

WORK SESSION – August 16, 2005

Mayor Richard F. Trump called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 16, 2005 in the Council Chambers at the City Hall. Present was Mayor Trump, City Council Members K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney Mark Boyer and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember K. B. Aleshire was not present.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor's report will be given during the comment portion of the meeting.

Preliminary Agenda Review

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to include the Mayor in the rotation for giving the Invocation. Councilmember Cromer will be giving the Invocation at the August 23, 2005 meeting.

**Cargo Van**

A Chevrolet cargo van is available under the State contract at Criswell Chevrolet for \$ 13,935.00. Eric Deike, Manager of Public Works, indicated the State of Maryland bid contract does not include dump trucks.

This vehicle would replace Public Works Unit #33. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

**Dump Truck**

Public Works Unit #11, a Topkick dump truck, is scheduled for replacement in the current fiscal year Capital Improvement Program. The bid of \$ 110,634.00 is through the PA Capital City (PACC) contract. The bid includes purchasing the truck chassis from Rivers Truck Center, Inc. and the truck body from Industrial Motor Supplies, Inc. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

**Cargo Van with Bucket**

Phillips Ford submitted a price of \$ 43,618.00 for a 1 ton cargo van with a bucket attachment. This vehicle will replace Unit #603, which is a 1986 GMC 350 bucket truck. The bid is through the PA Capital City (PACC) contract. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

### **City Curb and Sidewalk Repair**

Concrete Central submitted the low bid of \$ 19,850.00 for Part A: City Curb/sidewalk for abatelements and \$ 41,750.00 for Part B: Repair damage caused by street trees for curb, sidewalk and pavement repairs.

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated Part A is to cover sidewalk repairs that a homeowner refuses to make. Part B is to repair damage caused by trees. There is \$ 30,000 budgeted and only that amount will be spent.

Councilmember Cromer and Councilmember Nigh asked why the sidewalk repairs are not done in-house. Mr. Deike stated there is limited manpower and the employees are continually working on other maintenance needs. The sidewalk damage is extensive. He stated the damage is a liability issue. He stated between the City crew and the contractor, they can begin to address the needed repairs.

Councilmember Nigh asked how short in manpower the Public Works Department is. Councilmember Cromer stated she felt a lot of money could be saved if the work was completed in-house. Councilmember Parson-McBean asked why contractors are used for everything. Councilmember Metzner stated he feels sure using contractors for this work is less expensive than having city employees do the work. Mr. Deike and Mr. Tissue stated there is a lot of work to be done. Councilmember Parson-McBean suggested looking at the possibility of hiring someone to do just that work. Mr. Deike stated this is supplementing the in-house work.

Councilmember Cromer asked if property owners who fail to make repairs are taken to court. Mr. Tissue stated the new rules state the City has the right to abate the problem, instead of taking an owner to court.

After the discussion, the Mayor and City Council agreed to move this item from the consent agenda to New Business.

### **Field Surveys and Plat Preparation for Right of Way Acquisition (Eastern Boulevard)**

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) is the consultant preparing the construction plat for this project. This request is a change order to the original contract so that the right of way needed for the project can be acquired. This change order will be funded through fees collected in the Eastern Boulevard Improvement District. The cost of the change order is \$ 32,401.84. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the change order.

### **Flow Meters**

Marsh McBirney submitted a price of \$ 28,000.00 for ten flow meters. The meters are being used to study the flow characteristics of individual Sanitary Districts that have been identified as major contributors of Infiltration and Inflow to the Sanitary Sewer System. Bijan Haghtalab, Project Coordinator, stated these meters will be needed for the next four years. It is more economical to purchase the meters, which the City can use for the next 20 years. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase of the flow meters.

### **Lining Contract**

Mr. Haghtalab stated a camera inspection of the lines has shown the 21" line is in desperate need of repair. Am-Liner East submitted the low bid of \$ 963,400.00 for relining of deteriorated pipes and manholes to reduce I&I. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to accept the bid from Am-Liner East.

### **Pickup Truck**

Donnie Barton, WPC Plant Superintendent, mentioned there was an increase in flow with the one inch of rain today. The increase is 10,000,000 gallons higher than yesterday.

