

93RD REGULAR SESSION, BUDGET RETREAT AND WORK SESSION –
JANUARY 27, 2009

BUDGET RETREAT – January 27, 2009

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this Budget Retreat of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 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, and City Attorney William Nairn.

2009 Budget Retreat for FY 09/10 Budget and Future Projections

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, and Alfred Martin, Finance Director, discussed the FY 09/10 budget.

Mr. Zimmerman presented an informational summary on the grant revenue Hagerstown received during 2007 and 2008. The City's total grant revenue for these two years was \$ 17,227,451, which included the \$ 9.8 million that was received in utilities for capital projects. It is also worth noting the large number of operating grants the Police Department has received to support ongoing initiatives and operations.

The staff work in applying for and administering these grants is significant. There is not a grant writer position in City staff, so staff in departments research grants, complete the applications, and administer grants in compliance with the funding requirements.

The City finished the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year with a \$ 500,000 surplus. Mr. Zimmerman anticipates completing the current fiscal year without drastic measures to meet the budget projections, primarily due to growth in the assessed base.

The City will face the challenge of preparing the FY 09/10 Budget in the face of a serious economic recession that is creating financial problems and uncertainties for municipal governments across the county. With that in mind, the Staff is approaching the preparation of the FY 09/10 Budget utilizing the following plans:

1. The personnel position vacancy management program in all General Fund operations will be extended to reduce expenditures, defer capital expenditures when feasible, reduce other expenditure levels as necessary, and utilize General Fund surplus as a last resort to offset diminishing revenues.
2. There will be no new General Fund program proposals in next year's budget.
3. There will be no increase in the City's property tax rate next year.
4. Consistent with the financial projections provided to Mayor and Council last spring, there will be no Cost of Living increase for any employee group in FY 09/10. It is noted that if there is an increase in the

- employees' share of health insurance costs, a stipend will need to be budgeted to avoid a drop in net pay for those employees not eligible for a step increase.
5. The FY 09/10 Budget will maintain its present pay schedule and step increases for all employee groups as set forth in the Springsted Pay Plan approved by the Mayor and Council in 2006.
 6. Based on present projections and assumptions, staff is not planning either unpaid furloughs or personnel layoffs in the current or next fiscal year. These steps will only be considered if there is a sharp deterioration in the City's finances.
 7. If funding permits, the planned increase of two additional police officer positions will be retained in the Proposed Budget. This is consistent with the staffing schedule previously discussed with the Mayor and Council.
 8. There will be no other staff position additions proposed for next year.
 9. The City will increase customer service charges for both Water and Wastewater to fund ongoing capital improvement projects and increasing operations costs related to energy and chemicals.
 10. The City's CDBG Budget will require further expenditure reductions due to declining levels of Federal funding and City Program Income. This situation could change based on the funding included in the Federal Stimulus Package.

The increasing cost of fuel, declining real estate market values, concerns over the condition of the State's budget, and decreasing development activity within Hagerstown were all identified as sources of concern in a December 7, 2007 memorandum to Mayor and Council.

Since that time, the condition of the nation's economy has deteriorated far worse than economists' projections, resulting in both unprecedented concerns and actions over the economy since the Great Depression. Nationwide, unemployment is now above 7%, the highest since the early 1990's. Housing foreclosure activity has increased dramatically impacting homeowners on a personal level and cities on a community level. Financial institutions, retailers, both large and small, developers, contractors, and manufacturers have all been negatively impacted by the significant deterioration in the economy. Among those hardest hit have been the State Governments, which rely so heavily on sales tax, income tax, and other revenues with performance tied directly to economic activity.

Residential construction activity has decreased. The concern is that Hagerstown's General Fund derives 60% of its revenue from the property tax. The growing strength in the General Fund Budget during recent years was fueled to a significant extent by increased residential construction activity and the accompanying growth in property values, both of which led to a higher assessable tax base for Hagerstown. The slowdown in residential construction activity will weaken the performance of the primary General Fund revenue, the property tax. Hagerstown has few options on the revenue side to offset declining performance in the property tax.

The current triennial reassessment for Hagerstown properties is based on property value growth between the fall of 2004 and the fall of 2007. Even though property values began to decline by the end of 2007, these values were still at significantly higher levels than 2004. As property values have continued to decline in 2008 from historically high assessment levels, the City will not feel the full impact of these declines until either the property sells or the next triennial reassessment in Fall, 2010.

