

70TH SPECIAL SESSION, WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION –
JANUARY 22, 2008

70TH SPECIAL SESSION – January 22, 2008

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 70th Special Session, Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:07 p.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2008, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers M. E. Brubaker, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney Mark Boyer, and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in Special Session.

Approval of Professional Services Contract With The Ferguson Group

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a contract with the Ferguson Group, LLC to serve as the Washington Representative for the City of Hagerstown. Under this contract the Ferguson Group will assist the City in developing a Federal agenda to submit proposals for Federal funding and otherwise make the best use of Federal Programs. The City will contract with the Ferguson Group for a period of two months, beginning on January 15, 2008 and ending March 15, 2008. The City will have the right to extend the contract for an additional ten month period ending on January 15, 2009, and a subsequent twelve months ending on January 15, 2010. The City's General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund will each provide approximately 1/3 of the funding for this contract.

Discussion: A revised agreement was provided to the Mayor and City Council. The revisions include additions requested by City Attorney Mark Boyer and a clear definition of the term of the contract. At the end of the two month period, the Mayor and Council will be provided with a Federal Agenda.

Councilmember Metzner provided contact information for Rod Autrey, The Ferguson Group, to the newspaper reporter. Mr. Autrey will be speaking with the media regarding updated company information.

The Special Session was ended at 4:13 p.m.

WORK SESSION – January 22, 2008

Preliminary Agenda Review

Consent Agenda

- A. Community Affairs: Exemption from Open Container Law for Events
 - 1. Western Maryland Blues Fest – May 30, May 31, and June 1, 2008
 - 2. Augustoberfest Salutes Schmankerl Stube 20th Anniversary – May 16, 2008
 - 3. Augustoberfest Event – August 23 and August 24, 2008
- B. Engineering:
 - 1. Contract: Flat Roof Replacement on City Hall – Bonded Applicators of MD, Inc. (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 10,800.00
 - 2. Street Tree Contract Change Order – Botanica Enterprises (Funkstown, MD) Not to Exceed \$ 30,000.00
 - 3. Contract: Inspection of Minor Bridges – Brudis & Associates, Inc. (Columbia, MD) \$ 27,765.00

The Street Tree Contract is based on a unit price to replace the tree and the surrounding sidewalk. Funding for the inspection of the minor bridges is part of the Engineering Department operating budget. The amount originally budgeted for this project was \$ 17,000. Additional funding has been allocated for the inspections, due to the nature of inspecting confined spaces.

- C. Parks and Recreation: Barrier Free Modular Play Equipment – Miracle Recreations Equipment Co. (Martinsburg, WV) \$ 39,599.00
- D. Water and Sewer Department:
 - 1. Vehicle Purchases: One Ton Pick-up and 4 Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle (Units 500 and 505) – Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD) Pick-up \$ 25,013.00, Utility Vehicle \$ 19,398.00
 - 2. 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer – Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD) \$ 19,398.00
 - 3. Street Patching/Repair – Huntzberry Brothers, Inc. (Smithsburg, MD) \$ 312,755.00
 - 4. 400 Meter Transceivers – L/B Water Service, Inc. (Chambersburg, PA) \$ 52,800.00
 - 5. Inventory Items for Water Fund Inventory – HD Supply Waterworks, LTD (Martinsburg, WV) \$ 20,688.15

Acceptance of Grant From Maryland Heritage Area Authority for Doleman Collection Project

The City has been awarded a grant, with a local match, for a needs assessment for the Doleman Collection project. It was the general consensus to approve the match and to accept the grant.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Review of 2007 Draft Comprehensive Plan – Community Facilities and Transportation; Housing & Neighborhoods; Urban Design & Historic Preservation; Sensitive Areas

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, and Douglas Wright, Planning Commission Chairman, were present to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan's recommendations for the next 20 years for community facilities (chapter 5) and transportation (chapter 9), housing and neighborhoods (chapter 7), urban design and historic preservation (chapter 8), and sensitive areas (chapter 10).

The Public Hearing, originally scheduled for January 29, 2008, will be held on February 26, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The Comprehensive Plan provides the policy framework to guide future development, infrastructure, and physical character of the City of Hagerstown for a 20 year period. Major goals of the Plan are to regain and strengthen Hagerstown's role as the primary provider of urban services in the Hagerstown region, to increase economic development, and to promote the fiscal stability and prosperity of Hagerstown.