Sport Chevrolet Co., Inc. submitted a bid in the amount of \$ 23,786.00 for a 1 ton pickup truck. This truck will replace Unit 523 in the Water and Sewer Department. The bid is through the State contract. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

### **Verticle Turbine Bowl Assembly**

Geiger Pump & Equipment submitted a bid in the amount of \$ 17,062.00 for a Goulds 3 stage vertical turbine bowl assembly. Geiger Pump & Equipment is the sole source for the pump. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the purchase.

### **Repair of Building at 151 Park Avenue**

The property at 151 Park Avenue was damaged from a fire that started on the first floor. Milton Stamper Builders submitted the low bid of \$ 47,300.00 to repair and restore the building. A check was received from the insurance company in the amount of \$ 45,763.94. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to accept the low bid.

### **Actuarial Consulting Services**

CBIZ Benefits & Insurance, Inc. submitted the low bid of \$ 8,500.00 for an actuarial valuation of the City's existing OPEB programs and to determine the effect of three possible changes to the City's OPEB program. The study to determine if the City of Hagerstown Retiree Prescriptions Plan meets or exceeds the new Medicare Part "D" Plan is required in order for the City to apply for a reimbursement for a portion of the avoided cost from Medicare, if the City provided the prescription coverage rather than Medicare. Donna Messina, Director of Human Resources, stated the City has been paying for employee retirement benefits, but the accounting rules are changing. This is the first step in meeting the new rules. It was the general consensus to accept the low bid.

Ms. Messina stated the four Public Works employees perform an array of jobs, including concrete. In order to have a group of employees dedicated to making sidewalk repairs, a team of four would probably be needed. The cost for wages and benefits would be approximately \$ 120,000.00.

#### **2005 Chevrolet Colorado**

The Planning Department FY 06 budget includes \$ 12,000.00 to purchase a vehicle on the State Contract. The vehicle will be used for inspections. This vehicle is required because at present the Planning Department has no vehicle for the inspector or zoning administrator to use when they are out in the field conducting inspections for the City. Hertich Fleet Services, Inc. submitted a bid of \$ 10,398.00 under the State contract.

Councilmember Cromer asked if it would be more economical to pay mileage for the use of personal vehicles. Councilmember Nigh asked if there is a city vehicle Councilmembers can use for business. There is no dedicated vehicle for general use.

It was the general consensus to approve the purchase of the vehicle.

#### **Resolution: Approval of Haven Road Annexation**

Mr. Zimmerman stated the resolution approving the Haven Road annexation will remain tabled until the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) issue is resolved with the County.

#### **Resolution: Approval of Light Property Annexation and Resolution: Approval of Crumrine Property Annexation**

The resolutions approving the Light Property and Crumrine Property Annexations are scheduled for approval at the August regular session.

#### **Approval of an Ordinance: Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and**

**Approval of an Ordinance: Excise Tax**

Approval of these two ordinances will be delayed until the Washington County Commissioners adopt an Excise Tax and APFO.

**Introduction of an Ordinance: Purchase of 226 N. Locust Street**

Larry Bayer, Community Development Manager, stated 226 North Locust Street is available for purchase. The contract price is \$ 95,000.00. This property would be part of the Single Family Home Ownership program. There are two parcels with this property. The front parcel would be under the Home Ownership program. The rear parcel could be used to create off-street parking, if the existing deteriorated garages are removed.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to introduce an ordinance to purchase the property at the August 23, 2005 meeting.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Trick or Treat Date

Trick or Treat Night will be held on Monday, October 31, 2005, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Special Taxing Districts

Fire Chief Gary Hawbaker was present to discuss legislation for special taxing districts. Senate Bill 2 gives the Mayor and Council the authority to create taxing districts for the purpose of financing capital and operating costs to enhance fire protection, police and rescue services.

This legislation has been followed by staff for the last two Maryland General Assembly sessions. When the past Mayor and Council met with the state delegation before the last general session, they asked for their support of this legislation. That Mayor and Council had discussed the possibility of using this tax to increase fire department manning as had been recommended by the Hagerstown Fire Department Staffing Report of October, 2001. This tax is somewhat unique because it allows the money to be used for operating costs in addition to capital for public safety. In the past, special taxing districts were used mostly for infrastructure improvements.

Councilmember Metzner indicated there would have to be a special tax district or general property tax increase to fund additional firefighters, which are needed.

