

EXECUTIVE SESSION – October 18, 2005

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 of all members present to meet in closed session at 3:34 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a) #7 to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; #1 to consider the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, and #4 to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. No formal action was taken at the session. The meeting was held in the Mayor's Office, 2nd floor at the City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

10th SPECIAL SESSION – October 18, 2005

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 hold this 10th Special Session. Mayor Richard F. Trump called this 10th Special Session, Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:20 p.m., Tuesday, October 18, 2005 in the Council Chambers at the City Hall. Present was Mayor Trump, City Council Members K. B. Aleshire, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh and A. Parson-McBean, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

Introduction of an Ordinance: To Modify Water Usage Rates

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 introduce an ordinance to modify water usage rates according to the recommendations of the recently completed Cost of Service Study. The modified rates shall be effective for all bills rendered on or after December 1, 2005.

Introduction of an Ordinance: To Modify Sewer Usage Rates

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 modify sewer usage rates according to the recommendations of the recently completed Cost of Service Study. The modified rates shall be effective for all bills rendered on or after December 1, 2005.

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 close the Special Session.

Tommy Cline, President of AFSCME Local 1540, presented a plaque to Moses Norris, who is serving in the military in Iraq. Mr. Norris is a Parks Department employee. He is home on leave and will be returning to serve in Kuwait. The plaque is from his union brothers and sisters. Mayor Trump presented a proclamation to Mr. Norris in recognition of his service to the country and to the citizens of Hagerstown.

Mayor Trump read a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Cheryl Morgan and Captain Doug Mullendore accepted the proclamation for CASA.

Hagerstown Ice and Sports Complex Annual Report

Britton Miller, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Washington County Sports Foundation, was present to discuss the Hagerstown Ice and Sports Complex's annual report. Mr. Miller was recently elected as Chairman of the Board and oversees the day to day operations of the complex. There are ten board members. They bring experience, knowledge and the love of ice skating to the program. Mr. Miller is also an ice skater. He stated the local citizens are not the only support of the facility. The facility draws from a large area. He believes the facility has been through one of the most turbulent years any facility could face. There has been a large turnover of employees. Above all this, the facility has excelled in bringing strengths forward to improve what has been happening at the rink. There are now 10 skating instructors and they are all PSA rated coaches. There is a skating academy called The Hagerstown Edge. He pointed out user numbers are down a bit, but the Board and Staff are working diligently to increase attendance. There is now a synchronized skating team at the Complex.

For the first time in the history of the facility, there is a positive bottom line. He stated they have developed an aggressive fiscal budget for next year, but he believes it is achievable. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support.

Mr. Britton stated the Board is requesting, in addition to the current support, approval to restructure the loan. The Board would like to discontinue the line of credit with Hagerstown Trust and secure a term loan with a reasonable rate of 4.57%.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out that the budget for FY 05 in the presented material is blank for debt service and capital outlay. Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated the Foundation is now operating under a management agreement, which is in effect a change in the basic lease

agreement. The budget information will be shown differently because of this change. They continue to be responsible for day to day operations, including hiring.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if there is still debt service. Mr. Martin indicated there are less than seven years outstanding on a 15 year debt. He stated \$ 1.2 million was borrowed, and with community fundraising, a facility worth \$ 2.1 million was built.

Councilmember Parson-McBean asked if the budget was shown in the previous format would there still be a profit? Mr. Martin stated the surplus is still there and they are moving in a positive direction. Mr. Zimmerman stated there is a difference in the timing of the fiscal year. Mr. Martin stated what the Foundation shows as FY 05 is what the City would call FY 06. Mr. Zimmerman asked if the level of the City's support is the same as it has been. Mr. Martin stated the City has increased the support for the utilities and there has been assistance with some of the loan payments. He stated they would like to present a proposal next month to change the line of credit to a term loan in order to save money.