The Goals for Community Facilities and Transportation include:

1. Maintain and expand police, fire, and EMS services to serve the City's growing population and geographic area.
2. Support civic institutions that add to overall quality of life.
3. Grow the parks and recreation system to provide adequate open space, athletic fields, and indoor and specialty recreation facilities for the City's growing population.
4. Support and advocate for the expansion of school services to serve existing neighborhoods and the growing population in the Medium Range Growth Area.
5. Manage and improve the City's transportation network, including roads, transit, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to meet the mobility needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.
6. Implement transportation projects that support the City's growth management goals.
7. Discourage through-traffic by long-distance motorists and commercial vehicles and encourage use of major highways and circumferential roadway network for such traffic.

The following is a list of the recommendations for New Community Facilities:

1. Implement combined Public Safety facility with the County.
2. Explore Downtown Fire Station relocation.
3. Explore Downtown combo Police/Fire facility.
4. Identify potential new school sites.
5. Support City Library renovation/expansion.
6. Look at design requirements and area requirements for new school construction.
7. Explore potential locations for pocket parks, especially in the downtown area.
8. Develop linkages between parks, such as greenway trails along Antietam Creek and other streams.
9. Consider developing an indoor recreation center with multi-purpose rooms for use by residents and community groups.
10. Pursue formalized joint-use agreements with Washington County Public Schools to allow continued use of school recreational facilities by the public.

The recommendations for transportation improvements include:

1. Widening I-81 and I-70.
2. Major thoroughfare improvements outside the City, in order to keep regional traffic around the periphery.
3. Other new roads to add interconnectivity and flexibility to the system.
4. Transportation improvements are necessary to accommodate future traffic and to support the City's growth management goals. Added road capacity and new connections are concentrated in the northern and eastern portions of the MRGA, where there is a large amount of undeveloped land and several potential annexations.

The Plan attempts to address the concentration of public and subsidized housing in specific neighborhoods. The downtown particularly, creates challenges. Recommended strategies for housing and neighborhoods include:

1. Achieve an overall residential mix.
2. Improve conditions of City's "challenged" neighborhoods.
3. Blend new residential development into the existing neighborhood fabric.
4. Focus on stronger urban design standards.
5. Strengthen the role of historic resources in the City by encouraging rehabilitation and reuse.
6. Use historic resources as an economic development tool.

Councilmember Parson-McBean is concerned these strategies will cause further gentrification. She stated the City needs sustainable housing throughout the City. People will live where they can afford to live and they should have the right to live where they want to. There is homeownership in the Jonathan Street area. She wants to be sure future housing strategies don't cause further damage to neighborhoods.

Councilmember Metzner asked if there would be gentrification if the Hope VI development had created as many units as they removed. Councilmember Parson-McBean indicated not necessarily. Councilmember Metzner had not been aware of the issues prior to discussing this with Councilmember Parson-McBean.

Councilmember Brubaker stated he feels the West End has vastly improved from when he moved to Hagerstown.

Councilmember Parson-McBean suggested talking about housing with the people who live in the neighborhoods.

The tree planting program will continue. Ms. Maher stated they want to be sure new development is of superior design, such as was attempted with the new Lowe's at Stonehouse Square.

Mr. Bass indicated the strategies for Urban Design and Historic Preservation include:

1. Extend streetscape improvements throughout the whole downtown and into the City's neighborhoods
2. Implement the proposed new downtown zoning district
3. Revise the existing Conversion District overlay zone to provide for more design and site layout flexibility
4. Develop design guidelines for new development which encourages respect for the City's unique character
5. Develop a sign ordinance for on-premise signs
6. Consider expanding historic districts to more residential, commercial, and industrial areas
7. Investigate additional incentives to make rehabilitation and adaptive reuse more financially attractive
8. Promote the advantages of reusing historic properties, such as the existence of wastewater allocation and permitted exemptions from APFO school test requirements
9. Develop a marketing program to capitalize on the City's Civil War heritage and its link with the region's rich history

Recommended strategies for sensitive areas include:

1. New development redevelopment in Hagerstown and the MRGA will avoid stream buffers and 100 year floodplains.
2. New development redevelopment will also avoid steep slopes greater than 15% where possible.
3. Develop stream buffer and steep slope regulations to guide future development.
4. Encourage the planting of native tree species in stream buffer zones.
5. Using the Forest Conservation Ordinance, work cooperatively with landowners and developers to identify priority areas for tree and forest conservation.