Mark Boyer, City Attorney, stated there has always been legislation for municipalities to define a special taxing district to provide infrastructure within a certain area for the benefit of

those in that district. Any funding from the taxing district would have to be accounted for separately and would have to be used for a specific purpose. He stated he has looked to see if the entire city could be established as a special taxing district.

Chief Hawbaker stated they have reviewed the needs of each station. He suggested that a rate be determined based on the potential hazards faced by the firefighters at the stations. In order to meet the staffing needs, 4¢ or 5¢ would have to be added to the tax rate.

Mr. Boyer indicated there is a time limit of ten years for a special taxing district. Once a district is defined, everyone within the district would be subject to the tax. This would include real estate owners and personal property owners. He stated if special districts are established, Chief Hawbaker will lose a lot of control over equipment and manpower.

Councilmember Nigh stated people don't realize what the City is facing. They don't realize the departments are shorthanded and that CRS is the only rescue service. She understands what the impact of undermanned fire and police departments means for her. Every resident has to understand this serious situation.

#### Request to Make Alley 2-38 Two Way

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, was present to discuss Alley 2-38.

Alley #2-38 is currently one-way northbound from Burhans Blvd. to West Washington Street. It was designated a one-way alley in 2003 to prevent drivers from pulling out onto Burhans Boulevard where the sight to the left is restricted.

Recently, the Engineering Department was contacted by a car repair business at the rear of 647 West Washington Street, asking to change the traffic flow to allow customers and deliveries to enter and leave his business by the Washington Street end of this alley. Customers find his business street address on West Washington Street, but then they can't use the alley to access the rear of the property. They must drive around the block and try to find the rear entrance via the alley system. This change would also allow more access options for the residents of Court Avenue.

In July, staff reviewed this request with the Board of Traffic and Parking, and they recommended that the Mayor and Council approve this request. Staff recommends that we change the traffic flow on Alley #2-38 to make the northern portion (between Alley #2-37 and West Washington Street) two way.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to change the traffic flow on Alley #2-38.

Off-street Parking Along N. Locust Street and Reuse of the Alms House

Larry Bayer, Community Development Manager, and Shelli Dronsfield, Neighborhood Coordinator, were present to discuss off-street parking and reuse of the Alms House.

When the City purchased the property known as the Alms House in the 200 block of N. Locust Street, there were no definite plans for its use. The property was purchased because it was believed that the building was so large that whatever the final use, it would have a direct impact on the revitalization efforts of the surrounding area.

Early this past spring, staff recommended that the three buildings on the Alms House property be razed so that off-street parking could be constructed on the site. Mayor and Council were not inclined to agree to this, and newspaper reports of the discussion resulted in a number of phone calls and e-mails calling for preservation of the Alms House.

Staff has long been aware of the need for additional off-street parking along the Locust Street/Mulberry Street corridor. The blocks along North Locust Street and North Mulberry Street are about 500 feet long and 500 feet wide. Lot sizes vary greatly on these blocks. Those oriented north to south are very long and narrow, in many cases only 20-22 feet wide, but up to 240 feet deep. In many cases, fences have been constructed partway between the alley and the dwelling, resulting in land that is not being put to use. Each block center would be different. Staff believes that this underutilized land is the place to create off-street parking. This would result in parking that is easily accessible to a greater number of homes, cost of construction would be significantly reduced, and the streetscape would not be adversely affected by the demolition of buildings facing the street.

Some modifications would need to be made to the zoning ordinances to make this approach feasible. These include minimum lot sizes, creation of parking lots in residential areas, creation of lots of record which have no street frontage and landscaping and buffer requirements for parking lots.

There is little public support to raze the Alms House. Two individuals contacted the City concerning the possibility of acquiring and rehabilitation the property. The Alms House property is important to the revitalization efforts of the area and, as such, staff believes the City needs to control its eventual reuse.

Staff asked the Mayor and Council to consider developing a program to create off-street parking along the north Locust Street/North Mulberry Street corridor which would utilize vacant and underutilized land along the alleys. The Mayor and Council are also asked to consider developing a Request for Proposal for the sale and adaptive reuse of the Alms House. The RFP, prepared perhaps in conjunction with the local historic preservation community, will be written

in such a way as to require preserving the building, while assuring that its use would compliment the revitalization efforts of the neighborhood.