Foreclosures of both residential and commercial properties will accelerate the decline in assessed property values both in the coming and future years. It will also place additional burdens on both neighborhoods and staff.

For the next two fiscal years, the City should anticipate reduced growth in annual increases in assessed property values from the 8.5% that is estimated for this year. Staff's concern is that growth in assessed values will slow even further in years beyond FY 10/11, especially if development activity does not accelerate.

The State of Maryland faces some major challenges in addressing their budget shortfall as they respond to sharply declining revenues due to the recent downturn in the economy. Recent reports indicate the State's budget gap may reach \$ 1.9 billion, a significant increase from earlier projected shortfalls which have been increased to reflect the weakening economy. It is anticipated that this \$ 1.9 billion gap in a total budget of \$ 14 billion will force the State to make substantial cuts in expenditures, some of which will likely negatively impact Hagerstown's Budget.

In coming months the Mayor and Council can anticipate the following:

1. The Finance Department will continue to monitor the City's finances, especially in light of the present economy.
2. Staff will continue to bring important financial presentations to Mayor and Council prior to submission of the proposed budget. Examples include the CDBG budget presentation on January 20, 2009, the delivery of the FY 07/08 Financial Report (Audit) in February, and the presentation of the updated Cost of Service Study for utilities in early March.
3. Staff will prepare a balanced General Fund Budget along with a very comprehensive presentation of the total budget to Mayor and Council by March 31, 2009. Staff will utilize the guidelines outlined in the above synopsis to develop the budget. Mayor and Council will have April and May to review, amend, and adopt the budget and should anticipate more challenging budget decisions than were required over the past two years.

Councilmember Parson-McBean asked if the City has ever looked at privatizing the water system. She has spoken to other cities and this has worked for them. Mr. Martin stated it could be reviewed. He reminded the Mayor and Council that the City of Hagerstown offers customers some of the lowest rates in the country.

Prior to January 1, 2010, Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council adopt a Comprehensive Budget Policy. This would include:

1. A review of the City's existing Fiscal Policies as outlined on pages 34-37 in Section One of the FY 2008/09 Budget.
2. Development of a clear policy statement that applies to the City's economic development and annexation goals in relationship to the budget. With Hagerstown's heavy reliance on property tax revenues to fund General Fund operations, and the impact of annexation and development on City services and revenues, the City needs a clear policy statement that recognizes the direct relationship between development and the ability of the City's General Fund to fund existing operations, union contracts, and new community based projects and programs.
3. Development of a General Fund budget preparation policy that would specify the Mayor and Council's priorities for allocating annual revenue growth toward tax relief, community based capital projects and programs, and ongoing City operating expenses.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if a six year estimate will be provided to the Council again this year. Mr. Martin indicated it would be and would include anticipated State budget information.

WORK SESSION – January 27, 2009

Discussion of City Elections

Eve McGrory, Paul Muldowney and Janet Bartels, Board of Supervisors of Elections for the City of Hagerstown, were present to discuss their concerns about the coming elections.

Of immediate concern are the security issues at the polling places which are located in eight schools in the city. The Mayor and Council need to decide as soon as possible whether or not to relocate the polling places which are usually in schools when schools are closed. Schools will be open for the 2009 City elections and this creates serious security issues for the schools.

Another issue is the fact the election in May is the last one in which the County board will assist. Unless the dates of the City elections are changed to coincide with State and National elections, the City of Hagerstown will be totally responsible for all facets of future city elections with the exception of voter registration and voter access cards. This will cost the city money and time, eg. hiring and training all poll workers, locating polling sites, contracting for voting systems, etc.

Ms. McGrory expressed her concern that some members of the Mayor and Council are not willing to consider changing the election dates to coincide with the gubernatorial or presidential elections. She stated that the County election board provides training,

electronic poll books, conduct audits, contract voting machines, and many other services. She estimates the cost to the City of Hagerstown to hold its own election would be \$ 100,000 to \$ 125,000. This is a major expense, especially when the voter turnout is typically less than 20%. With the assistance of the County election board, the estimated cost of the 2009 election is \$ 70,000. If the City were to piggyback with the State, the cost would be almost free. She urged the Mayor and City Council to reconsider changing the election date.

