

WORK SESSION – Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Joint Meeting with the Board of Education

Mayor Robert E. Bruchey, II called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2006 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean; and City Administrator Bruce J. Zimmerman. City Clerk D. K. Spickler was not present.

The following School Board members were present: Dr. Elizabeth Morgan, Superintendent, Edward Forrest, President, Jacqueline Fischer, Vice President, Roxanne Ober, Paul Bailey, Russell Williams and Wayne Ridenour.

Dr. Joetta Pakovitz-Brown and Mr. Boyd Michael presented a report on City Schools. For the 2004-2005 school year, all Washington County Schools, including those located within the city limits of Hagerstown, made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all student groups in both Reading and Math. Progress has been made within the subgroups and especially in the Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) group. The goal, through the No Child Left Behind program, is to have all students at 100% in reading and math by 2014.

Elementary School Programs include: Pre-Kindergarten, Full Day Kindergarten, extended day, magnets, enrichment and instrumental music. Middle School programs include: Orchestra, world and classical languages, algebra (grades 7 and 8), geometry (grade 8), physics (grade 8) and performing arts. High School programs include: Academies (finance, teaching professions, and medical careers), advanced placement, ESSENCE and International Baccalaureate (fall 2006).

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out that there is no development within the City limits impacting 12 of the 15 elementary schools listed. Five of the elementary schools listed are well outside the City limits.

Mr. William Blum, Chief Operations Officer, presented a report of capacity and adequacy issues. The State-Rated Capacity (SRC) lists the number of students per classroom space. The capacity is 23 students per elementary classroom, 25 students per middle school classroom and 25 students per high school classroom. The Local-Rated Capacity (LRC) is the number of students per teacher. The capacity is 21 students per elementary teacher and 19 students per Title 1 elementary teacher. This is an instruction perspective to achieve objectives of student achievement. A large percentage of schools are over SRC. Consequences of inadequate capacity are: portable classrooms, art and music on a cart, elimination of personal computer labs and the potential increase in student-teacher ratio. Hagerstown area schools represent 49% of total school enrollment. Hagerstown schools house 63% of the County's 73 portables. Hagerstown produces 50% of permit activity in the County. As part of the plan to minimize overcrowding the Board of Education is requesting land for school sites as part of the planning process. The

Board is asking that the City and the County require developer agreements with the BOE, subject to BOE policy on mitigation.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he is concerned about the affect an APFO with the school capacity test would have on redevelopment of currently vacant buildings in the downtown area.

Councilmember Parson-McBean asked how much redistricting addresses the overcrowding. Mr. Blum indicated the opportunity for redistricting has been reduced by the number of overcrowded schools.

Councilmember Metzner asked how the City and the Board of Education can work together, along with developers, to ensure that short term solutions could become long term solutions. Mr. Ridenour stressed the need to properly manage growth. Ms. Ober stated the Board needs to be involved in the initial process so they are aware of the number of students that could be attending schools.

A status report for the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. A Feasibility Study was completed in February, 2006 by Cho, Benn, Holback, and Associates, supported by services and funding from the City of Hagerstown, Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Community Legacy Funds, and Washington County Public Schools (WCPS). Ongoing design and construction planning supported by Maryland Legislative Bond Bill Award and by WCPS. The School will be a charter-like public high school for the visual and performing arts. The comprehensive educational program is for 300 students. The multi-facility program will include the Washington County Free Library, Maryland Theater, Museum of Fine Arts and the University System of Maryland. It will be planned and operated collaboratively with advisory and foundation board members.

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

19th REGULAR SESSION – MARCH 28, 2006

Mayor Robert E. Bruchey, II called this 19th Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2006, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean; and City Administrator Bruce J. Zimmerman. City Clerk D. K. Spickler was not present.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Revised Rules of Procedure

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 adopt the established Rules of Procedure dated March 28, 2006. These Rules and Procedures shall apply to all meetings of the Mayor and City Council to be held by this administration and shall be in effect upon adoption of the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Bruchey pointed out the change in the Rules of Procedure is to hear Citizen Comments at the beginning of each meeting.