Mayor Trump thanked Mr. Bayer for taking him on a tour of the Community Development projects.

Councilmember Nigh asked where the funding would be from for a project like this. Mr. Bayer indicated it could be CDBG money.

Councilmember Cromer asked if there would still be parking on the street. There would be. She asked if the “park inside” program could be used for this project.

Councilmember Parson-McBean asked if the property owners have been contacted for their input. Councilmember Metzner stated this is just a concept plan at this point.

Mr. Bayer pointed out that fewer cars parked on these streets would allow easier travel for emergency vehicles.

It was the general consensus to send out an RFP for the use of the Alms House and to continue with the concept plan for off-street parking.

Mayor Trump complimented Ms. Dronsfield for the work she does with the Neighborhoods First program.

#### Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for N. Locust St./N. Mulberry St. Area

Larry Bayer, Community Development Department Manager, and Shelli Dronsfield, Neighborhood Coordinator, were present to discuss a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan for N. Locust Street and N. Mulberry Street area.

It has long been a goal of the City to revitalize both the downtown commercial core as well as the surrounding residential areas. Up to this time, the bulk of the efforts and resources have been directed toward the commercial core. While the commercial area requests continued attention, staff believes that now is the time to begin comprehensive revitalization efforts in the nearby residential areas.

The term comprehensive revitalization describes a focused effort dealing with the needs of a particular neighborhood. The first step is an in-depth analysis of the needs of an area, from which a multi-year plan is developed to address the findings of the study. Implementation of the plan then follows. Depending on the identified needs, the implementation phase may take three to five years to complete.



By taking this approach to revitalization, the end result of the effort will be a neighborhood near the downtown that has been “freshened up” offering, among other benefits, a variety of housing options at reasonable cost; neighborhood amenities such as green space and off-street parking; upgraded streets and infrastructure; and improved traffic conditions.

Staff recommends that the first neighborhood revitalization area be from the north side of East Washington Street north to the railroad tracks from north Potomac Street (both sides) east to Cannon Avenue or possibly Cleveland Avenue. This neighborhood is directly adjacent to the downtown, the boundaries are very definable, it is primarily residential in nature, but with a relatively low number of owner/occupied units and housing costs have been traditionally low. Along with a neighborhood watch group, there are two Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup> groups in the area and another will be forming by the end of this month. Aside from Fairgrounds Park, there has been very little public money spent in this area in the past 20 years.

Without knowing the scope of work involved, it is not possible to cost out the work plan. The amount of work that would be possible would be directly affected by the amount of funding allocated to the project. While it is anticipated that some money will be required from the general fund, we would expect that CDBG funds along with those from other state and federal programs would be utilized as much as possible.

There is already an active group of residents in this neighborhood.

Councilmember Parson-McBean stated she would be in favor of this if all neighborhoods that are adjacent to downtown are revitalized. Each revitalization should reflect the likes and dislikes of the individual neighborhood because each is unique.

Mr. Bayer stated this neighborhood would be the test and they hope to replicate the process (not the product) in other neighborhoods. The improvements made would be sustainable and something that people would be willing to maintain.

Councilmember Cromer asked if there was money in the budget for this program. Mr. Bayer indicated there was not.

Mayor Trump indicated the consensus is to move forward with this project. Staff will develop a plan and present it to the Mayor and City Council for further review. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated the project would be for neighborhoods in the entire city. Mayor Trump stated a substantial amount of money is being put into the Jonathan Street Streetscape project.

Pat Schooley, local historian, stated the Planning Commission for the City has an extensive historical survey that includes the Alms House. This structure dates back to 1779.

Snook Annexation, Case No. I-2005-07, Initial Discussion

Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, stated Todd Snook has submitted a petition for annexation of 66.67 acres of land on the north and south side of Maryland 144, to the west of Cedar Lawn cemetery. The property is zoned RS north of MD 144 and HI1 (Highway Interchange 1) south of MD 144. The property north of MD 144 is recommended for low density residential and the property south of MD 144 is recommended Industrial/Flex in the land use plan of the County's 2002 Comprehensive Plan. The applicant is requesting R2 zoning north of MD 144 and R2 and C2 zoning south of MD 144. The applicant has no formal development proposals at this time.

