

WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – August 3, 2010

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Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:05 p.m., Tuesday, August 3, 2010, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers W. M. Breichner, M. E. Brubaker, F. W. Easton, A. C. Haywood, L. C. Metzner; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk.

Community Coalition – City Agenda

Councilmember Breichner reported the discussion during the first two meetings has been about the process for creating an agenda and which members have voting rights. Projects and goals have not been discussed. The group reviewed the cost for a federal lobbyist. The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2010.

Mayor Bruchey asked if there are issues that Mayor and Council members want to include in the discussion. He stated ongoing issues are funding for the library and legislation that affects the City or Washington County directly.

Councilmember Breichner stated developing new revenue streams for municipalities and ensuring no more revenue is lost for municipalities should be top priorities.

Councilmember Metzner asked if there is any way to realize additional revenue from the hotel/motel tax money. He indicated the City should not submit legislation that the County would not support.

Councilmember Breichner stated the coalition lobbyist will perform two functions: to submit legislation and to watch for legislation that could affect the City. Councilmember Metzner pointed out MML also reviews bills that are submitted.

Councilmember Brubaker does not think a project should be presented if it is not well thought out.

Councilmember Easton thinks potential renovations to Municipal Stadium should be on the list. He asked if the Washington County Delegation could help find a funding source.

Councilmember Metzner indicated the hotel/motel tax language does not permit funding for a stadium. Councilmember Brubaker pointed out the new owners have not submitted a request at this point.

Councilmember Metzner suggested discussing the East End Development Plan among the coalition members.

Councilmember Breichner wondered what will happen to the existing hospital when it is closed. This may be the time to talk to the administration at the hospital.

Councilmember Easton stated the City should not sit back and wait for a decision. The Mayor and Council should not wait for the coalition to make a decision either. Projects need to be reviewed to determine if they will be fundable.

Councilmember Haywood stated it would take significant legislation to change the way the hotel/motel tax is distributed. The City needs to be proactive. In order to do anything, there has to be a discussion with the owners of the Hagerstown Suns and the hospital board.

Mayor Bruchey thinks the City should ask for a bond bill for rehabilitation of the stadium. Councilmember Metzner doesn't think a bond bill is possible. He believes the coalition members are the ones to talk to about ideas for the stadium and the east end. Even if the project is not included on the list, a discussion could be the beginning of getting things accomplished in the community.

Councilmember Haywood asked why the Mayor and Council should expect someone else to fund renovations for property owned by the City. Councilmember Brubaker pointed out the City cannot afford the cost of renovations.

Mayor Bruchey suggested creating a list and submit it to the coalition. Councilmember Breichner asked if there are plans for the grandstand at Fairgrounds Park. Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, indicated there is a master plan.

Councilmember Metzner suggested including the bridge over the Antietam Creek.

Councilmember Metzner stated there should be a meeting just to discuss the east end. The Mayor and Council are not close to being able to tell the coalition what they want to do.

Councilmember Breichner indicated it would be legitimate to ask for additional room tax to provide funding for work at the stadium.

Mr. Zimmerman suggested using the hotel/motel tax and east end development as discussion points with the coalition.

Councilmember Haywood expressed concern that non-compete clauses are prohibitive to development.

Councilmember Brubaker heard suggestions to turn the Massey building into something else.

Councilmember Haywood is interested in housing standards and proliferation in special development areas. Councilmember Easton is interested in this as well.

The list to be submitted includes: restoration of highway user revenue, continue stream of police protection income tax, East End development and hotel/motel tax. Further discussion will be held after the next meeting of the coalition.

CDBG Funding for Food and Friends

Larry Bayer, Community Resources Director, stated during the public hearing on Community Development Block Grant funding, a representative of Food and Friends asked that this organization be awarded a grant of \$ 5,000 in CDBG funding to assist them in providing food and nutritional services to persons with life threatening medical conditions and their families.

Mr. Bayer reported there are sufficient CDBG funds available and there is enough public service capacity to permit funding of this request.

Councilmember Metzner stated this is a program that provides basic health services.

Councilmember Easton indicated he feels the process for determining which agencies to fund is flawed. He stated he provided suggestions for fundraising for this group. Food and Friends have \$ 7,000,000 to provide food for people in the Washington, DC and metro area. There were no municipalities included on their list of sponsors. He is concerned about using taxpayer money to fund an outside organization.

Councilmember Breichner can think of other community organizations that could be funded with the \$ 5,000.00.

Councilmember Haywood stated this group is not just Hagerstown specific. They provide food to terminally ill people which are specific for the individual recipient's needs. The Health Department stopped making referrals to Food and Friends because they did not have local money last year.

Councilmember Easton would consider the request more seriously if they raised some funds. Councilmember Haywood indicated the majority of the funds are raised through fundraising and from other organizations. Because of the need in this area, the central office continues to support the program here. Councilmember Easton would prefer to have the groups make a request before the Mayor and Council in person. Councilmember Metzner pointed out there were representatives present at the public hearing.

Councilmember Brubaker asked for further information about Food and Friends funding sources.

Councilmember Easton would like to discuss the process for considering donations to groups. He believes the City should provide assistance, other than monetarily. He believes this is a good organization.

More information will be provided and further discussion will be scheduled.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember W. M. Breichner expressed condolences to William Nairn's family on the passing of his father.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker had no additional comments.

Councilmember F. W. Easton had no additional comments.

Councilmember A. C. Haywood had no additional comments.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II had no additional comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – August 3, 2010

On a motion duly made by Councilmember A. C. Haywood and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in closed session to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, #3 and 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 at 5:11 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. The following people were in attendance: Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember W. M. Breichner, Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, Councilmember F. W. Easton, Councilmember A. C. Haywood, Councilmember L. C. Metzner, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, Alfred Martin, Finance Director, John Lestitian, Director of Department of Community and Economic Development, Deborah Everhart, Director of Economic Development, and Donna Spickler, City Clerk. The meeting was held to discuss a board appointment and the possibility of acquisition of a vacant building in the City Center. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: September 28, 2010