Preliminary Agenda Review

Annexation Public Hearings

A Public Hearing was scheduled to discuss the Snook Annexation. The applicant has requested that the hearing be postponed until November 22, 2005. The Public Hearing to discuss the Crampton Annexation will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

Consent Agenda

The following purchases are included on the consent agenda:

- A. Engineering:
 - 1. University Plaza Fountain - Robinson Iron Corporation (Alexander City, AL)
\$ 30,000.00 (\$ 15,000.00 to be paid by the City, \$ 15,000.00 to be paid by the
Sunrise Rotary Club)
 - 2. Street Tree Planting - Antietam Tree Service, Inc. (Hagerstown, MD) not to
exceed \$ 50,000.00
- B. Water and Sewer Department:
 - 1. 2005 Jeep Liberty - Hertrich Fleet Services (Denton, MD) \$ 18,049.00
 - 2. Office and Lunchroom Floor Replacement - Inner Space (Hagerstown, MD)
\$ 15,513.00

C. Fire Department:

1. Portable Classroom to Replace Trailer at Training Center - EMH
Environmental Contractors, Engineers (Glenwood, MD) \$ 65,825.00
2. 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer - Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD)
\$ 21,160.00

There were no questions concerning the purchases listed.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the Haven Road decision will need to be tabled again, due to the timing of Washington County's adoption of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

Resolution: Support of Washington Gardens Application

Larry Bayer, Community Development Department Manager, stated, in June, 2005, the Mayor and City Council approved a letter of support for Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.'s application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for long term funding in the amount of \$ 2,500,000 to renovate Washington Gardens Apartments and agreed to adopt a resolution when appropriate, indicating this support.

Mr. Bayer stated the amount is now \$ 5,000,000. Rodger Brown, Preservation of Affordable Housing, was present to discuss the increased funding amount. He stated the long term debt originally discussed with the Mayor and City Council is the same, at \$ 2.5 million. They have a chance to pay off the existing debt so the only debt remaining on the property would be \$ 2.5 million.

Councilmember Cromer questioned whether or not the group knew they would be asking for the additional amount when they spoke to the Mayor and City Council in June. Mr. Brown stated the State of Maryland indicates an amount of allowable debt for a construction loan. He stated they were focused on the mortgage and were not considering the construction loan that would be required.

The resolution of support will be included on the agenda for the regular session.

Downtown Holiday Parking

The City of Hagerstown has had a program in place for a number of years offering two hours of free parking in the parking deck on weekdays from Monday, November 21, 2005 through Christmas Day. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to continue the program.

Street Tree Planting at Designated Locations Citywide, Request to Extend Contract

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated staff recommends continuing the “Livable City” initiative to plant street trees and improve sidewalks. Street trees are proven to increase property values, improve the aesthetics of the streetscape and actually decrease crime. In the past two years, the City has planted over 500 trees, not counting the trees planted by Public Works.

The City receives Forest Conservation Act (FCA) funds from developers when they pay into the fund in lieu of planting trees on or off site. The City currently has \$ 74,046.00 in this fund. This money must be returned to developers if not spent by the City in a reasonable time frame.

Staff has compiled a list of locations based on field visits, utility locations, sidewalk impact, and the need to supplement and increase the continuous tree canopy. The City has an open contract with Antietam Tree Service that was competitively bid in January, 2005. Antietam Tree’s bids was 45% lower than the nearest four bids. Staff is recommending a change order in an amount not-to-exceed \$ 50,000 to plant trees at various locations.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the street tree planting.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Extension of Allocation Deadline in SCAP for Collegiate Acres

On August 30, 2005, Collegiate Acres was awarded sewer allocation for 91 units through the Sewer Capacity Allocation Program (SCAP). Per the SCAP, the deadline for receipt of building permits for these 91 units is August 30, 2006 (an interpretation of the one year deadline in the SCAP made by the Planning Director and the former manager of the Water and Sewer Department).

