Street are facing in terms of parking including guest and borders. Also, included was petition with Perry Street residents' signatures and a letter in favor of the Zone.

Testimonials

- Charnette Robinson 3500 Perry Street -- There is an issue now with new restaurants and businesses with parking on Perry Street and continuing issue with commuters parking on Perry. She wanted a vote on Perry Street as all, but two residents were present.
- Margaret Bedall 3509 Perry Street -- Stated she in favor of the Zone and supported the efforts of Resident Charnette.
- Gabriela Rivera 3500 Perry Street -- (Translated from Spanish) She does not want outside people to park on the street as there is no spot for her cars nor her visitors' cars.
- June Robinson 3600 Perry Street - She said there are small children and daycare on the street. They need an area to pick up of their children without problems. Also, seniors need to be able to park at or near their homes. She is in support of permit parking.
- William Thorton 3500 Perry Street -- He lent his support for enforcement of the zone.
- Lenard Moore 3500 Perry Street -- He said the problem is enforcement, not sure of a solution. He suggested a parking garage where the liquor store and funeral home is or elsewhere. In the morning people use the alley at the circle as a pass through. Kids walk in the alley and he is worried about safety in the alley. Please consider a garage.
- Rev. Bernice Hudnell 3600 Perry Street -- She is in support of the Parking Zone. She said there was a terrible crash recently, she wants further traffic calming on Perry and supports other enforcement and a garage.

Councilmember Bryan Knedler said the Perry Street Zone has been there for 20 years and it just requires enforcement and purchase of new permits to meet the rules of the new Ordinance. This does not require a vote. Mayor and Council agreed to direct staff and police on moving forward on permitting and enforcement starting immediately. Councilmember Celina Benitez asked for a grace period. Councilmember Shivali Shah said at next Work Session, she wants City Staff to bring in ideas for implementation. City Manager Miranda Braatz said the City is ready, expect time for police enforcement, to begin, to give permits. Mayor Malinda Miles agreed with Council to have City staff present implementation plan at next Work Session.

Motion to exclude Perry Street Parking Zone from Open Record at the Next Legislative Session: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Mayor Malinda Miles noted the votes taken were out of order because they were held during Public Comment. They are to be redone during the Legislative part of the meeting. She thanked resident from Perry Street in attendance.

32nd/Rainier Stop Sign

- City Clerk Da'rrell Belton read into record four written comments in support of the enforcement of the Stop Sign at 32nd/Rainier received by City Hall. Speed warning signs and stronger police enforcement was recommended as residents have noted speeding, deer, and near collisions. Can speed bump be on snow emergency route? A recommendation was made to delegate traffic matters to the decision of the City Manager as is done by City of Hyattsville. There were safety concerns for this intersection.
- City Clerk Da'rrell Belton read into record one written comment against of the enforcement of the Stop Sign at 32nd/Rainier received by City Hall. Resident was concerned the Stop Sign would impede his view entering and exiting his driveway. Resident was not in favor of the Stop Sign. If sign goes up, the sight line needs to be open.

Testimonials

- Anthony Hall 4200 Rainier Avenue – He can see the road from his house. You need consequence to enforce a Stop Sign. He suggests a speed bump after the Stop Sign.
- Ally Rice 4200 32nd Avenue - He appreciates getting flyers to residents about meeting, but it is illegal to put flyer in his mailbox. He suggests street blockade to stop speeders. Rainier and 33rd Street should have a Stop Sign. He would like to know the results of the City traffic study.
- Valerie Stevens 4200 Rainier – Council clarified to her that the Stop Sign will be near her home, she suggested traffic calming with Stop Sign and speed bumps.

Mayor Malinda Miles asked City Miranda Braatz to read into record information from the Police Department on traffic recording data from TracksPro graphs. From Nov. 1, 2018 at 7am to Nov. 2, 2018 at 7am on 34th and Otis at bottom of the valley, the data from both directions showed car average speed of 29 RPM, 2% or 3% of vehicles went above 35 miles which could trigger a ticket. The speed limit is 25MPH. From Nov. 5, 2018 at 5am to Nov. 6, 2018 at 5am on 32nd/Rainier Streets at bottom on the hill on Northside, the data from both directions showed average speed of 27RPM and 1 or 2% of vehicles went above 35 miles which could trigger a ticket. The speed limit is 25MPH.