6. Encourage exploration and use of green building standards and other environmentally friendly development standards where appropriate and feasible.

Discussion of possible changes to the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be scheduled in February, 2008. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated there could be some changes with the economic development section.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for February 26, 2008 to receive testimony regarding the draft plan.

Impact of New Development on the City of Hagerstown

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, and Alfred Martin, Finance Director, presented analysis information concerning the impact of new development on the City.

The analysis shows that the growth that the City of Hagerstown has been experiencing since 2000 has had the following impacts:

1. It has not created a significant impact on City services;
2. It has provided \$ 3,740,000 more per year in new property tax revenues that enable the City to implement priority capital projects and public safety staffing goals, as well as fund General Fund annual operating expenditures; and
3. It is critical to improving the demographic profile of the City and thus positioning us better to achieve the economic development goals of the draft 2007 Comprehensive Plan.

To date, only three new positions have been created as a direct result of growth in the past several years: a Planner in the Planning Department and a Permits Technician and a Building Inspector in Code Administration.

An analysis was completed of six new residential developments, two new commercial developments, and one commercial development that predates 2000 but which was a result of annexation. Included in this analysis are two new developments known to have a fairly steady demand for Police and Fire services: the Center at Hagerstown and Hager's Crossing. The results of this analysis show the following:

1. 5.7% of the Fire Department's calls for service in 2007 were to these developments.
2. 3.7% of the Police Department's calls for service in 2007 were to these developments.
3. A large percentage of the calls for service for both departments to these developments were for minor issues.

The Police Chief has indicated that growth requires the redrawing of patrol sectors as newly developed areas arise on the City's boundaries. The Police Chief is proposing that the staffing for the new patrol sector be phased in over a three year period with the first two officers included in the FY 2008 budget. The plans for hiring additional fire fighters

in the FY 2008 budget are motivated by the need to bring fire fighting shift staffing levels up to the City's desired fire standards and this is a need that predates the recent growth wave. The Fire Chief has indicated that at some point all of the fire fighting agencies in the community will need to come together and discuss a strategy for addressing growth and service territories with the political bodies in the Hagerstown Urban Growth Area.

From a macro sense, new growth and development obviously are making a significant contribution to the overall tax revenues of the City. The fiscal impact of a cumulative increase from growth and new development over the last five years of 18.7% is worth \$ 3,740,000 of the \$ 20 million in annual property tax revenues. There is a direct correlation between major upswings in percentage increases of the assessable base and the annexation and development activity occurring within the City.

Information was also provided on the impact of revenues from new development for the City when existing projects are fully built out. New revenue of \$ 6.4 million in one-time developer contributions for public infrastructure will be spent on the betterment of the transportation system in the community. Examples were provided of how the money could be allocated by the City for priority capital projects and public safety staffing goals.

As discussed during presentations of the draft 2007 Comprehensive Plan, major goals for the City are to attract higher paying jobs, promote development and redevelopment of vacant and under-utilized land, and grow the City's fiscal base to support capital improvements, programs, and staffing needs. Efforts to implement these goals will be hampered if the pre-2000 demographic profile does not improve to demonstrate that Hagerstown is a strong and thriving city and a good place to live and conduct business. Growth of the City since 2000 is bringing families with better "wealth indicators" (higher income, higher housing costs, and likely higher college degree attainment levels), which will help to improve the demographic profile and thus make it easier to recruit good economic development prospects to Hagerstown.

As David Rusk stated in analyzing the community, unless cities can grow and capture their suburbs, they will not prosper and will be doomed to decline. A return to the "growth avoidance" era will set the City back from the path towards a stronger and more fiscally sound city. The growth that has been experienced since 2000 is benefiting the city both financially and socially. The financial benefits allows funding for improvements and increases to operations to serve that growth and the rest of the community. The social benefits of a heightened demographic profile will allow the City to more easily recruit good, higher paying jobs and investment to Hagerstown.