Ms. Bartels stated she understands the reluctance of the Mayor and Council to change the date of the election. Changing the election date would be a win/win situation for City residents by possibly increasing the voter turnout. She suggested making sure people are aware of the election dates by placing door hangers on residents' doors. This could help increase voter turnout.

Mr. Muldowney stated the reasons pointed out by Ms. McGrory are compelling for reconsideration of the election date. He stated he believes the Mayor and Council have been insincere in their consideration of the election date.

Councilmember Metzner pointed out that two citizens committees unanimously recommended against the change that is being urged. The Board of Education has assured him there would not be a problem closing schools during the City elections. Councilmember Metzner left the room.

Councilmember Brubaker stated Mr. Muldowney is insulting every municipality in the State. Mr. Muldowney stated that is not correct.

Mayor Bruchey asked that the discussion continue with Ms. McGrory's facts. The tone will not be confrontational.

Mr. Muldowney stated some of the comments of the Council members have been disingenuous. He stated the cost of the election if the date is not changed must be reconsidered. He pointed out the gubernatorial and presidential election voter turnout was significantly higher than the last City election.

Mayor Bruchey reiterated that the Charter Review Committee recommended keeping the election date the same.

Councilmember Metzner returned.

Mr. Muldowney asked why the Council has taken such a strong position against changing the election date. Councilmember Metzner stated the Charter Review Committee heard the same presentation from the County election board. The Committee unanimously recommended not changing the date. This body has not set election dates; the date was set many years ago. Councilmember Metzner stated the County board has not made any comment about the possibility of closing schools during a two week voting period.

Councilmember Parson-McBean does not believe every resident has been contacted about the importance of their vote. She stated the tone of Mr. Muldowney's presentation was not appropriate.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Councilmember Cromer seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Brubaker stated municipalities are unique in that voters get a chance to focus on their local elections. The majority of the municipalities hold stand alone elections.

Mayor Bruchey stated Frederick City is considering the same thing at this time. Councilmember Metzner encouraged a discussion with Frederick and how they are planning to conduct future elections.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

93RD REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 27, 2009

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 93rd Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 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, and City Attorney William Nairn.

The invocation was offered by Mayor Robert E. Bruchey, II. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Mayor Bruchey announced the Rules of Procedure for this meeting will be followed as adopted March 28, 2006. It was announced that the use of cell phones and electronic devices during meetings is restricted and that all correspondence for distribution to elected officials should be provided to the City Clerk and should include a copy for the City Clerk for inclusion in the official record.

The next scheduled meetings are: Work Sessions beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Tuesday, February 17, 2009 and the Regular Session on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Gordon Bartels, 139 S. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he and his wife, Janet, were involved in the discussion of the mural on the Elizabeth Hager Center long before the Beautification Committee became involved. He is concerned what might be found when the mural is removed. He contacted Josh Arantitis to ask if there was a way to replace the mural. Mr. Arantitis stated there was, by creating a new mural on

canvas and placing it over the existing mural. It was not his intent to take away from what a citizen committee was doing. He suggested doing more research before removing the mural.

Janet Bartels, 139 S. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated her thought of the mural is that it would be a community project. This is a time when all citizens need to work together. She thinks more history could be incorporated in the community.

Mayor Bruchey read a letter from the owner of The Venice Hotel asking for programs and legislation to provide relief to struggling businesses to help subsidize utility costs. He urged the Mayor and Council to work to secure a large portion of the economic stimulus funding that is being developed.

MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve minutes, as presented, for the meetings held on October 7, 2008, October 21, 2008, November 18, 2008, December 2, 2008, December 9, 2008 and December 16, 2008.

CONSENT AGENDA

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 approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Engineering: Approval of 2009 & 2010 Pavement Preservation Program
- B. Fire Department: Portable Radios – Washington County Radio Communications Maintenance (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 173,394.00
- C. Community Affairs: Open Container Exemptions
 - 1. Western Maryland BluesFest (Thursday, May 28, Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30, 2009)
 - 2. Augustoberfest Event (August 22 and August 23, 2009)
 - 3. Thursday Concert Series at University Plaza (June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25 and July 2, 2009)
- D. Public Works: Contract for Heating System for Market House – Beaver Mechanical (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 101,485.00
- E. Parks Department: 2009 Chevy Silverado Pickup – Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD) \$ 38,768.00