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, and Chris Bordlemay, Acting Water and Sewer Department Manager, were present to discuss a proposal to extend the deadline for these 91 units from Collegiate Acres from August 30, 2006 to December 31, 2007.

The reason that an extension is necessary is that the City and the County have requested the developer to delay construction of their approved sewer infrastructure plan to allow time to explore an alternative plan that would have sewer for this development flow to the County plant. It is anticipated that the study period could last 4-5 months and then the bid process for construction of the alternative sewer infrastructure plan could take an additional 3-4 months.

The requested delay of construction on the sewer infrastructure for Collegiate Acres will result in close to a one year delay for the developer and make it impossible for them to receive building permits for the housing units by the August 30, 2006 SCAP deadline.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to extend the allocation deadline for Collegiate Acres.

Overview of National Incident Management System

Chief Gary Hawbaker was present to discuss the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Presidential Directive 5 provides for the creation of a national system for incident command, requires political jurisdictions to formally adopt NIMS by October, and prohibits distribution of federal funds for jurisdictions who do not adopt NIMS after FY 2007. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach to incident management, interoperability and compatibility guidelines between the levels of government and private sector agencies, a core set of concepts, operating principals, terminology and technologies, and establishes a framework of operations for multi-agency response.

The 10 core disciplines of NIMS are: fire service, emergency medical services, law enforcement, government administration, health care, hazardous materials, emergency management, public works, public safety communications and public health. The five training levels are: awareness, operations, supervisory, command, and executive. Chief Hawbaker stated that almost all city employees will receive some training.

The formal adoption of the NIMS resolution will be scheduled for October 25, 2005. Training will begin on November 1, 2005 and will continue into 2006.

The order of the agenda was changed because the Mayor and Council were ahead of the scheduled times. Residents will be attending for the discussion of the Reconstruction of Baltimore Street.

Residential Refuse Collection Service

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, was present to review the refuse collection bids that were received last week. The current contract with Browning Ferris Industries of Maryland (BFI), which is now known as Allied Waste Services (Allied), expires at the end of the calendar year 2005. Council's direction to staff at the July 19, 2005 meeting was to re-bid the contract due to the fact that Allied was asking for a contract extension but at a significant increase in their current rates due to higher fuel rates, insurance and vehicle costs. Staff prepared a request for proposals and at the Council's direction included a base bid that includes:

1. Twice a week general refuse collection

2. Once a week mixed paper recycling collection and,
3. Once a week yard waste collection (in season)

Based on the Council's direction, alternate bids were included for:

1. Co-mingled glass, plastic and aluminum recycling collection
2. The use of 65 gallon containers in a pilot area downtown to minimize garbage sitting along the streets

The contract also included enhanced performance standards, liquidated damages when the contractor fails to get trash off the street in a certain time frame or misses customers, a fuel recovery fee to cover the rising costs of fuel, and improved contract language. The contract is for three years with the ability to extend three additional years. The contract amount is adjusted annually based on movement of the Consumer Price Index. The disposal fees or tipping fees are paid directly to the landfill and are not included in this contract.

Mr. Tissue stated two valid bids were received for the contract. The low bid was from Allied Waste (formerly BFI), in the amount of \$ 1,041,093. The current contract amount for the same service is approximately \$ 546,000. Review of the bids indicates that the cost of trash and recyclable collection will rise significantly from the current contract amount. The new rates represent a significant increase to customers. The amount residents are now paying is \$ 27.00/quarter. The new rate would be \$ 35.00/quarter.

Staff is requesting the opportunity to negotiate with Allied to obtain more favorable costs because of the large increase.

Councilmember Aleshire stated money from the general fund is used to pay for the contract and a trash fee is imposed for residents. He suggested looking into the possibility of including trash collection as part of the property taxes so owners could take credit for the expense on income taxes. Councilmember Metzner stated this would not be fair to the people who don't use the service.

Mr. Tissue recommended looking at a recycling program. Hagerstown is the only municipality in the County that does not offer such a program.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he would recommend using the 65-gallon containers (totes) in a pilot area. Councilmember Nigh stated she doesn't think all residents should have to pay for the tote program if they don't have the service available. Mr. Tissue stated the cost would be spread over the entire customer base. Councilmember Nigh stated this would make it more financially difficult for homeowners to afford the services. Councilmember Aleshire pointed out the Council can decide how the fees are charged.

Mr. Tissue stated if the Mayor and City Council decide to charge just the people who have the service, a cost could be determined for the pilot area. He stated a smaller pilot area could be designated. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated if the area is reduced, the price would be lower. However, when the program is expanded, the cost would increase. Mr. Tissue stated that a smaller pilot area will also reduce the overall impact of the program.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to instruct Staff to negotiate the price with Allied Waste and make a recommendation for the Mayor and City Council's review.

Use of Contracted Services Street Tree/Sidewalk Repairs

The Mayor and City Council have discussed the use of outside contractors for various projects and services during several meetings. There has not been a majority vote for certain contracts. Councilmember Metzner stated he suggested discussing the use of contracted services again. He was hoping there may be three favorable votes or other suggestions in order to have Staff proceed with sidewalk repairs.

Councilmember Cromer stated she understood that Staff was going to look for a different solution. Councilmember Aleshire stated Staff had indicated there is not another solution. He stated the Council should consider whether or not a private property owner would be cited for a violation for the sidewalks in question.

Councilmember Nigh stated Staff is indicating that in order to make the repairs in a timely fashion, the work should be contracted out. She stated her biggest concern is the shortage of manpower there is now.

Councilmember Parson-McBean suggested approving this particular contract, in the interest of time, and discuss ways to complete the work in the future.

Councilmember Nigh stated Public Works needs more people. Councilmember Aleshire stated the goal should be to be efficient stewards of tax payers' dollars. Councilmember Cromer stated it would cost less to hire seasonal workers. Councilmember Parson-McBean agreed.

Mr. Tissue pointed out these sidewalk repairs are just the beginning of the work that needs to be done. Councilmember Nigh asked how long the repairs have been needed. Mr. Tissue stated the Property Maintenance Code changes completed in 2002 state the City would be responsible for the repair.

Councilmember Cromer indicated she doesn't think all options have been reviewed. She would suggest including a discussion of hiring seasonal workers or additional people on a future agenda. Councilmember Metzner asked that the discussion be scheduled to get things moving. He stated, in the meantime, there are safety issues that need to be taken care of. Councilmember Cromer stated putting off the decision for another meeting is not going to cause a problem. She also asked that Staff be directed to look at other options. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated winter will soon be here and the sidewalk conditions are bad. She thinks some of these need to be taken care of immediately. She also wants Staff to look at other options.

Councilmember Metzner asked how the City can tell citizens they have to repair their sidewalks if the City's are not repaired. Councilmember Nigh asked for a list of sidewalks that are in need of repair.

Mayor Trump stated approval of the contract for sidewalk repair will be included on the agenda for approval at the regular session. Mr. Zimmerman stated Staff will look for other options.

Alms House – Request for Proposals for Acquisition and Rehabilitation

Larry Bayer, Community Development Department Manager, stated the city purchased the Alms House, located at 239 N. Locust Street, in November, 2004. It was felt that the size of the lot and the condition of the building makes this property important to the revitalization efforts of the neighborhood and staff strongly believed that it needed to be in the control of the City.

It was decided by Mayor and Council that the historic significance of the Alms House was such that a use be found which preserves the building and brings it back to usefulness. Staff was directed to develop an RFP for that purpose. A copy of the draft RFP was presented for the Mayor and City Council's review.

It is Staff's intention to begin advertising and mailing out the RFP to perspective developers immediately, with responses due to the City by January 6, 2006.

Mayor Trump asked for input from the Council. He stated the Planning Commission is in the process of placing a landmark designation on the property.

Pat Schooley, local historian, recommended a more detailed explanation of the tax credits available. She has volunteered to write the explanation. She also suggested including a requirement to save what is believed to be the original interior trim. Ms. Schooley has also recommended requiring a historic façade easement. Mr. Bayer indicated he thought the landmark designation would protect the historic façade. The façade is to remain intact and the fireplaces will stay.

The purchase price of the building was \$ 90,000.00. There is not an amount included in the RFP for what the City wants recovered from the sale. Mr. Zimmerman stated there could be a wide range of proposals with substantially different prices. The price could be far less than the purchase price and negotiation may be necessary.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if there would be any benefit to including funding for the Alms House in the Community Legacy program. He asked if funding was approved through Community Legacy would the City be permitted to transfer the funding to a developer. Mr. Bayer stated that would be intent for the funding.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to approve the RFP. Responses are due to the City by January 6, 2006.

Reconstruction of Baltimore Street (Prospect Street to Walnut Street)

Staff presented the concept of reconstructing West Baltimore Street to the City Council at the July 19, 2005 meeting. Review of the minutes indicates that the Mayor and Council wanted responses from property owners immediately adjacent to the project with regard to maintenance of any proposed sidewalk/steps along the reconstructed road.

In July, City Staff contacted Tracy McCleary Schindel, the landlord/owner of 203 South Prospect Street (south of Baltimore Street), who by letter, notified the City on September 8, 2005 that she was strongly opposed to having to maintain the proposed sidewalk/steps. Steve Sagi, the owner on the north side of Baltimore Street, has agreed to maintain the proposed sidewalk/steps and feels the project is beneficial to the neighborhood.

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, and Chris Yambor, President of the Historic Heights Neighborhoods First Group, were present to discuss the concept. Staff recommends that the City proceed with the reconstruction of West Baltimore Street as shown in the concept plan. The plan includes upgrading the paving and installing curbing.

Mr. Yambor stated this is an important project. The neighborhood is experiencing a rebirth and this is a blight to the area. Councilmember Nigh supports the project but is concerned about the maintenance of the area if the property owner who has agreed to maintain the sidewalks sells the property. She does not want the City to be responsible for maintenance of the sidewalk. Mr. Yambor stated he does not see this being any different than any other property owner who is responsible for maintenance of the sidewalks.

Mr. Tissue stated if there is consensus to move forward, the project will have to be bid out. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to bid out the project.

Snow Operations

Eric Deike, Public Works Manager, Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, and John Lestitian, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, were present to discuss the City's snow removal operations.

Mr. Tissue stated a policy for removal of snow from sidewalks was developed last winter. The policy is City-wide. The Code Compliance Inspectors shall prioritize enforcement as follows:

1. The downtown
2. Walk routes adjacent to public schools, hospitals, government offices
3. Walk routes adjacent to areas where shopping interfaces with residential areas
4. Residential Neighborhoods

If a sidewalk is not cleared, a notice is posted. If the sidewalk is still not cleared, the City will move forward with abatement. The fee would be the abatement, plus an administrative fee.

Mr. Lestitian stated they are encouraging neighbors to help neighbors. There is a volunteer list of people who are willing to help property owners who are not able to clear their sidewalks. Volunteers would not be sent to clear sidewalks of an investment property. The railroad properties will, most likely, be a problem again this year. A ruling has been issued that states the local ordinances for snow removal cannot be imposed on the railroad. No abatement notices will be issued until the Code Compliance Office receives word that all city properties are clear. The penalty will not be assessed for first time offenders. Mr. Tissue stated the average cost of abatement is \$ 150.00. Mr. Lestitian stated this is because by the time the situation reaches the abatement stage, it is no longer freshly fallen snow, and it is packed ice. Mr. Zimmerman stated the work was bid last year and the contract is being extended this year to the same contractor.

Mr. Deike stated the clearing of snow from the streets and sidewalks is an important service provided by the City of Hagerstown. Streets need to be made passable first for emergency vehicles and second for the day-to-day business of the citizens. Sidewalks also need to be cleared for the safety and welfare of the citizens. Each storm is different and the operations will be modified as necessary to accommodate the changing weather conditions.

Each of the larger dump trucks has been assigned to a pre-determined route. Smaller trucks are assigned to assist with the routes depending upon the weather conditions. Mr. Deike presented a map detailing the routes. The snow fighting procedure to be followed in combating any storm will depend upon the humidity, temperature, time of day or night, the condition of the pavement, the nature of the precipitation and the forecast at the start of the storm. The city's streets are divided into two main categories: primary streets and secondary streets. The primary streets are given priority and plowed first. The secondary streets are then treated. If snow

continues to accumulate, the focus is on clearing the primary streets until the storm subsides and trucks can be diverted to the secondary streets. Priority is also given to the streets around the hospital, state highway routes and the downtown business district. Sidewalks are usually not handled until after the storm subsides. This, too, is dependent upon the nature of the storm.

For years, the policy has been that alleys are not plowed within the city. In most cases, there is no place to push the snow due to the close proximity of the buildings. What can be done is heavily salt the alleys to aid in the melting of the snow. This works well most of the time. Salt is not recommended in the gravel alleys that are not paved with asphalt or concrete.

Unlike snow plowing, the snow removal process involves the collection and removal of the snow from one area to the disposal of the mater to another. This procedure is usually only taken under extreme circumstances due to its costs and inconvenience. Streets have to be closed and vehicles moved for this operation to be efficient and effective. A discussion with the Mayor and Council in 2004 revealed that staff was to focus more attention to snow removal in the downtown area. This is due to a healthier business district with raised expectations for a clean, accessible downtown. Staff made some adjustments in the winter of 2004/05 to keep parking spaces open but to keep costs in check. The clearing of these spaces was accomplished by pushing the snow to the furthest parking space within a group of spaces or piled in the Central Parking Lot.

The average cost per snow season over the last ten years is \$ 311,882. However, the winters of 2002/03 and 2003/04, two of the worst winters in Maryland's history, nearly cost the City of Hagerstown one million dollars in clean-up costs.

It is due to these high costs that snow removal operations are always carefully considered. Whatever the situation, the options are discussed between the Manager of Public Works and the City Administrator. As many factors as possible are considered before a decision is made.

Councilmember Metzner stated Staff is doing a great job with snow removal.

City Administrator's Comments

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire thanked the Water and Sewer Department for repairing a water break on Sharpsburg Pike as quickly as possible. He stated the City needs to look at workforce housing, but it won't work unless the County Commissioners agree to the concept also. He stated the Mayor and City Council has been criticized for not supporting a new Leadership

Hagerstown program. He stated the City has a program, called the Neighborhood College, which educates people about the City of Hagerstown and the government process. He stated the participants would be good candidates for the boards and commissions.

He then discussed a recent house fire. Fire trucks arrived at the scene with only one person, which was not the fault of the station, but of this governing body. He asked that this be addressed in the next budget. Holly Place recently experienced a fire and thankfully, no one was seriously injured. He stated the City is flirting with disaster by continuing to ignore the issue of too few firefighters.

Councilmember Aleshire stated the public needs to understand the County Commissioners are working to get the hospital project moving quickly. The hospital is planning to apply for zoning. The Mayor and City Council have been hearing for three years they need approval from this group for sewer allocation, but the County Commissioners minutes state this is not necessary for zoning approval. There is no reason the application cannot move forward.

The Mayor and City Council has received an invitation from Greater Hagerstown to attend their meeting on October 28, 2005. He hopes to discuss the request to expand the annexation area.

He thanked the Hagerstown Police Department for their diligence in finally getting Barracudas closed. He stated the County Commissioners are providing a list of priorities to the Washington County Delegation. He hopes the City responds. Mr. Zimmerman stated a discussion of the legislative priorities for the City is tentatively scheduled for the November 1 or November 8 work session. He stated a letter was received from John McCune in which he discussed the fireworks at Municipal Stadium. He stated Mr. McCune made some good points. He stated the City needs to send an application for funding from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner stated the Mayor and Council need to listen to the first responders when they say the City is understaffed in emergency areas. This will be the year to rectify that situation. He suggested having a flu clinic set up for City employees.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer thanked Mr. McCune for the letter he sent to the Mayor and City Council. She thanked the police department for working to control the speeding on Maryland Avenue. There are many streets that have the same problem. She stated the problem is there are not enough police officers to enforce the speed limit when there are so many other things going on. She stated the police department needs to be recruiting locally to get people to join the force. The only way to have an experienced force is to have officers stay. Mr. Zimmerman stated police staffing issues is scheduled for discussion at the November 8 meeting.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh stated she is concerned about the flow transfer request for the hospital relocation. The current allocation is 240,000 gallons. She asked what happens if the peak allocation is 200,000 gallons. She asked if the County will automatically increase the amount of allocation to meet the hospital's needs. She stated the City needs to see what allocation the hospital will actually need (for showers, equipment, etc.). Mr. Zimmerman stated the Council has asked that a discussion of the hospital allocation be included on a work session agenda.

She stated her priority is safety. The impact of too few police officers and firefighters is being seen now. To increase the numbers, a tax increase will probably be necessary, but it will be for something that is needed. She asked that additional cameras be installed. There was a terrorist threat today at the Baltimore tunnel. She stated we need to be aware we are living in dangerous times. She thanked the Water and Sewer Department employees for watching the pumps around the clock during the recent heavy rains. She stated prostitution and drug dealing is increasing and something needs to be done. She stated new residents have 60 days to register their vehicles in Maryland. She stated the out of state vehicles need to be monitored. Acting Chief Charles Summers stated citations are issued after 60 days. After that time, vehicles can be towed. She urged anyone who sees drug activity to report it to the Narcotics Task Force or the Police Department.

She apologized for not attending the Harvest Hoedown, but she had other obligations. She thanked Staff for their hard work. She is concerned about unknown people setting furniture out for the City to pick up. She thanked Mr. McCune for sending his correspondence.

She stated she was concerned about a recent article about a stabbing not being gang related. She stated the incident was minimized and there is a gang problem in Hagerstown. She stated if someone can not reach her to contact City Hall. Councilmember Cromer asked for prayers for Councilmember Nigh's mother.

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean asked for prayers for Bill Mason and Ruth Monroe. She attended her first housing meeting and the security issue was discussed. She agrees that crime is on the rise. She stated she watches the police officers and sees them working harder to combat crime. She stated she thinks we need to do more proactively. She stated she attended a recruiting trip to Baltimore and she hopes it will be fruitful. She stated there has to be diversity within the police department and it won't be found locally. She stated she hopes the department is friendly enough to keep them here. She asked what happened with the fountain in the square. Mr. Zimmerman stated he understands it got to the point that maintenance was a problem. She asked why there were no concerts held at Fairgrounds Park. Councilmember Nigh stated they were working on that.

She stated a fund raiser will be held to help hurricane victims. The event will be held on November 5, 2005 and the cost is \$ 20.00 per person. One hundred percent of the ticket sales will go toward relief efforts.

Mayor R. F. Trump complemented staff on the success of the Harvest Hoedown. He complimented staff on the continuous programs they provide for the community. He congratulated the hospital board for continuing to work toward the end result of the project. He stated it is time to elevate our health care, so we can attract doctors and support the new technology. The hospital board is working well with the County. He stated the Mayor and Council all agree that safety is a big issue. He stated the City needs to look at ways to bring annexation and growth into the community. He stated he roots the hospital on and everyone should get out there and get all the facts.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, on a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember A. Parson-McBean, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved:_____