

100TH SPECIAL SESSION AND WORK SESSION – May 12, 2009

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 100th Special Session and Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:09 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers M. E. Brubaker, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and Councilmember A. Parson-McBean; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk.

100th Special Session – May 12, 2009

On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed to meet in Special Session.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Tax Rate for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

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 introduce an ordinance to consider establishing the tax rates for the levy year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 on the basis of \$0.788 per \$100 of assessed value of all real property and \$1.97 per \$100 of assessed value of all business personal property within the City of Hagerstown. These rates are the same as the current year.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Budget for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

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 introduce an ordinance to adopt the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in the total amount of \$ 161,128,485.

Discussion: Councilmember Brubaker stated the budget modifications need to reflect the deferral of the full Roslyn building project to FY 2010-2011. Councilmember Metzner agreed.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Adopting the Washington County Alarm Ordinance

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember P. M. Nigh and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to replace Chapter 48 of the City Code, entitled Alarm Systems, with a new Chapter 48, adopting the Washington County Alarm Ordinance.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Work Session – May 12, 2009

Preliminary Agenda Review

Consent Agenda

A. Public Works:

1. Signal Cabinet for Maryland Avenue and Howard Street – Econolite Control Products, Inc. (Hanover, MD) \$ 11,375.00
2. Replacement for Gate Entry System at N. Potomac Street Deck – Control Systems Incorporated (West Hartford, CT) \$ 101,678.00

Councilmember Brubaker has discussed the entry system with staff. His questions were answered and he supports the purchase.

B. Engineering:

1. Reconstruction of Alley 2-21, 2-29 and 2-32 – Fayetteville Contractors, Inc. (Fayetteville, PA) \$ 59,263.90
2. GIS Strategic and Implementation Plan (Along with IT Department) – Geographic Technologies Group, Inc. (Goldsboro, NC) \$ 47,600.00

C. Police Department: Gas Chromatograph and Mass Spectrometer – Agilent Technologies (Wilmington, DE) \$ 100,018.06

This purchase is being made with stimulus funding.

D. Water Department: Geotechnical Engineering Services – Hazen and Sawyer Environmental Engineers (Baltimore, MD) \$ 49,216.00

E. Light Department: Telemetry Equipment – Pennsylvania Networks, Inc. (Orbisonia, PA) \$ 11,838.00

Approval of Sale of Abandoned Building – Warner Hollow Road

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, stated Chris Warner (Charlestown, WV) submitted a request for the removal of a structure located on Warner Hollow Road, which is on the Watershed property. Mr. Warner's mother and grandfather were born in the two room building that is adjacent to the gated entrance on the east end of the property and the building possesses great sentimental value to his family. Due to the deteriorated nature of this building, staff had deemed it in need of demolition and planned to proceed if a funding source became available. The City Attorney has drafted documentation that will allow for the sale of the building for \$ 1.00.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to move forward with the sale of the building.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

CDBG-R Annual Plan Amendment - \$ 249,458

Larry Bayer, Manager of Community Development, reported the City of Hagerstown has been awarded a one-time allocation of \$ 249,458 in additional CDBG funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. HUD just published the program requirements for use of these funds.

The use of CDBG-R funds has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, expand educational opportunities and access to health care.

Based upon the criteria for CDBG-R funds, staff recommends the following use of these funds:

1. Infrastructure improvements
 - a. Street Overlay \$ 74,000
 - b. Ridge Avenue Traffic Island \$ 65,000
 - c. Curb ramp installation \$ 60,000
2. Community Free Clinic \$ 30,458
3. Staff administrative expenses \$ 20,000

Councilmember Cromer asked if the \$ 20,000 for administrative expenses could be paid for with City funds so that this funding would be available for other projects. Mr. Bayer indicated these expenses are scheduled to be used to purchase computers. Councilmember Parson-McBean suggested changing the description for this expense.

It was the general consensus to move forward with the recommended use of the funds.

Budget Discussion – Mayor and Council Modifications Made To-Date

Alfred Martin, Finance Director, presented budget modification sheets for the General fund and other funds to reflect items that have been revised by the Mayor and Council. The modifications cover the next budget year and show the fiscal impact (if any) on the following year.

In addition to the modifications reviewed during last week's work session, modifications are incorporated to restore the street resurfacing dollars in the CIP Fund, in spite of the \$ 256,000 reduction in State Highway User revenues. As Councilmember Brubaker proposed, a portion of the Roslyn Building Renovation has been deferred and a portion of the planned use of bond proceeds in the Property Management Fund has been transferred to the CIP for Street Resurfacing. Also reflected in the General Fund is the cost of the additional debt service for additional bonds for resurfacing and the additional

one time costs for transferring the Police dispatchers to the new combined County 911 Center.

Councilmember Parson-McBean is not in favor of deferring the Roslyn Building renovation. Mr. Martin indicated staff will need to know in the next few weeks how the Mayor and Council wish to proceed with the Roslyn Building renovation.

Funding is included in the Fire Department budget to begin a firefighter gear replacement program. The department has applied for homeland security grants but has not been awarded funding yet.

Approval of the ordinances for the budget and the tax rate will be scheduled for May 26, 2009.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, and *Rodney Tissue, City Engineer*, attended a meeting with the County to obtain information about the distribution of federal stimulus funds. The County Commissioners have agreed to distribute a portion of the stimulus funds to the municipalities (from the County's general fund) in order to lessen the impact of possible restrictions on the use of the funding. The City of Hagerstown will receive \$ 404,000.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean stated she has received complaints about the impact of blasting during the project on Jonathan Street. Mr. Tissue stated recording equipment is in place to measure the blasting. He asked that all complaints be directed to him.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker stated the Mayor and Council attend many meetings, not just Council meetings. He urged people to exercise their right to vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer has received complaints about the number of signs advertising going out of business sales. Mr. Zimmerman indicated signs are not permitted within the City's right of way. Signs in these locations are removed by City staff. Councilmember Cromer suggested imposing a fine for signs that have to be removed. Mr. Zimmerman stated the State of Maryland is also dealing with the increase in number of signs and the City has been working with them.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh had the honor of attending an exhibition at Salem Avenue Elementary School.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II reminded everyone that this is Police Week and a memorial service will be held on May 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the department's headquarters. He also urged people to vote.

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 at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: June 23, 2009