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, April 4, 2006, Tuesday, April 11, 2006, Tuesday, April 18, 2006, and the Regular Session on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to appoint Michael L. Gehr, Robert W. Hershey, Mary S. Mallery, Daniel A. Matonak, R. David Pembroke, Karl R. Sanford and Ann L. Bass to the Preservation Design District Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, stated this Public Hearing is being held to hear testimony on the City's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO). The City ordinance is largely modeled on the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance for schools. It does not include elements for fire, road, sewer and water.

The purpose is to adopt an APFO for schools which is substantially similar to the County's school test as a means of retaining 28% of the excise tax collected within the City.

The proposed ordinance follows the County's APFO with the following modifications:

1. Administered by the City Planning Department and Planning Commission, rather than the County Department and Commission.
2. Refers to City Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances, rather than County.
3. Definition of "simplified plat" allows for division of already developed land. Any future development would require submittal of a preliminary and final plat.
4. Appeals are taken to Circuit Court rather than the Board of Zoning Appeals.
5. Companion exemption to "minor residential subdivisions" exemption, which states: "as well as an equivalent amount of new dwelling units per high school attendance area in a given year as were exempted by the County in the prior year in the North Hagerstown High and South Hagerstown High school attendance areas for minor residential subdivisions."
6. Exemption for new development requiring only a building permit for approval which does not result in the creation of additional dwelling units on the property.
7. Exemption for new development of single-family and two-family dwellings on exiting lots of record requiring only a building permit for approval.
8. Exemption for preliminary plats approved prior to effective date of ordinance, rather than testing again at final plat, since construction of infrastructure can occur prior to final plat approval in the City.
9. Exemption for preliminary plats and site plans which were approved prior to effective date of ordinance, rather than July 1, 2005
10. Exemption for developments requiring only a building permit for approval which had building permits submitted prior to the effective date of the ordinance and which have construction underway no later than six months following issuance of permits.
11. Capability of restricting building permits resides with Mayor and City Council, rather than County Commissions.
12. Mitigation programs approved by Mayor and City Council with concurrence of County Commissioners. Approval of mitigation program by the County Commissioners is subject to the following: If the mitigation program is in compliance with the standards set forth in Section 9.3A of the County APFO, it shall be deemed approved. If the Board of County Commissioners determines that the mitigation program is not in compliance with Section 9.3A of the County APFO and withholds its approval, it must set forth in writing the reasons for withholding approval with specific findings of fact based on substantial evidence.
13. A closing statement to the APFO as follows: "If at any time this Ordinance becomes detrimental to the ability of the City to administer its

policies and goals affecting growth and development in the City, that it may repeal in part or in total this Ordinance.”

The following were entered into the record:

1. Certificate of Advertisement
2. Mayor and City Council file by reference

The following testimony was presented:

Jeffrey Matthews, 17409 Pin Oak Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, is Vice-President of the Pen-Mar Regional Association of REALTORS. He stated the Association was disappointed to see the definition of minor subdivision reduced from 25 or fewer lots. They also thought that the earlier draft's exemptions pertaining to revitalization and major projects would have been particularly useful to the City's effort.

The APFO should reflect a careful balance of consistency with the County's ordinance, and the flexibility that the City needs to pursue its goals. As seen in other Maryland jurisdictions that have passed an APFO, growth inevitably becomes driven by the ability of the County to provide school seats. There is a tremendous competition for state school construction funds, and the pressure on the county's Capital Improvement Program will only increase.

Realistically, the number of building permits awarded for residential development will likely decline over the next few years because of a lack of school construction funds. In other counties, one of the unintended consequences of this decline has been an escalation in home sale prices, as the supply of new homes becomes more limited. These increases affect not only new construction, but also the exiting inventory, which experiences increased pressure from a limited supply of new homes. The need to address affordable housing needs, which the City has been working on, will only become greater.

Overall, probably the greatest challenge to any Maryland municipality in passing an APFO is that the City will live under the ordinance's requirements, without controlling the means to ameliorate its impacts. The allocation of construction funds will continue to be decided by the County through its Capital Improvement Program. The City will need to be an active advocate for its share of new school construction funds, as well as monies for renovation and repair of aging schools. Property values and community stability rise and fall based on perceptions of schools quality. In its efforts to revitalize City neighborhoods and rebuild its tax base through new construction, the City will need to be vigilant regarding the County's allocation of school construction funds.

