

Official Minutes of the City of Mount Rainier
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

DATE: March 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 (By Phone)

Officials Present

Councilmember Celina Benitez (Vice Mayor)
Councilmember Luke Chesek
Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Councilmember Shivali Shah (By Phone)

Staff Present

City Manager Miranda Braatz
Acting City Clerk John Hoatson

Minutes provided by:

Acting City Clerk John Hoatson

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Agenda into Record by Councilmember Luke Chesek

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Councilmember Luke Chesek Move: Councilmember Luke Chesek Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

Reading of Announcements

Public Comment

- Mary Abe 4200 Block 31st – Councilmember Luke Chesek and Councilmember Celina Benitez sent out an email with an open letter on the listserv. The letter divulged a resident's name in the email over a FIOA request that is legal. She was very upset about the disclosure and will not be voting for either Councilmember.

- Gregg Seton - The FIOA request itself bothered him because it was counter to the City efforts of inclusion. He felt it was xenophobic and disrespectful to Council. He wondered if City's time and monies should be spent on addressing such a divisive request. He asked the Council and Mayor to denounce the Maryland Citizen for Government Ethics and Accountability for their xenophobic and immigrant baiting with the FIOA request. He said the Council and Mayor are vetted already the FIOA is waste of our resources and tax dollars. He felt the FIOA was unethical.
- Mr. Woodland Legislative Assistant from Senator Malcom Augustine Office – Invited resident to a reception for 47th Delegation. They must RSVP. There is Senatorial Scholarship for April 19 deadline.
- Charnette Robinson Perry St. – Petitions on renovations on the Senior Citizens Building and for the citizen referendum for ballot are out. She asks residents to look out for them.

Minutes

December 4, 8 and 18, 2018 and January 22, 2019 were presented for vote. Mayor Malinda Miles recommend that Minutes be approved with all corrections into City Manager by Friday.

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Mayor Malinda Miles
 Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
 Second: Councilmember Celina Benitez
 Vote Recorded: 4-0-0, Motion Passed

First Reading Ordinance 1-2019 Establish Real Estate Property Class

City Manager Miranda Braatz said this Ordinance will establish five classes in the tax code which are single-family residential, townhouse residential, multifamily residential, commercial, and industrial. Mayor Malinda Miles asked if the City had checked with the County to see if the designation of industrial for the City is accurate because there is no longer significant industry in the City. City Manager Miranda Braatz said she needs more time to review this and will have it for the next Work Session. Mayor Malinda Miles wants info prior to the Work Session. She won't go forward on the Ordinance without the info. Councilmember Bryan Knedler said the tax rate should be based on use of services and not services or amount of money made.

Public Comment

Jimmy Tarlau – Had question about Townhome vs. Single Family home classes? City Manager Miranda Braatz said they trying to match County classes and zones. The rates per class can be different or same.

This issue will go to the next Work Session for more discussion.

First Reading Ordinance 2-2019 Budget Amendment for FY19 Budget for 35K

This Ordinance covers budget line changes for the following: 10K Tree Maintenance, 10K Public Works O/T, and 15K for Temp Labor for City Hall. This budget amendment is not dependent on City reserves. Councilmember Bryan Knedler reviewed the previous meeting he missed. He asked if the problem of attracting applicants for Code Enforcement was due to it being a part-time position? City Manager said yes. He was glad that Mayor and Council lowered the amount for Trees to 10K. He would like the other 10K that was originally allocated to Treesto be allocated to renovations for 3409 Rhode Island. He presented a motion.

Mayor Malinda Miles objected because 10k was allocated for Bike Coop renovation. She wants the 10K to go for Bike Co, not 3409 Rhode Island. City Manager Miranda Braatz said the funds for Bike Coop are in FY20. Mayor Malinda Miles said the Bike Coop needs the money now and 3409 Rhode Island can be in the FY20 budget.

Public Comment - No Comment

Motion to for 10K allocated to Tree Maintenance be allocated to renovation of 3409 Rhode Island:
Move: Councilmember Bryan Knedler
Second: Councilmember Luke Chesek
Vote Recorded: 3-1-0, Motion Passed

Bike Coop 10K funds will be on next Work Session and Neighborhood Design will be invited.

First Reading of Ordinance 3-2019 to Establish and Arts Commission in City of Mount Rainier

Councilmember Luke Chesek said creating a space people want to be in and walk in. It promotes economic development. It will also support local artist. The Ordinance establishes the Arts Commission that works of art for public enjoyment. It can pursue public and private funds. It will have five members for two-year term. Three members create a quorum. It will meet to determine sites for public art and downtown and Varum avenue. Once site determined they will issue RFP for the public art and select artist. Art Commission will solicit input from the public. Maintenance of work will be important to selection. The Commission will have funding support from the City, but the Commission is charged to seek additional funders. Mayor wants to make sure that City is not the only funding source and Councilmember Luke Chesek wants make sure it has a budget line . This issue will be discussed at next Work Session.

Swearing in of New Police Chief

Mr. Anthony Morgan was officially sworn in as new Police Chief for the City of Mount Rainier by Vice Mayor Celina Benitez. He is the first African American Chief of Police for the City. There were representatives of law enforcement from other local jurisdictions. State Senator Augustine and Mr.

Brown from Delegate Fennel Office presented citations. Councilmember Taveras attended. Chief Anthony Morgan gave his remarks. There was a reception at Gateway Media Arts Center.

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