The city's Planning Commission reviewed the annexation and zoning proposal at their August 10, 2005 meeting, and found the following:

North of MD 144: The commission found that the requested R2 zoning for the property north of MD 144 is consistent with the County zoning but inconsistent with the land uses which have developed in the single-family detached neighborhood on either side of this narrow parcel. The Commission recommended that R1 zoning would be more consistent with the County land use plan recommendation and with the character of the neighborhoods on either side of the parcel.

South of MD 144: The Commission found that the requested R2 and C2 zoning for the property south of MD 144 is inconsistent with County zoning and the County land use plan, and that residential and commercial development in this area would be incompatible with the character of the area and the land use plan recommendations for the area. The City's 1997 Comprehensive Plan is silent on the land south of US40. The Commission recommended that IR zoning would be more consistent with the County land use plan recommendation and with the character of the area south of MD 144.

Councilmember Metzner stated he understands that if the County does not object to the zoning classification, the City can change the classification and the owner can get water and sewer service. Mr. Zimmerman indicated that is correct.

It was the general consensus to proceed with the introduction of the Annexation Resolution at the August 23, 2005 meeting.

Crampton Annexation, Case No. A-2005-06, Initial Discussion

Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, stated Paul Crampton has submitted a petition for annexation of 7.7 acres of vacant land he owns on the east side of S. Potomac Street, to the north

of the former Doub Meadow apartment complex. The property is zoned RM in the County and is recommended for high density residential in the land use plan of the County's 2002 Comprehensive Plan. The applicant is requesting R3 zoning for the purpose of developing a 36 unit apartment complex.

The City's Planning Commission reviewed the annexation and zoning proposal at their August 10, 2005 meeting. The Commission found that the requested R3 zoning is consistent with County zoning and the county land use plan and compatible with the land use recommendations for the Doub neighborhood in the City's 1997 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommends to the Mayor and City Council that the proposed R3 zoning is appropriate.

Mayor Trump stated this is a property that if not annexed, would block future annexation in that area. Councilmember Nigh asked what benefit there is to approving this annexation. Mr. Zimmerman stated the property is going to be developed on the City's borders, creating additional traffic and water and sewer services requests.

Councilmember Nigh asked how many more apartments the City can handle. Councilmember Metzner stated the property is already zoned for apartments in the County.

Councilmember Cromer indicated a citizen approached her with pictures showing drainage problems that exist in the area. Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated, basically, everything in the south end of the City drains into that area. He thinks this development would actually help alleviate some of the drainage problems.

It was noted that this annexation is being considered because of a request for water and sewer service to the site. If the petition for annexation is denied, the City would serve the property, with no increase in the tax base.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to proceed with the introduction of an Annexation Resolution at the August 23, 2005 meeting.

#### Discussion Regarding Citizen Comments

Questions about the rules for Citizen Comments were raised at the Regular Session of the Mayor and City Council held on July 26, 2005. Section 6.2 of The Rules of Procedure, adopted by the Mayor and City Council on June 21, 2005, states that Citizen Comments will be limited to five minutes and that organizations wishing to address the Mayor and Council shall choose two representatives to make comments.

Mayor Trump asked Councilmember Metzner to lead this discussion. Councilmember Metzner stated he has two concerns. One is that the policy was created to limit organizations that have multiple representatives saying the same thing to two representatives. He is concerned that policy is being applied to independent citizens who wish to speak on the same topic. He recommended that “groups” really be organized groups and not individual citizens speaking on the same topic.

Councilmember Metzner discussed the process for the five minute time limit for speakers. He recommended that a timing light (red, yellow and green) be used to time the speakers. He asked staff to gather information on the timing lights and costs. He also asked that the City Clerk be responsible for keeping track of the time. This will allow the Mayor to listen to the discussion without having to keep track of the time.

Mayor Trump stated he has been reviewing the comment sign-in sheets and grouping people who wish to speak about the same topic together. Councilmember Metzner is asking that all those citizens have an opportunity to speak and not be limited to a set number of spokespeople. When it is an obvious organized group wishes to have members speak, the number of speakers should be limited. Each individual will have the right to speak.

#### Parliamentary Procedures to Defer Action

Recently, the Mayor and City Council have had occasion to defer action regarding several annexation petitions and ordinances. The action has been deferred by tabling the discussion.