Another benefit of growth is the upgrade of the City's bond rating due to a stronger financial base.

Staff's response to the questions of "what impact is growth having on Hagerstown?" would be a strong and enthusiastic answer – Growth is having a good impact and is bringing a promising outlook for the future.

A recess was taken.

Water Master Plan – Hazen & Sawyer

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, provided background information for the water master plan. The City of Hagerstown's Water System Master Plan was last updated in 1991. In November 2005, the Mayor and Council approved an amendment to the existing Hazen and Sawyer contract whereas a comprehensive update of the Water System Master Plan would be accomplished.

The City of Hagerstown's water system serves approximately 88,000 end-use customers in the metropolitan area in addition to providing water service to the towns of Smithsburg, Williamsport, and Funkstown through separate Wholesale Water Service Agreements. This is accomplished through a system of over 400 miles of main pipe ranging in diameter of 6 to 24 inches, water storage facilities, and pumping stations located throughout the service territory.

The Water System Master Plan update requires a comprehensive evaluation of the water distribution system to determine system strengths and deficiencies as they pertain to water quality (public health/regulatory requirements) and system pressure and volume (public safety/fire flow). To accomplish this, Hazen and Sawyer used industry accepted standards and they are as follows:

1. 30 psi Minimum Pressure (Under Peak Hour – available storage)
2. 20 psi Minimum Pressure (Under Max Day Demand plus Fire Flow – usable storage)
3. 3500 gpm for 3-hours Minimum Commercial Fire Flow and Duration
4. 1500 gpm for 3-hours Minimum Residential Fire Flow and Duration

Decisions regarding all aspects of the Plan have been accomplished through meetings that have occurred through a consensus arrived at by members of the Water Department's Distribution, Production, Engineering, and Administrative Staff in conjunction with the team of Professional Engineers employed by Hazen & Sawyer. This group focused on the needs of the water system using recommendations that are consistent with the Draft Comprehensive Plan and include a planning period through 2025 and 2055.

One note of the highest importance that the team realized was the foresight of those individuals who looked far into the future in regard to the original planning and engineering of the water system. They realized the importance of storage and constructed a reservoir that has served the community for over 100 years. They designed a water treatment facility that is 80 years old that is designed to treat 20 mgd that we currently utilize at an average daily flow of 11 mgd.

The proposed Master Plan includes recommendations for the West End Reservoir (Tank 1 and Tank 2) and the Transmission Mains. These projects have been initiated – West End Tank 1 is in the construction phase so that the City may meet the April 2009 MDE mandate for covered finished water supply. The other two projects are in the

engineering and design phase. Future projects will entail improvements to the existing pump stations and an engineering and design project to address fire flow in the eastern area of the service territory.

Future water supply needs will be addressed as staff investigates raw water appropriations and improved treatment capabilities at the R. C. Willson and Breichner Treatment Plants. As each of these system improvements occur, issues related to cost, rate impact, construction requirements, property acquisition issues, environmental impacts, and future operational requirements will be factored into each request as the respective Capital Improvement Projects list.

Nancy Hausrath, Water Operations Manager, Bill Luhn, Water Production/Operations Supervisor, and Troy Johnson, Water Distribution Supervisor, and Bruce Pierstorff, Joe Sowinski and Jeremy Hise, Hazen and Sawyer, were present to provide additional information.

Mr. Spiker expressed sympathy to the family of Butch Wallech, a long time water department employee, who passed away.

The objectives of the Master Plan include projecting future water demands/needs, calibrating a system water model, establishing system design criteria, identifying system deficiencies, developing alternative solutions, estimating planning level costs and determining the critical next steps

The City has been proactive. A water meter replacement program has been implemented to reduce unaccounted for water. An extensive cleaning and lining program to improve water system capacities was completed. There is an Extensive System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System, which allows for monitoring of water facilities.

Hazen and Sawyer recommend the phased west end tank program. Phase I is under construction and Phase II is under design. This program will provide system benefits including:

1. Meet regulatory requirements for covered water storage
2. Improved System Water Quality
3. Zone 1 Water Storage Redundancy (two tanks vs. one large reservoir)
4. Water system reliability
5. Increased water storage volume
6. Improved system pressures and fire protection

If the west end tank project was complete, the City would have 3.4 mg of water available, as opposed to the existing 2.6 mg. The reservoir holds 11 mg of water but only 2.6 mg is available due to the rolling elevation of the City.

