

6TH REGULAR SESSION – AUGUST 23, 2005

Councilmember L. C. Metzner called this 6th Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, 2005, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Councilmember Metzner were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, K. S. Cromer, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean; City Administrator Bruce J. Zimmerman, City Attorney John Urner, City Attorney Mark Boyer and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Mayor R. F. Trump was not present at the meeting.

The invocation was offered by Councilmember K. S. Cromer. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Councilmember Metzner announced the Rules of Procedure for this meeting will be followed as adopted June 21, 2005. 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, September 6, 2005, Tuesday, September 13, 2005, Tuesday, September 20, 2005, and the Regular Session on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

PROCLAMATION

Councilmember Metzner read a proclamation designating September, 2005 as United Way Awareness Month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Green Property Annexation, A-05-04

Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, stated the Green Annexation is a result of a request for annexation as a condition for receiving water service. This item was formally introduced on June 21, 2005.

The area proposed for annexation is .371 acres. The location of the property is 1031 Mt. Aetna Road, Southeastern border of the City, adjacent to the Antietam Creek. A single family detached dwelling exists on the property. The Land Use Plan, as described in the 2002 Washington County Comprehensive Plan, designates the property as Commercial. The existing Washington County zoning classification is BG Business General.

There is no further development being proposed at this time. The owner has requested that the property be given a zoning designation of C2 (Commercial General). The Planning Commission concurred.

Michael Thompson, Director of the Washington County Planning Department, submitted a letter indicating the Board of County Commissioners considered the annexation request. Following their discussion on July 12, 2005, the Board voted to concur with the staff finding that the above request and proposed zoning is consistent with the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan.

The Washington County Board of Education has stated that all the Elementary Schools serving the City of Hagerstown are at or over capacity. However, in this case the use is existing and there is no development proposal under consideration.

The Washington County Free Library has no proposed plans for construction of library facilities within the area proposed for annexation. City water and sewer service exist at this site.

Mr. Bass entered the following as Exhibits:

1. Outline for Extension of Services
2. Notification of Annexation to County, Regional and State Planning Agencies
3. Certification of Advertisement for Annexation
4. Annexation Resolution

There was no representative from Washington County present at the meeting.

There was no testimony presented, either in favor of or against the annexation resolution.

The hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Faison Property Annexation, A-05-05

Stuart Bass, Comprehensive Planner, stated an annexation for petition for the Faison Annexation was introduced on June 21, 2005.

The property is owned by Flaherty, Jr., Shank, et al. Property (to be commonly referred to as the Faison Annexation), and is located adjacent to and east of Potomac Avenue/Maryland Rout 60 (across from Long Meadow Shopping Center). The property is approximately 30.293 acres.

The property is proposed to be developed with a destination retail use. A zoning of C4 (Regional Shopping Center) is requested. The current County zoning is PB, Planned Business District (Shopping Centers). The current use is undeveloped farmland. The property includes a historic farmhouse.

The Land Use Plan, as described in the 2002 Washington County Comprehensive Plan, designates the property as Commercial. The existing Washington County zoning

classification is PB, Planned Business District (Shopping Centers). It is within the County's Urban Growth Boundary and the State's designated Priority Funding Area. The application is proposing a commercial shopping center development project.

There is an existing house on the property described in Washington County's historic Sites Inventory (WA-I-100). It is a large two-story stone dwelling and is part of the unique architectural record of Washington County's signature stone building traditions from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The developer intends to incorporate this structure into the site plan design and rehabilitate for an adaptive reuse.

The commercial development of this property would have no impact on Washington County Board of Education facilities. The Washington County Free Library has no proposed plans for construction of library facilities within the area proposed for annexation. The proposed center would connect with Potomac Avenue, Maryland Route 60.

Water and sewer service will be provided to the development by extension of the existing lines. Any upgrades will be at the expense of the developer. The amount of sewer capacity will be subject to the City's Sewer Capacity Allocation Policy.

Mr. Bass entered the following as Exhibits:

1. Outline for Extension of Services
2. Notification of Annexation to County, Regional and State Planning Agencies
3. Certification of Advertisement for Annexation
4. Annexation Resolution

There was no representative from Washington County government present at the meeting.

Councilmember Metzner emphasized to the group that the issues before this body are very simple. The question is whether there will be commercial development in the county or whether it will take place in the city. He understands there are substantial concerns from the residents about increased traffic. That issue will be addressed during site plan review. He would ask that staff hold additional meetings in the neighborhoods to make sure the citizens who are affected will have open communications with the elected officials.

Robert Beck, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated most of the people present at this hearing are concerned about the location of the entrances and exits for a shopping center. He stated they are particularly concerned that Cortland Manor Drive will be used as an entrance. He stated they realize the shopping center is going to be built on the property.

Mr. Frew, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland stated he understands that the development will take place, even if the City does not annex the property. One of his primary concerns is the increased amount of traffic that 200 homes would create. He asked that a statement be included in the annexation petition prohibiting the use of the private road to Cortland Manor as an entrance. He requested that a second signal light be installed to help control the traffic. He questioned whether or not there is adequate sewer capacity to serve the development. He stated he and his wife value their quiet home. He suggested that the shopping center be constructed within the nearly empty Long Meadow Shopping Center.

Councilmember Metzner recommended that open citizen meetings be held so that all the residents will be well informed. He stated the Mayor and Council had raised the same idea about using the Long Meadow Shopping Center.

Irene Moore, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated she is concerned about water and sewer problems. She stated there is an odor that seems to be coming from the treatment plant.

Councilmember Metzner stated this land is located in the county and is zoned for a shopping center. The question will be: "When they develop, will the land be annexed in exchange for water/sewer service?"

Ms. Moore stated it seems as if there are no alternatives, except to work with the developers to address their issues.

Councilmember Metzner stated that some of the Councilmembers live in the same area and have the same concerns as those being expressed.

Eugene Garrett, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he moved to his home in January and feels as though promises made to him have not been kept. He also is concerned about the increased traffic.

Anne Garrett, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated she has the same concerns as those expressed by others here.

Mark Meany, 1330 Woodland Way, Hagerstown, Maryland, owns property at Cortland Manor. He is concerned with the quality of life in the neighborhood. He shares the concerns about the use of the blighted shopping center right across from the site. He expressed his concern with the location of a Lowe's store on the property. Lowe's has a history of abandoning their large buildings. They have done this Martinsburg, West Virginia, and in Hagerstown. He is concerned about access to the proposed shopping center. There will be problems with noise and traffic. He asked that access be off of Eastern Boulevard. He hopes the shopping center is aesthetically different from the post office.

Dolly Lewis, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated Cortland Manor is mainly a retirement community. Residents have submitted a petition to the Mayor and City Council voicing their concerns. The proposed entrance is on a private road. This road needs to remain private. She stated there should be a berm, with vegetation, to shield the plaza from the residents' view. She asked that these items be requirements written into the annexation petition.

Daryl Wivel, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he agrees with the concerns expressed by other residents. The road into Cortland Manor was built for residential use. The idea to use that road for a commercial use is not practical.

Edna Creadick, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, asked if anyone has thought about the amount of traffic that is going to be generated from the proposed shopping center, the post office and additional residential development.

Councilmember Metzner indicated the Mayor and City Council have scheduled a goal setting session for next week and they have the same concerns that will be addressed then. He stated he is concerned about the type of development that is occurring on land adjacent to the City of Hagerstown limits.

Lynn Halterman, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he is opposed to the proposed shopping center. There are safety issues and environmental issues. He asked if anyone has addressed how the lighting will affect the area. There will be trucks in and out all night. There is a major traffic problem in this area now.

Mr. Beck (who spoke earlier) asked if any of the developers were in attendance. He stated a lot of the residents at Cortland Manor wonder why they pay city taxes when they don't get much in return. He asked Councilmember Metzner to explain to the group what they discussed before the meeting began.

Councilmember Metzner stated there is an agenda to follow for this meeting but he would be willing to meet with the residents in an informal, community setting and discuss these issues. There would be no time restrictions in that type of setting. Councilmember Metzner pointed out the Mayor and Council have enacted "big box" development requirements to regulate the use of big box commercial buildings. The County has not adopted this type of zoning regulation.

Lee Ann Halterman, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated she listened to the developers of this property. The proposed building is okay but she was upset to learn there are two entrances planned for the shopping center.

Mr. Halterman stated he did not realize his property was in the City limits until he went to settlement. He stated, as a taxpayer, he wants to know that his money is well spent. He wants to make sure development happens the way it is presented.

Bob Krees, Paramount, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he travels through this area every day. He stated this reminds him of Frederick, where it seems things are built first and infrastructure is considered later.

Rose Autring, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, asked why they have to pay city and county taxes. She stated most of the residents in Cortland Manor do not have children in the school system and they are not really getting anything for their county taxes.

Bob Madock, Keedysville, Maryland, stated he is moving to Cortland Villas in September. He understands the County will do what they want and the City will do what they want, but he hopes the requests from the citizens of Cortland Manor are taken into consideration. He asked that the Mayor and Council look at the impact of increased traffic on the roads.

Don Riser, Cortland, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he is offended that Councilmember Metzner indicated that he and other members of the Council take offense that Cortland Manor residents are indeed City residents. He stated they may be the best thing that happened to the City.

Councilmember Aleshire stated this was an issue five years ago. The property has been zoned for commercial development for many years. He spoke against high density residential uses just outside the City's borders. He stated prior to being elected to office in 2001, he expressed his concerns. He stated the Mayor and Council had instructed staff to offer incentives for the developers to utilize the semi-vacant shopping center for this project. However, the Mayor and Council cannot force a private property owner to develop in Long Meadow Shopping Center. He stated the City has the ability to place certain conditions on the annexation in order to meet the needs and requests of the community. He stated the property is going to be developed and the Mayor and Council need to hear the concerns of residents before it happens. He stated the Mayor and Council do not want to have development right outside the city and not have a say in how and when it occurs.

There being no further testimony, the hearing was closed at 8:05 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Council unanimously agreed to take a five minute recess.

Councilmember Metzner stated he would not be voting this evening, unless it would be to break a tie.

MINUTES

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 approve the minutes for Mayor and City Council meetings held on July 19, 2005, July 26, 2005 and August 2, 2005.

CONSENT AGENDA

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 approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

A. Public Works:

1. Cargo Van – Criswell Chevrolet (Gaithersburg, MD) \$ 13,935.00
2. Dump Truck - Rivers Truck Center, Inc. (Red Lion, PA) and Industrial

Motor Supplies, Inc. (Harrisburg, PA) \$ 110,634.00

3. Cargo Van with Bucket – Phillips Ford (Manheim, PA) \$ 43,618.00

B. Engineering: Field Surveys and Plat Preparation for Right of Way Acquisition (Eastern Boulevard) – Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. (JMT) (Sparks, MD) \$ 32,401.84

C. Water and Sewer Department:

1. Flow Meters – Marsh McBirney (Frederick, MD) \$ 28,000.00
2. Lining Contract – AmLiner East (Sterling, VA) \$ 963,400.00
3. Pickup Truck – Sport Chevrolet Co., Inc. (Silver Spring, MD) \$ 23,786.00
4. Verticle Turbine Bowl Assembly – Geiger Pump & Equipment (Baltimore, MD) \$ 17,062.00
5. Repair of Building at 151 Park Avenue (Damaged by fire) – Milton Stamper Builders (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 47,300.00

D. Human Resources and Finance: Actuarial Consulting Services – CBIZ Benefits & Insurance, Inc. (Cumberland, MD) \$ 8,500.00

E. Planning: Chevrolet Colorado – Hertich Fleet Services, Inc. (Denton, MD) \$ 10,398.00

UNFINISHED BUISNESS

A. Resolution: Approval of Haven Road Annexation

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 by voice vote to table the resolution for the approval of the Haven Road Annexation until October 25, 2005.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire asked how long it may be before this annexation is considered. Mr. Zimmerman stated the City is waiting to see what the County does with the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO).

B. Resolution: Approval of Light Property Annexation

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to remove from the table the approval of the Light Property Annexation Resolution.

The motion, as made, seconded, passed and amended on June 21, 2005 is as follows:

... To adopt an Annexation Resolution and Petition for Terri L. Light (Narron) and Stephen C. Palmer (Trustee) for property located east of Eastern Boulevard and south of Jefferson Boulevard. The Property to be annexed is 29.374 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands. The motion was then amended to include that a buffer of 35' would be maintained.

The vote on the original motion was then taken. Motion carried, 4-0.

Robert Hatch, 1111 Jefferson Boulevard, Hagerstown, Maryland, asked which annexation petition was approved. Staff members provided him with a copy of the petition attached to the motion.

C. Resolution: Approval of Crumrine Property Annexation

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to adopt an Annexation Resolution and Petition for Gilbert J. and Mary Crumrine for property located east of Eastern Boulevard and south of Jefferson Boulevard and bordering Antietam Creek. The property to be annexed is 18.465 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands.

It was pointed out that the zoning will be Ag Transition, as requested by the application and the Mayor and City Council.

Councilmember Metzner stated the approval of the ordinances for the Excise Tax and the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance has been taken off the agenda for this meeting. The required 60 day approval for an introduced ordinance has expired. These matters will be reintroduced at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance: Fire Prevention Code

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Hagerstown, revising Chapter 98, *Fire Prevention*, to adopt the most current Maryland State Fire Prevention Code, to add sections to address assembly occupancy, Ground Based Sparkling Devices and increase the number of Municipal Infractions.

B. Introduction of an Ordinance: Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resale of 226 N. Locust Street

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember P. M. Nigh and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to consider the acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of property known as 226 North Locust Street under the City's Single Family Home Ownership Program, with an acquisition cost of \$ 95,000 to be funded by the City's Community Development Block Grant Fund.

C. Introduction of an Ordinance: Acquisition of Real Estate for the Widening of Alley #3-42

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to introduce an ordinance to acquire a portion of land adjacent to Alley #3-42. The purpose of this acquisition is to widen the alley to fulfill the "access plan" formerly established for the Arts and Entertainment parking deck. This acquisition will allow for the future widening of the alley from West Washington Street to the parking deck to accommodate two-way traffic. I further authorize the staff and City attorney to develop and execute agreements to allow the acquisition to occur. Councilmember K. S. Cromer seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Nigh stated that, with the widening of this alley, the purchase of the bars and other buildings, the City has invested more than \$ 5 million.

Motion carried, 3-2 with Councilmember P. M. Nigh and Councilmember A. Parson-McBean voting No. (Councilmember Metzner voted Yes on this motion).

D. Resolution: Introduction of Crampton Annexation, Case No. A05-06

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an Annexation Resolution for Paul N. Crampton, Jr. for property located on the east side of South Potomac Street, across from South Hagerstown High School. The property to be annexed is 7.77 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire stated this motion is only an introduction. There will be further discussions.

E. Resolution: Introduction of Snook Annexation, Case No. A05-07

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. S. Cromer and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an Annexation Resolution for Todd M. Snook for property located on the west side of the City, north and south of Maryland State Route 144. The property to be annexed is 66.67 acres in size and is intended to be added to and made part of the adjacent municipal lands.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire stated he read the Planning Commission recommendation and he agrees with their comments about the appropriateness of the zoning request for that area.

F. Resolution: License Agreement with Builders FirstSource

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution authorizing the City of Hagerstown to enter into a right-of-way/easement license agreement with Bowman Baker, LLC and Builders FirstSource for property generally known as the South Burhans Boulevard/Virginia Avenue Overpass.

G. Resolution: Lease Agreement for Department of Social Services

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution authorizing the City of Hagerstown to enter into a lease agreement with Potomac Building for the Department of Social Services for the Church Street Parking Lot, Hagerstown, Maryland, to lease the premises for a period of five (5) years. The rental rates will be:

Year 1 \$ 36,660.00 annually, monthly payment of \$ 3,055.00

Year 2	\$ 38,352.00 annually, monthly payment of \$ 3,196.00
Year 3	\$ 40,044.00 annually, monthly payment of \$ 3,337.00
Year 4	\$ 41,736.00 annually, monthly payment of \$ 3,478.00
Year 5	\$ 43,428.00 annually, monthly payment of \$ 3,619.00

H. Resolution: Approval of Loan Agreement with Pony League

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember P. M. Nigh and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an interest free loan in the amount of \$ 20,000.00 to the Hagerstown Pony League to erect a chain link fence around the Pony League field at Funkhouser Park. The Hagerstown Pony League will pay back the City at the rate of \$ 2,000.00 each year for a period of ten years; final payment shall be due on September 1, 2015.

I. Resolution: Approval of Loan Agreement with Softball League

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to approve an interest free loan in the amount of \$ 26,915.00 to the Hagerstown Fairgrounds Softball Association to erect a chain link fence around three softball fields at Fairgrounds Park. The Hagerstown Fairgrounds Softball Association will pay back the City at the rate of \$ 2,691.50 each year for a period of ten years; final payment shall be due on September 1, 2015. Councilmember A. Parson-McBean seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-2, with Councilmember K. S. Cromer and Councilmember P. M. Nigh voting No. (Councilmember Metzner voted Yes on this motion.)

J. Approval: Designate Portion of Alley #2-38 as “two way” from West Washington Street to Alley #2-37

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to designate the portion of Alley #2-38 (also known as “Cushwa Alley”) as “two way” from West Washington Street to Alley #2-37. The City Council also authorized staff to install the appropriate signs to reflect this change. This is consistent with the recommendation from the City’s Board of Traffic and Parking. Councilmember K. S. Cromer seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 3-1 with Councilmember P. M. Nigh voting No.

K. Approval: Award of Contract for the Replacement of City Curb and Sidewalk at Designated locations City-wide – Concrete Central (Williamsport, MD) Part A \$ 19,850.00, Part B \$ 41,750.00 (NTE \$ 30,000.00)

Action: Councilmember K. B. Aleshire made a motion to award Contract No. 05-05-CS-16 to Concrete Central of Williamsport, Maryland. The contract award includes “Part A” which provides unit rates for the replacement or abatement of curb and sidewalk and “Part B” which is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$ 30,000.00 (as appropriated in the FY 05/06 budget) to replace sidewalks damaged by “street trees”. It is the intent of the “Part B” portion of the contract to assist the Department of Public Works in addressing this widespread problem in the City.

Motion died for lack of second.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if this issue will be brought back to a work session. Mr. Zimmerman stated he will ask the Department of Public Works for an alternative plan. Councilmember Cromer asked if the city employees can still do the work. Mr. Zimmerman stated Eric Deike, Public Works Manager, had indicated they were capable of doing the work, but there are not enough people to do this work.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Lowman, Unit block of N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated there is a critical manpower shortage in the police department. He stated this is causing a serious moral problem. The downtown squad has done an excellent job. They have made many arrests that deal with quality of life issues. The squad has fewer members than it did one year ago. He understands a new officer is to start early in September. He asked that the Mayor and City Council address the shortage in manpower. He stated other local police departments offer a higher wage package. He stated some Hagerstown officers are leaving for higher paying jobs. He stated every uniformed officer deserves more money. He stated there is money available to give them a decent wage to live on.

Sally Hatch, 1201 Jefferson Boulevard, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated she was speaking on behalf of Christi Hatcher, a Woodlands North resident, who couldn’t attend this meeting. She talked about a young boy named Isaiah who has been battling leukemia. She stated they continue to push for appropriate zoning and annexation so that Isaiah and families like his have a good quality of life. She then read “Isaiah 6” from **The Message** by Eugene H. Peterson. At the end of the reading, she stated she hopes that the Mayor and Council’s ears will hear and eyes will see and they will become wise and faithful stewards.

Robert Hatch, 1201 Jefferson Boulevard, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated we are here because our heirs had the vision that we might live in freedom. They founded a nation of, by and for the people. He expressed his concern that if too many people want to speak to the Mayor and Council on an issue they are labeled a group. If they have a lengthy discussion, they are limited. He thanked the Chair for giving the previous annexation discussion as much time as needed. He stated people move in and want to speak with the Mayor and City Council. If they are labeled as trouble makers, it gets around and then people don’t want to get involved in limited democracy. He asked that

the Mayor and City Council listen to the citizens. He stated development can be good, but the development must fit the land. Don't ruin the land to fit the pocket of the developer. He stated the property owners near the Light and Crumrine properties have appeared before the Planning Commission. These appearances have been futile. The Planning Commission has not listened to their concerns.

Noel Brady, East Antietam Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he feels the downtown police squad needs to be back to a full compliment as quickly as possible. He stated he thinks salaries should be reviewed and get the police department up to full staff as soon as we can.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean thanked all who attended the sixth annual Jamaican festival. She thanked everyone who appeared here today. It is not easy to have passion for where you live and present your case in a short time. She assured the group that the Mayor and City Council work diligently in work sessions and this is how democracy works.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer had no additional comments.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh presented a letter from the Valencia watch, which also requests more police officers. She found out that Charles Town, West Virginia, pays starting police officers more than Hagerstown does. Reports indicated that increased patrols curb drug traffic. However, you need more officers to increase patrols.

She stated perhaps she should be using the term vagrant, rather than homeless. The government has issued warnings that terrorists may pose as vagrants. She is concerned this could be happening. She stated it is very important to know what is happening around you. She urged everyone to view the presentation on gangs.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire stated September 1, 2005 is City employee night at the Hagerstown Suns game. He stated he hopes the City, the County and the Chamber of Commerce meet to make sure any legislative items are meshed together.

He asked for clarification of the Planning Commission's discussion about preserving density levels. He is not sure this is the direction the City wants to move in.

Councilmember Aleshire commented about the possibility of the County moving their offices to the Allegheny site. He stated the County offices at Allegheny would be more in keeping with the original intent for the property. He stated it is important to allow

commercial development at the Allegheny site to meet the employment scale we need in this county.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner wished Herald Mail reporter Greg Simmons well in his new job. This is the last meeting Mr. Simmons will be covering with Hagerstown.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, on a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: _____