According to Robert’s Rules of Order, action may be deferred by using one of the following approaches:

1. Postponing To a Set Time
2. Table
3. Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes

The object of “Postpone to a Set Time” is to set a time when a matter must be reconsidered. When a question is postponed, all adhering motions go with it, but the item is not tabled.

“To Table” really means to place in charge of the Secretary the pending question and everything adhering to it. In order to discuss a Tabled motion, it must be removed from the Table through adoption of a motion to remove. When a motion is “taken from the Table” it is exactly as when “Tabled,” with all motions adhering to it, which were being considered with the main motion.

The object of a “Reconsider and Enter on the Minutes” motion is to bring up a question for discussion and obtain a new vote at a future meeting.

Mark Boyer, City Attorney, stated the Mayor and Council have generally been tabling action on agenda items. He stated the City's Charter stated that ordinances must be passed within a specified time frame. Rather than tabling the motion, the action should be postponed to a set time, which will usually be the next established regular session.

#### City Administrator's Comments

*Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator*, thanked Staff and volunteers for their work during the Augusterfest event. The temperature was 95° and everything ran very smoothly.

#### Mayor and Council Comments

*Councilmember A. Parson-McBean* thanked Darnell Shafer, Boys and Girls Club, for the years he has dedicated to helping the children. She thanked Norma Pompeii, Memorial Recreation Center Acting Director, for the wonderful job she is going.

She reminded everyone the Jamaican Festival will be held Saturday, August 20, 2005, rain or shine. All proceeds benefit the Memorial Recreation Center. There will also be a golf tournament held on Friday, August 19, 2005.

Councilmember Parson-McBean wants to make sure all neighborhoods are included in the revitalization plans. She stated the Streetscape project on Jonathan Street is great, but long overdue.

*Councilmember L. C. Metzner* asked that a discussion about the 2+2 Group be scheduled soon.

*Councilmember K. S. Cromer* stated the Council needs to discuss the possibility of the Washington County government moving their offices out of downtown. She stated the Mayor and Council should plan ahead, in case this happens.

She commended the staff at the Golf Course. It is nice the City can own the golf course and keep the fees low. She reminded everyone the Glo Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, August 19, 2005.

She asked when a discussion of the Delta Hosiery building will be scheduled in executive session. Mr. Zimmerman stated there is a meeting with an attorney on August 23, 2005. After

that meeting, it will be scheduled for discussion at an executive session. Councilmember Cromer asked if Council can attend that meeting. Mr. Zimmerman stated they may attend.

*Councilmember P. M. Nigh* stated there are more homeless people in Hagerstown now than ever before. She stated REACH needs to be on their own and do something about this situation. She asked for a status report from the water and sewer task force.

Councilmember Nigh thanked Nikki Perini, Authentic Community Theatre, Inc., for being a part of this year's Augustoberfest.

She stated the Citizens on Patrol group found the graffiti on garages in the West End. This is an example of how people working together and knowing what is happening in their communities makes a difference. Citizens on Patrol needs radios. Radios will be obtained.

Councilmember Nigh stated she has seen the presentation about the gangs in the area. She urged every council member to see the presentation. There are three gangs in the area, including the violent ms13 gang. She stated if people are not educated about the dangers, there will be a major problem. She stated the City needs more firemen and police officers. She suggested having a police officer that speaks Spanish.

*Mayor R. F. Trump* stated the City was not informed by the County they had been considering moving out of downtown. He stated he is trying to build open lines of communication so it is not the City against the County. This kind of surprise announcement does not build strong relationships. There is a significant need for the County and the City to work together.

He stated Councilmember Metzner's idea of having more people involved in the 2+2 committee is good. Greater Hagerstown has asked that council members attend their executive sessions, along with the Mayor, to open lines of communication.

Mayor Trump thanked the Augustoberfest committee for planning a wonderful event. People participated from every segment of the community. He would like to see video of the event on Channel 6. He also asked if anyone had video they wanted to share.

He encouraged everyone to attend the Jamaican Festival, being held on Saturday, August 20, 2005.

He stated the Council is bringing good issues to the table and the City is moving in a good direction. The City wants growth, but the Mayor and Council need to continue to control

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growth.

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 of all members present to meet in closed session at 6:28 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a) #4 to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to located, expand, or remain in the State. No formal action was taken at the session. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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