They have developed a four tank solution to address deficiencies within the system. Two of the tanks are in process and these will supplement the demand for water. Two

additional tanks are recommended, one in the north and one in the east. The critical aspect of the additional tanks is improved water quality and improved fire protection on the east side of the City.

Hazen and Sawyer representatives also recommended the R. C. Willson WTP Transmission Main Replacement. They recommend replacement of the critical 24-inch transmission mains. This program will provide system benefits, including:

1. Improved system reliability and redundancy
2. Improved system hydraulics

The goal of the recommendations is to provide infrastructure adequate for future generations.

The capital improvements program list developed from this study includes 19 projects, including the reservoir replacement, new 36 inch mains to Governor Lane, a Fire Protection Main, pump station improvements, main reinforcement, and transmission main reinforcements.

Mr. Spiker stated this list is a 15 to 20 year plan for the water system.

Councilmember Brubaker appreciates financial projections that include the amount of rate increases to customers and the long range planning for future projects.

Mark Boyer, City Attorney, left the meeting.

Authorization to Hire Nine Firefighters

Chief Gary Hawbaker, Hagerstown Fire Department, and Alfred Martin, Finance Director, were present.

Mr. Martin stated the staff recommendation regarding hiring nine firefighters has not changed from early December. Uncertainties continue to exist regarding the national and local economy, the State's financial challenges and their impact on City finances. There has been a downturn in new housing construction and development. The current year tax and development revenues are falling short of expectations and staff is relying on department expenditure controls and vacancy savings to live within the current year budget.

A more complete and accurate analysis of the FY 08/09 budget condition will be available by April 1, 2008. It is too early at this point to reach firm conclusions on the upcoming fiscal year. Department managers have completed their capital improvement program requests and are currently working on their operating budget proposals.

The \$ 1.2 million deficit forecasted in last year's budget document for fiscal year 2008/09 is a projection. The projections are intended to guide future planning, but do not represent a firm statement of the budget for upcoming years. There have been projected

deficits in prior forecasts, and staff has been able to address these in many years using staff level budget adjustments, thereby avoiding property tax rate increases and reductions in staffing and programs. However, there have also been years when the deficits could not be addressed without increasing the City's property tax.

Some members of the Mayor and Council have expressed concern over the addition of the nine firefighters in light of last year's FY 08/09 projections, along with the financial uncertainties that presently surround the budget preparation for next year.

If the Mayor and Council wish to make a decision based on more detailed information regarding the fiscal impact of the additional nine positions, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Martin would again recommend waiting until April. If the Mayor and Council wish to move forward now, they agree with the Fire Chief's recommendation, as outlined below, and that staff be allowed flexibility in the actual hire dates of the additional positions in order to cover the overages in the Fire Department's year to date expenditures.

Chief Hawbaker stated the Department has experienced unexpected long term injuries and illnesses which have resulted in exceeding the overtime budget and the total department budget last fiscal year. He has determined ways to offset the cost and he suggested that, if the nine firefighters are approved, the following be done to address this fiscal year and overtime in future years:

1. By holding open the three currently funded positions and delaying the hiring of the nine new positions, the projected overages can be offset for this fiscal year. He suggested that he, the City Administrator and the Finance Director work together to monitor total HFD expenses and make a decision to hire no earlier than April 14 and no later than June 2.
2. If the nine firefighters are approved, HFD would agree to increase the minimum manning to 15 per shift and not increase the number of overtime dramatically because it would provide a 2 person cushion per shift for unexpected injuries and sickness

Mr. Zimmerman stated their recommendation has not changed since December. They are suggesting waiting until April to hire the additional nine firefighters. The schedule provided by Chief Hawbaker could be followed.