Testimonials Continued

- Kate Wall 4200 32nd – Police should enforce below 35 MPH speeds because this would help safety on the hilly and narrow streets. A Stop Sign is the first step in traffic calming, and she agrees with it. She would like cut offs and street narrowing. She would like sidewalks and visible crosswalks.
- Ben Wall 4200 32nd – In many places the 25MPH is too high-speed limit. There is no Stop Sign in this direction, so it should match the other streets.

- Ms. Boston 4100 Rainier Street – She was not necessarily in favor of the Stop Sign, she would like speed limit lowered 15MPH. She is in favor of a camera or permanent speed bump. Enforcement is the issue, no one stops at the Stop Sign in front of my house. Police must enforce the Stop Sign.

Councilmember Luke Chesek said he brought up the Stop Sign for several months and sees there is support for it. He would like a crosswalk with the Stop Sign and in the future he wants an easement with a forest path and stormwater bioretention that narrows to also slow down traffic. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said for a speed bump residents will need 60% of neighbors on Rainier. Councilmember Shivali Shah said the traffic and sidewalk study was done and public feedback was taken at many City meetings including Council Meetings. The report is available from Department of Public Works. Councilmember Bryan Knedler reviewed the rules for petitions on getting signatures on neighboring streets.

Testimonials Continued

- Kate Wall 4200 32nd – Six years ago she was told that it was an Emergency Route and could not have a speed bump. Mayor Malinda Miles said we used to have Fire Dept. and there was enforcement of this rule. But now its not an issue.
- Shauna Barnett ZZ Pizza – She noticed that she finds the speed limits are still too fast and this is true through out the City. Can the speed limit be lowered across the City to 20 to 15 MPH? Mayor Malinda Miles said its not on the Agenda, but it will be added to Council's Work Session Agenda.
- Resident – What is the speed limit at Mount Rainier Elementary? Council said it was off topic.
- Brooke Kidd 4100 29th – She is for lowering speed limit City-wide and for the Stop Sign, but speed bump don't work, use crosswalks, and bump outs.

Stop Signs at 34th/Otis

City Clerk Da'rrell Belton read into record one written comment in support of a the Stop Sign at 34th/Otis received by City Hall. No Testimonials

Mayor Malinda Miles has not received feedback on placing Stop Sign at 34th/Otis so near a traffic light. Councilmember Bryan Knedler and Councilmember Shivali Shah did a block walk and residents. Residents would like a four-way stop. Councilmember Shivali Shah suggested the City put a Stop Sign where the traffic light is, and Washington, DC can protest it if they want. A Metro Bus and school bus stop will both have to move. Also, there are two cars parked at the Metro Bus and that is a problem as well. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said there are two Metro bus stops. WMATA needs to consolidate to one bus stop and move the school bus stop. To get the 4-way stop the WMATA bus stop must be moved. Mayor Malinda Miles said the cars at bus stop must be ticketed. Councilmember Bryan Knedler and Councilmember Shivali Shah made it a no parking zone, so Police need to enforce the no parking. Need Stop Sign and crosswalks.

Councilmember Shivali Shah asks City Miranda Braatz for status updates with timeline for action on the items spoken about tonight. City Miranda Braatz will give update on Nov. 26 Work Session.

Motion to Close Public Session and Open Legislative Session: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Celina Benitez

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Legislative Session

Proper Vote for Previous Motion was held. Votes below.

Motion to Hold Record Open on Stop Signs at 34/Otis and 32nd/Rainier until Next Legislative Session:

Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Motion to Reinforce Perry Street Parking Zone with Expectation of Implementation Plan: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Announcements

Police have hired two police officers and by February hope to hire a Police Chief.

No Public Comments

MOU with University of Maryland and City of Mount Rainier for Memorial Park and Streetscape Redevelopment Design

María Marshall from the Coleman Institute at UMD and Jack Coleman from Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at UMD created a MOU with the City for 15K. Both were in attendance for Council review of final MOU and signing. Councilmember Luke Chesek led the Council through changes to MOU as directed by Council in the previous meeting and reviewed the work that would be done. Scope includes having UMD Students work with City to develop plan for the redesign of Memorial Park and Streetscape, with community feedback.

Motion to Adopt MOU between City and University of Maryland for Redesign of Memorial Park and Streetscape: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek

Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Mayor and Council signed the MOU.