The Association urges City officials to work closely with the County Commissioners, School board officials, and the state delegation to secure school construction funds to keep the building pipeline open. Moreover, the City should urge the County to pursue opportunities to hold the line on school constructions costs. The City has shown good faith by proposing to pass an APFO. They are entitled to a reciprocal commitment on the part of those entities that control the purse strings.

Ms. Maher indicated the Mayor and City Council is scheduled to introduce the Ordinance creating the APFO later in this meeting. If all proceeds smoothly, the Mayor and City Council will adopt the APFO in April, with the effective date being 30 days following adoption.

The record will remain open for public comments for 30 days.

The hearing was then closed.

Community Development Needs Hearing

Larry Bayer, Director of Community Development, stated this Public Hearing was being held to hear testimony from individuals and organizations concerning the City's Housing and Development needs for the coming year. Income for the program is anticipated to be \$ 2,982,395, which includes the 2006 grant amount of \$ 974,767, program income of \$ 1,006,200 and carryover of \$ 1,001,248.

The following testimony was presented:

Dave Jordan, Executive Director of Community Action Council, supports the efforts of the Mayor and Council with the Community Development grants. Community Action Council served over 6,000 people last year. They are a county wide service provider, however, the funds received from the City's Community Development Block Grant are earmarked for City residents. He appreciates the opportunity to work with the Mayor and Council and the Community Development Staff.

Richard Phoebus, 1419 Lindsay Lane, Hagerstown, Maryland, thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Hagerstown HomeStore and the Hagerstown Neighborhood Development Partnership (HNDP). The request for the HNDP is for a total of \$ 133,000.00, which is the same amount as they received last year. Last year, 112 clients of the HomeStore purchased homes, of which 63% were in the City of Hagerstown. Forty three households are in credit counseling for home ownership. The HomeStore assists people in their efforts to purchase a home. The HNDP acquired a property in downtown and is working toward constructing 47 houses on that property. The HNDP is working on several other projects at this time. It is a good public/private partnership.

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Randolph McCrae-Bey, 14554 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated since he came to Hagerstown he has seen a lot of tragedy due to what happens in the City. He has developed a program to entertain youth. He provides Hip Hop entertainment. His goal is to develop a teen center. Children need to be in a safe haven.

He stressed that activities cannot be taken from children without providing an alternative. He supports the arts and wants to hold an event at the Maryland Theater. This gives children a chance to express themselves. He asked for the Mayor and Council's support in his endeavors. He is not trying to deter the City's efforts. He is trying to enhance the City's efforts.

Mary Haines, Hagerstown, Maryland, has been in Hagerstown for 63 years. She talked about her husband, who served on an escort unit in World War II. She fought the idea of changing the name of Memorial Boulevard because she knew it was named in honor of veterans. She stated Hagerstown is not a racist community, as some have said. We all have some kind of evil in our hearts that we have to fight. The evil cannot consume us, unless we allow it to. Hagerstown is not any more racist than other communities. She carries herself proudly because she is an American and a citizen of Hagerstown.

Ruth Anne Callaham, 1317 Lindsay Lane, Hagerstown, Maryland, shared information about the Stop, Drop and Read Washington County Reading Day. The event will be held at the University System of Maryland building on May 13, 2006. There will be a book drive in April to collect books to be given away on May 13, 2006. There are over 30 authors in the area that will be in attendance. She asked that each Mayor and Council buy a book and drop it by a school for distribution and to celebrate reading every day.

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 Mayor and Council meetings held on February 14, 2006, February 21, 2006, February 24, 2006 and February 28, 2006.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Department of Community Affairs: Open Container Law – Exemption for Special Events
- B. Engineering: Equipment for Camera System – Fiber Plus, Inc. (Shade Gap, PA) \$ 40,452.00
- C. Community Development: Rehabilitation of 226 N. Locust Street – Dale Ford (Boonsboro, MD) \$ 87,300.00
- D. Parks and Recreation
 - 1. Mowing & Trimming – All in One Lawn Service (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 17,999.00

2. Dumpster Services at Various Locations – Allied Waste Services (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 3,714.69 per month
- E. Water and Sewer Department
 1. CCTV Vehicle – Rausch Electronics USA, LLC (Chambersburg, PA) \$ 244,500.00
 2. Mowing Contract – Various Divisions – Willow Run Farm & Landscape (Keedysville, MD) \$ 26,271.00
 3. Engineering Design & Construction Services for R. C. Willson Water Treatment Plan Phase IV Improvements – Gannett Fleming, Inc. (Harrisburg, PA) \$ 512,625.00

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Nigh stated she does not support the contractual mowing. She feels City employees could be doing this work.

Councilmember Cromer thought the mowing contracts were not going to be included on the consent agenda. Mayor Bruchey stated the bid for the Water and Sewer Department mowing is being reviewed, but the contract for mowing for Parks and Recreation needs to be finalized before the beginning of April. Donnie Barton, Sewer Department Superintendent, stated he did not want to delay the award of the Parks and Recreation bid. He stated he is working with the contractors to determine if the bids can be combined.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance: To Establish an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) for Schools

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to establish an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance for schools.

B. Introduction of an Ordinance: City Park and Claude M. Potterfield Pool Concession Agreement

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to approve

the execution of an agreement with J and L Concessions to operate the Concession Stands at City Park and the Claude M. Potterfield Pool for the period of April 1, 2006 through October 31, 2011.

C. Introduction of an Ordinance: Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hagerstown and the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown concerning operations of University Plaza

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to approve the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hagerstown and the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown concerning operations of University Plaza for the period of one (1) year from date of execution and a renewal of four (4) additional one (1) year terms.

D. Introduction of a Resolution: Hamilton Annexation A-2006-01

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an Annexation Resolution for Richard J. Hamilton, II for property located on the southeast side of the City, at 1921, 1923, and 1927 Dual Highway. The property to be annexed is 2.54 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire asked that the City keep on a good schedule with the County for review time of annexations.

E. Resolution: 2006 Summer Play Camp Operations – Hagerstown YMCA

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to authorize the execution of a contract for the Hagerstown YMCA to operate a play camp program at Hellane Park and Pangborn Park, serving 60 children per day at each site at a cost of \$ 32,660, for an eight (8) week period during the summer 2006 season.

F. Resolution: 2006 Summer Play Camp Operations – Girls, Inc.

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to authorize the execution of a contract for Girls, Inc. to operate a play camp program, at

their location, servicing an additional 30 children per day above their program level at a cost of \$ 10,000, for a nine (9) week period during the summer 2006 season.

G. Resolution: 2006 Summer Play Camp Operations – Memorial Recreation

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to authorize the execution of a contract for Memorial Recreation to operate a play camp program at Wheaton Park, serving 60 children per day at a cost of \$ 15,000 for an eight (8) week period during the summer 2006 season.

H. Approval of Right-of-Way/License Agreement for 231 Woodpoint Avenue

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed to enter into a Right-of-Way/License Agreement with Eugene and Lisa Commer to utilize a portion of the unimproved right-of-way of Church Street to construct a paved driveway to their property.

I. Approval of an Agreement with Demcore Development

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to enter into an Agreement Among the City of Hagerstown, Bowman 2000 LLC, and Demcore Development, formally outlining the responsibilities of the parties regarding the construction of improvements and long term maintenance of the pedestrian alley and other areas adjacent to the A & E Parking Deck. Councilmember L. C. Metzner seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Nigh stated this is another use of taxpayers' money in this corridor. Councilmember Aleshire stated the parking deck is anticipated to be full before it opens.

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

J. Approval of Construction of City Park Restrooms

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 authorize the construction of new restrooms in City Park. They authorized the Parks Department staff to complete the construction in conjunction with various contracted services as outlined in the March 16, 2006 memo including \$ 46,700 with Milton

Stamper Builders to install the water and sewer service lines. Staff was further authorized to enter into these necessary contracts. All work shall be completed within the \$ 277,759 allocated in the Capital Improvement Project # 593 from Community Development Block Grant and Program Open Space funds as noted in the FY 05/06 budget.

K. Agreement for Administration of HOME Initiative Funds

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an Agreement for Administration of HOME Initiative Funds between the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the City of Hagerstown for the purpose of providing an aggregate of \$ 85,000 in direct homeownership assistance for eligible homebuyers in conjunction with the Single Family Homeownership Program.