The planned guidelines for preparing the 2008/2009 proposed budget are:

1. No property tax rate increase
2. Include nine additional firefighters
3. Deal with financial uncertainties
4. Potential expenditure reductions
5. Preserve capital improvement program
6. Equitably distribute wage and benefit reductions, if needed
7. Minimize citizen fiscal impact

Councilmember Metzner has been told the City may not be able to afford the firefighters in the out years and that the FY 07/08 budget includes funding for the firefighters. He is concerned funding won't be included in the budget again for the firefighters. He stated he does not want to wait until April to approve hiring the firefighters. If the discussion is delayed until April, the Mayor and Council would be talking about next year's budget.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the proposed budget for FY 08/09 will be completed with the assumption that the firefighters have already been hired.

Councilmember Brubaker expressed concern about the projected \$ 1.2 million deficit. He presented a plan last year to address the deficit.

Mr. Zimmerman stated they are not able to project the deficit at this time because of the uncertainties in the State budget and other factors. More complete budget forecasts would be available by April.

Councilmember Brubaker does not want to have to re-open union contracts.

Mr. Zimmerman stated he and Mr. Martin are not asking the Mayor and Council to not hire the additional firefighters. They are recommending waiting until the proposed budget is prepared and projections completed so the Mayor and Council have complete information.

Councilmember Metzner stated he is not going to be satisfied with a plan that talks about looking at the future in order to determine whether or not to hire the firefighters. The firefighters must be hired and he is looking for a way to do that.

Councilmember Cromer suggested hiring six firefighters on July 1 and six on December 1. (The total of 12 firefighters includes three vacant positions.) Councilmember Metzner stated they need to be hired in this fiscal year.

Councilmember Metzner, Councilmember Nigh and Councilmember Parson-McBean agreed that the firefighters be hired this fiscal year.

Mayor Bruchey indicated funding is in the budget to hire the firefighters this year. Now, twelve (three vacant positions and nine new positions) have to be hired to meet the commitment made two years ago. If all the positions are filled in this fiscal year, the Mayor and Council will have to provide funding and address the projected \$ 1.2 million deficit. He stated there will be some very difficult decisions to make this budget season.

Chief Hawbaker stated this process has been a long and difficult one for the whole department. There are now three vacancies and he doesn't know if the additional nine firefighters will be hired in April, May or July. He has addressed the overtime costs

within the department's budget. He would like to work with Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Martin and work out a viable plan using the proposed schedule and information outlined in his memorandum.

Councilmember Parson-McBean stated the Council has made a commitment that nine firefighters will be hired in FY 07/08 and they have to stand by that commitment.

Councilmember Brubaker made a proposal to hire four firefighters and one police officer as soon as possible and then hire five firefighters and one police officer next year.

Councilmember Parson-McBean stated that is not the commitment the Council made to the Fire Department.

It was the general consensus of the Council to follow the schedule proposed by Chief Hawbaker to hire the firefighters no earlier than April 14, 2008 and no later than June 2, 2008. Staff will be allowed flexibility in the actual hire dates of the additional positions in order to cover the overages in the Fire Department's year to date expenditures. This proposed plan does not include a property tax rate increase.

Councilmember Cromer stated it appears the Council has forgotten about the two new police officers. Councilmember Nigh stated she has not forgotten. After the firefighters are hired, she will focus on hiring two officers.

Chief Hawbaker informed the Mayor and City Council that the Hagerstown Fire Department has received a grant from FEMA.

City Administrator's Comments

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, thanked the Mayor and Council for discussing these difficult issues.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember P. M. Nigh thanked the Western Enterprise Fire Company and the Women's Auxiliary for their \$ 500.00 donation to the utility relief benefit fund. She asked that the costs for the program for Black History Month be paid from her expense budget.

Councilmember Cromer stated the expense budget is a lump sum amount and not per individual.

Councilmember Nigh stated she would like to hear both the pros and cons of Charter Home Rule.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer had no additional comments.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker had no additional comments.

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship dinner on January 20, 2008. She congratulated Miss Hazel Preston for winning the door prize donated by the City. She attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at Hagerstown Community College on January 21, 2008.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II thanked the Council for working through the difficult issues in this meeting. He stated there will be more difficult issues to discuss. There will be a presentation on Charter Home Rule at the Washington County Municipal League dinner on Monday, January 28, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – January 22, 2008

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in closed session at 7:24 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, #1 and to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State, #4. No formal action was taken at the session. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, 2nd floor at the City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: February 26, 2008