- F. Water/Wastewater Department:
1. SCADA Software Annual Renewal – ABB, Inc. (Wickliffe, OH)
\$ 18,072.00
 2. Effluent Flow Valve and Actuator – JB Controls, Inc. (Warminster, PA) \$ 14,580.00
 3. Water Pipe for Tammany Manor Main Replacement – HD Supply (Martinsburg, WV) \$ 23,437.40
 4. Meter Transceiver Units – L/B Water Service, Inc. (Chambersburg, PA) \$ 21,870.00
 5. Miscellaneous Inventory and Dresser Pack Bell Sleeves – HD Supply (Martinsburg, WV) \$ 65,351.07 (Revised to Include Dresser Bell Sleeves at \$ 23,390.00)
 6. Flow Meter – ABB, Inc. (Wickliffe, OH) \$ 28,097.00
 7. Check Valve for Pump 5 – Gardner, O’Conner, Inc. (Pasadena, MD) \$ 27,837.00
 8. Street Patching/Repair – Arthur Construction, Inc. (Dulles, VA)
\$ 254,425.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of an Ordinance: Approval of Kirkpatrick Rezoning, ZM-2008-01

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an ordinance for a Zoning Reclassification and Zoning Map amendment, Case No. ZM-2008-01, to rezone .039 acres, more or less, of land located on the north side of the 500 block of Jefferson Boulevard, approximately 110 feet east of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Fridinger Avenue from C2 (Commercial General) to R2 (Residential).

B. Approval of an Ordinance: Approval of Alms House Landmark Overlay, 239 North Locust Street, ZM-2008-02

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 an ordinance for a Landmark Overlay on property located at 239 North Locust Street based on the following Findings of Fact:

1. The premises involved in this review, commonly known as the “Old Washington County Almshouse,” located on the west side of north Locust Street is found to have been built beginning in 1799.
2. It is an example of the simple, brick structures with regular fenestration patterns that dominated Hagerstown’s streetscapes in the early and mid-19th century.

3. We find as a matter of fact that the property conforms with Criteria A and C of the National Register criteria for evaluating property and also with Criterion (1-a), (1-c), (1-d), (3-a) and (3-e) found in Section 68-56.B of the Zoning Ordinance, which is used to base decisions on whether buildings and sites should be designated historic landmarks.
4. This building is one of very few surviving examples of 19th century county almshouses still standing in the State of Maryland.
5. The Historic Commission finds that the property has significant character, interest and value as part of the development heritage of Hagerstown, and the cultural characteristics of the City and Washington County.

And, by virtue of these Findings of Fact, this property be accorded Landmark designation.

C. Approval of an Ordinance: Amendment to the City of Hagerstown Police & Fire Employees' Retirement Plan

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an ordinance to amend the City of Hagerstown Police & Fire Employees' Retirement Plan in order to reflect changes in the laws of the United States governing retirement plans, update several job titles under Covered Employee definition and add a distribution option for non-spouse beneficiary. This amendment addresses:

1. Updates to the minimum distribution requirements under the plan.
2. Adds the Roth IRA as a distribution type.
3. Updates job title changes under covered employee's definition section.
4. Allows non-spouse beneficiaries of deceased employees to elect to rollover a refund of the employee's contribution to an IRA.

D. Approval of an Annexation Resolution: Norfolk/Southern, Case No. A-2008-08

Action: Councilmember M. E. Brubaker made a motion to approve an annexation resolution for Norfolk Southern Railway Company for property located on the southern boundary of the City, on Oak Ridge Drive. The property to be annexed is 95.2 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands. Councilmember L. C. Metzner seconded the motion.

Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, presented a detailed lighting standard that must be used at this property. Councilmember Cromer asked if the hours of operation had been discussed. Mr. Bass stated the County does not regulate hours. Representatives of Norfolk Southern had indicated the hours would be in the morning and afternoon.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember P. M. Nigh voting No.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Emergency Ordinance: Acquisition of 140 S. Potomac Street

Action: Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to approve an emergency ordinance authorizing the City purchase of 140 South Potomac Street for the purchase price of \$ 55,000 plus transfer costs not to exceed \$ 6,000.00. The City's source of funding for this purchase shall be the Economic Redevelopment Fund. Councilmember P. M. Nigh seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember K. S. Cromer voting No.

B. Approval of a Contract: New Roofing and Roof Framing at 140 South Potomac Street

Action: Councilmember P. M. Nigh made a motion to award a contract to Alfred Hobbs in the amount of \$ 15,665.00 for new roofing and roof framing at 140 South Potomac Street. This contract will be contingent on the City of Hagerstown acquisition of 140 South Potomac Street. The funding source for this contract shall be the City's Economic Redevelopment Fund. Councilmember A. Parson-McBean seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember K. S. Cromer voting No.

C. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article I Section 104

Action: 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 approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article I, Section 104 to eliminate the full legal description of the corporate boundaries and to substitute in its place a provision indicating that the legal description is on file with the City Clerk and recorded with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County.

D. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article II Section 201 and 204 and Article III Section 301

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article II, Sections 201 and 204, and Article III, Section 301, to reflect that the newly elected Council members and Mayor take office on the second Tuesday rather than Monday following the election.

E. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article II Section 202 and Article III Section 302

Action: 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 approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article II, Section 202 and Article III, Section 302 to add that the qualifications for Councilmember or Mayor shall apply both to elected and appointed persons to those positions.

F. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article II Sections 206 and 208 and Article III Section 304

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article II, Sections 206 and 208 and Article III, Section 304 to clarify the requirements for a quorum, the votes necessary to enact an ordinance and the circumstances under which the Mayor may vote in the event of a tie.

G. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article VIII Section 805

Action: 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 approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article VIII, Section 805 to change the prohibition of an officer or employees holding a public office to provide that such prohibition only applies after a person is elected rather than becoming a candidate.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh voted to table the Charter Amendment, Article VIII, Section 805. Councilmember M. E. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mayor Bruchey asked why this is being tabled. Councilmember Metzner stated none of the Council members recall discussing this recommendation. Councilmember Cromer does not recall making any changes during the Charter Review Committee. This recommendation will be discussed further at a work session.

H. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article XI Section 1103

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article XI, Section 1103 to conform the same to current State law.

I. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – Article XII Sections 1201, 1203, and 1204

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, Article XII, Sections 1201, 1203 and 1204 which currently provide for transition periods for the City and Board, Commissions and Committees between the previous re-enactment of the Charter and its current provisions which are no longer applicable.

J. Approval of a Resolution: Charter Amendment – To Update Language and Eliminate Incorrect References

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 resolution amending the Charter of the City of Hagerstown, to amend references to the Board of Supervisors of Elections to update the language to make it current and to eliminate incorrect references in the Charter to Hagerstown as a town rather than city.

K.. Approval of a Resolution: Acceptance of Dedication Offer – Conamar Drive and Paul Smith Boulevard

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to accept the offer of dedication of Conamar Drive (Cortland Manor) and a portion of Paul Smith Boulevard (intersecting Edgewood Drive). The City shall commence maintenance of these streets upon the developer submitting the proper one-year maintenance bond.

L. Approval of a Resolution: Approval of 2009 Sewer Capacity Allocation Program

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to create the 2009 Sewer Capacity Allocation Program. As required by the Consent Judgment, the 2009 SCAP has been approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

M. Approval of Community Development Budget Modifications

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember P. M. Nigh and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to amend the fiscal year 2008/2009 Community Development Department budget according to the established schedule.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, stated the Hagerstown Beautification Advisory Commission has scheduled additional discussion of the mural on the Elizabeth Hager Center.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker thanked Governor O'Malley for supporting funding for the expansion of the Washington County Library. A group will be appearing before the legislature to lobby for funding next week.

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean stated she attended the inauguration and it was a great event. She would like permission from the Council to run last year's Black History Month and a new production, with pictures taken during the inauguration. It was the consensus to allow these productions to run on Channel 6.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner thanked the City crews for working throughout the night to clear snow and repair water lines.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer had no additional comments.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh takes concerns of constituents very seriously. She is concerned about the comments made by members of the City election board. She brings concerns to the table as they are expressed to her. She stated absentee ballots are easy to obtain and perhaps senior citizens who are not comfortable with change can vote with an absentee ballot.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II stated the spirited conversation earlier with the City board of election supervisors pointed out there are some facts that need to be looked at.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, on a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk
(by video)

Approved: March 31, 2009