L. Approval of \$ 150,000 in City Funding Support for the Completion of Engineering Design of Intersection Improvements at Edgewood Drive and US Route 40

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to approve of \$ 150,000 in City funding support for the completion of engineering design of intersection improvements at Edgewood Drive and US Route 40. This \$ 150,000 will be combined with State and County funds to complete the final engineering and construction documents. This \$ 150,000 not-to-exceed amount is approximately one-third of the estimated balance of \$ 435,000 needed to complete the engineering design. The City's share of \$ 150,000 will come from a future general obligation bond that is scheduled to be issued in June, 2006. Councilmember L. C. Metzner seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Nigh asked if this funding is for the design of an improvement that will not be a long term solution. Mr. Zimmerman stated this funding is consistent with what was discussed jointly with the State and County and will be toward the final design of the project.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember P. M. Nigh voting No. Councilmember Nigh expressed her concern that correspondence that is sent out implies that she is in favor of this and she is not.

M. Emergency Approval of Manhole Insert Contract Bid #1370.06

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 purchasing one thousand (1,000) manhole

inserts under the contract # 1370.06 in an amount of \$ 16,400.00. The manhole inserts are preventive tools for inflow to the sanitary collection system.

Discussion: Councilmember Cromer asked why this was not presented during the preliminary agenda review last week. Mr. Zimmerman stated this came up after last week's work session. Inventory had been depleted and it is an important part of the I/I study. Councilmember Metzner stated the weekly report indicates there is still a problem with I/I and the project needs to continue.

CITY ADMINSTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce J. Zimmerman, City Administrator, stated a special program to provide information about the new co-mingled recycling program will be broadcast on Channel 6. Yard waste collection will begin on April 5, 2006.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire stated there is a good article about zoning in the Maryland Municipal Magazine. He still has concerns with two clauses in the APFO that was introduced earlier. He will work with Staff and the County regarding this. Part of the motion in the original approval for the A & E Parking Deck provided a cap on the amount of general tax dollars that can be used for the deck. He asked if there are more food vendors than spaces for the BluesFest. The first Youth Day of Service will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2006. He pointed out that there is more interest in the Downtown Residency Initiative. He thanked the employee who presented the idea. He stated MACO's annexation bill has been defeated as presented in the House and the Senate. Mayor Bruchey indicated there has been dialogue between MACO and MML to address this. He asked Staff to provide information about how the County's amendments to their APFO may affect the City. There will be no bonds or guarantees for survival of tree plantings. He doesn't feel this is a proper agreement to make with developers. Clean up in City Park has begun. He stated dog owners need to police themselves with cleaning up after their dogs in the parks. He also pointed out the flows at the sewer plant are still high, even though there has been little rainfall. The Water and Sewer Infrastructure Committee report is needed as soon as possible. He also believes sewer capacity will be depleted before school capacity is depleted.

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean thanked Officer Younkers for communicating with her. She congratulated Bryan Sullivan, Director of the Maryland Theater, for his efforts with the Theater. She mentioned Congress has approved additional funding for Community Development Block Grant programs. She urged the Councilmembers to look into a situation with Rynel and Randall Jones.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner expressed condolences to the family of John Long, a supporter of the City and avid train lover. He thanked Mr. Long for his long stewardship at City Park.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer stated she is not sure why the City received the correspondence concerning Rynel and Randall Jones, since it appears to be a dispute between a private citizen and a private entity.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh thanked the people who helped set up and clean up before and after the Washington County Municipal League dinner on March 27, 2006. She stated she is upset that Dan Sernovitz (Herald Mail reporter) is not at this meeting. She suspects that he is no longer employed with the Herald Mail. It should not have happened.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II mentioned the service times for John Long. He will be missed. He thanked the two boy scouts who were in attendance. He stated there has been much speculation as to the degree of racism in the City. He stated, unfortunately, racism does exist in Hagerstown and it exists in many other places in this country and around the world. To say it does not exist is irresponsible. He wished someone could wave a magic wand and make everyone equal. A majority of the citizens will stand up and fight racism wherever and whenever it raises its ugly head. Racism, fortunately, is not as rampant as it is in other communities. Hagerstown is a community of acceptance and tolerance. The Mayor and Council will represent the people without partiality and prejudice. He urged everyone to move on as a City and promote tolerance and acceptance wherever we can.

On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk
(by video review)

Approved: _____