Public Comment

- Resident 3200 – Recreation Committee Parade of Lights and contest notice.
- Charette Robinson 3500 Perry Street – She made petition and request clarifications. She wants to know the City of Mount Rainier’s police schedule including how many officers are working and where. Also wants a crime report.
- Shauna Barnett Resident/ZZ Pizza – Shop Small Announcement. She supports a parking garage. She wants to address how businesses can work with the new Website. She would like online licensing and permitting, this will keep City processes modern and green.
- Brooke Kidd Joe’s Movement/MRBA – MRBA has a monthly meeting now and will release an updated business directory with Shop Small in November. MRBA would like to know when business items are on agenda, so they will send a representative. Councilmember Shivali Shah said the website will have payment modules on website and allow residents to get notices.
- Ms. Boston 4100 Rainier – When will the Ethnic Board be functional? She requested and was given description on new Event Coordinator and Communications. Asked when will this description will be advertised. When will the timeline for the Website and is current be updated? Police investigation is complete, two officers were not reinstated. Will they be reinstated? Please give an update. Rules and regulation on grants questions, did the money come from the state or City and what is timeline to use the fund? Mayor Malinda Miles asked for Ms. Boston to email the list of her questions to City Manager Miranda Braatz. The Ethics Committee will be discussed in two weeks and we have active Board that complaints can be sent to. The new hire will be posted as soon as the Budget Amendment is approved.
- Charnette – Once the Website is up will all information go out via the website or will go out on the listserv and social media? Mayor Malinda Miles said The Message and the Website are the City government’s official communication channels. She wants to contact Celina or Shivali? She should use email.

Second Reading of Ordinance 11-2018 Amendment on Green Procurement

Green Team Purchase Policy needs to be reviewed to make sure the City Code matches. There was an addition of substantial clause to the Ordinance, so another reading will happen.

Second Reading of Ordinance 12-2018 Budget Amendment 1

This amendment moves funds between lines to fund fulltime Administrative Services Assistant and Event and Communication Coordinator positions from Dec – June 31, 2019 for \$35,775. These position are funded through unspent salaries and not depended on City reserves. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said this has had substantial change from first reading, so there should be another reading and vote on December 3, 2018.

New Business

Appointment of Danielle Carter as the New Chairperson of Recreation Committee

Councilmember Luke Chesek discussed Danielle Carter’s credentials and nominated her for Chairperson for the Recreation Committee. The appointment is for two years. Councilmember Bryan Knedler seconded the nomination. The Council was excited for her appointment and engagement in the community. Mayor Malinda Miles we need to have representation on the Parks and Planning Committee, and she would like to meet with Danielle about Xtreme Teens. Danielle said local teens need community hours and she will engage them.

Closed Session Summaries

Closed Session Summaries were read by Councilmember Celina Benitez.

Anne Arundel Green Team Letter Approval by Council

Councilmember Luke Chesek read the letter into record. Council reviewed it.

Motion to Sign and Send Green Team Letter and with Attachment to County: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minute June Minutes with Correction on June 19 Date in Footnotes: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Rules for Petition Process

Councilmember Shivali Shah stated that Council should suspend discussion in Council Meeting until rules in place for hearing them and passing them. Mayor Malinda Miles said its been a month already, so she wants a timeline on creating rules and voting on the process. Residents can submit petitions in the meantime.

Motion to Suspend Discussion of Petitions at Council Meetings until February 2019 Legislative Pending Passing Amended Rules for Petitions: Mayor Malinda Miles
Move: Councilmember Shivali Shah
Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Public Comments

- Charnette Robinson Perry Street – Please put on Agenda for tracking purposes. Mayor Malinda Miles said it will be all Agenda to vote in Feb. City Manager Miranda Braatz said this issue will be called Ordinance 13 in future Agenda with name and description.
- Ms. Boston – What happens to Petitions that were already presented, they will reviewed at the upcoming November Work Session.

Library

City Manager Miranda Braatz the results of the environmental testing. There is asbestos in the floor tiles. Cost to remove is approximately 27K. Lead come back negative. The Library was given the test results and said the City was free to pull the books and give them to residents. The Library said they don't want the books and to give them to residents. Council was concerned that it seems the County is abandoning the Library. This was moved to Work Session. Mayor and Councilmember Bryan Knedler

asked if the floor can be covered. The State has a Department that can look at it. Councilmember Luke Cheseck want to know by next Work Session if the County plans to reopen the Library after asbestos abatement. City Manager Miranda Braatz will send email to County Library Heads asking them their intentions and come to Work Session. Mayor Malinda Miles wants to have a private meeting with The Library first and then bring them to Work Session. She wants to talk to Chair of the Board Sam Epps not the Library Heads.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Mayor Malinda Miles

Move: Councilmember Luke Cheseck

Second: Councilmember Bryan Knedler

Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed