

29TH SPECIAL SESSION AND WORK SESSION – October 19, 2010

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 29th Special Session and Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:07 p.m., Tuesday, October 19, 2010, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers W. M. Breichner, M. E. Brubaker, F. W. Easton, A. C. Haywood, L. C. Metzner; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

29TH SPECIAL SESSION – October 19, 2010

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed to meet in Special Session at 4:07 p.m.

1. Removal from the Table: Approval of an Ordinance: Amending the City Code: Chapter 64 Building Construction, Article I, Building Standards, Including Sprinkler Requirements

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to remove from the table the approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 64 Building Construction, Article I, Building Standards, Including Sprinkler Requirements.

2. Approval of an Ordinance: Amending the City Code: Chapter 64 Building Construction, Article I, Building Standards, Including Sprinkler Requirements

Action: Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to approve of an ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Hagerstown, Chapter 64, Building Construction; Article I, to provide for updated Building Standards which includes a requirement of the installation of a residential sprinkler system in newly constructed one and two family dwellings. This requirement will become effective for building permit applications received after December 31, 2010. Councilmember W. M. Breichner seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Metzner stated he understands the vote on this ordinance will be 3-2 and the Mayor has made it clear he intends to veto the ordinance. Mayor Bruchey stated the ordinance could be passed, excluding the single family sprinkler requirement, and he would not exercise his veto power. Councilmember Brubaker asked how the Council could pass an ordinance without knowing the exact language in it. Councilmember Metzner stated the new ordinance would not include single family dwelling. Councilmember Brubaker asked if the current requirements apply to two family dwellings. John Lestitian, Department of Community and Economic Development Director, stated it does not.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the language to be removed could be shown to Councilmember Brubaker. Councilmember Brubaker indicated he wants to make sure the amendment to the motion does not have an unexpected result.

Councilmember Easton stated he needs to look at the overall impact of regulating installation of sprinkler systems. He indicated he will vote against the ordinance. He does not believe it is appropriate for the government to mandate and regulate “across the board.” He does not doubt that sprinkler systems save lives, but it is not right for the government to mandate the installation. He expressed concern about alienating the City against the business and development community. This could be viewed as another reason for people to not invest in Hagerstown. He asked if larger homes are being built just outside the City should some fire stations be relocated. He believes there is more compromise to be considered. He is open for discussion of other sizes of homes.

Councilmember Haywood stated sprinklers do save lives but she will vote against the ordinance. This amendment waters down protection for citizens. One basic issue is that builders are using substandard materials in the construction of the homes. This action will promote the impression that Hagerstown is not developer friendly.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner stated he would rather have the City be known as resident friendly.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner amended the motion to require sprinkler systems in newly constructed homes above 3,000 square feet.
Councilmember W. M. Breichner seconded the motion.

Councilmember Brubaker stated everyone needs the protection, not just those residents that can afford a larger home. Councilmember Haywood does not agree with the compromise. Councilmember Metzner stated he would prefer that everyone be protected, but this compromise is better than no ordinance. Councilmember Easton inquired if the reason for including larger homes is for the protection of the firefighters. This is not about protecting people who can’t afford large homes.

Mayor Bruchey pointed out sprinkler systems can be installed in homes, with or without the ordinance. He asked why the county seat (Hagerstown) would require sprinkler systems when the Washington County Commissioners decided not to. Councilmember Brubaker indicated many residents in the County are using a well and septic system that would require additional work to install a system.

Mayor Bruchey does not want government dictating how to save him from himself.

Councilmember Haywood stated fire resources are being consumed by newer developments. She asked if the Mayor and Council want to continue to promote development that is a drain on resources.

Motion carried, 3-2 with Councilmember A. C. Haywood and Councilmember M. E. Brubaker voting No.

On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the special session was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION – October 19, 2010

Preliminary Agenda Review

Consent Agenda

- A. Wastewater Department: Grinder Pumps – Fluid Solutions (Westminster, MD)
\$ 50,000.00

Approval of a Resolution: City Center Holiday Parking Program

Eric Deike, Manager of Public Works, was present to discuss the holiday parking program. For many years, the City has provided some free parking in the decks during the holiday shopping season. The City officially recognizes the beginning of the holiday season with the Hollyfest program that includes the lighting of the Christmas tree in the square and festivities later that evening at the Maryland Theatre. Hollyfest will be held on Monday, November 22, 2010.

Staff would like to initiate the two hours of free parking in the North Potomac St. Deck and the Arts & Entertainment Deck as of 6:00 a.m. on November 22, 2010 and end the special rate on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 6:00 a.m. The intent is to encourage patrons to visit the city center during the holiday season to shop and dine. Metered parking spaces along the street and in the city owned lots will continue to be free after 5:00 p.m. weekdays and all day Saturday and Sundays, as it is normally throughout the year.

It was the general consensus to approve the holiday parking program again this year.

Approval of Quit Claim Request – Stratford Avenue

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated a request was recently received from the ARC of Washington County, Inc. to quit claim the one block section of Stratford Avenue that

runs between Florida Avenue and the deadend. The ARC would like for the City to release any interest it has within the area.

Staff recommends approval of the Quit Claim with the following conditions:

1. ARC prepares a plat providing all needed utility easements and submit for approval by all utilities.
2. Plat needs to allow access to properties on east and west side in the possible future event that one owner does not control both parcels on either side of Stratford Avenue.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to include approval of the request on the agenda for October 26, 2010.

Acceptance of Urban Greening Grant Program – Chesapeake Bay Trust

Kathy Maher, Planning Director, and Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, reported the City has received a second grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to enhance the city's tree canopy. The Trust notified the City that they selected the proposal and have awarded a grant in the amount of \$ 35,000.

The grant does not specifically require a cash match; however, to maximize the number of trees planted, and similar to the first grant, staff suggests that the City fund all sidewalk modifications and the cost of tree maintenance. This yields the following budget:

CBT Grant	\$ 35,000
City Cash Match	\$ 15,000 (CIP fund balance or CIP savings)
In-kind match	\$ 10,000 staff time to manage the project
<u>In-kind match</u>	<u>\$ 8,000</u> volunteer time to plant trees
Total	\$ 68,000

Staff estimates about 180 trees will be planted with this grant. The contract includes planting and two years of maintenance and warranty. The grant presents a unique opportunity to partner with volunteer groups and Neighborhood's 1st to improve tree coverage in several areas of the City.

Mr. Tissue indicated the CBT liked the way the City included school students and people in the community to help with the planting.

It was the general consensus to include acceptance of the grant on the agenda for October 26, 2010.

Acceptance of Grant from Governor's Office of Crime Control – Child Advocacy Center Detective

Chief Arthur Smith stated this position has been grant funded for several years. As of June 30, 2010, the funding ended. Per standard operating procedure, the department reduced the sworn officer strength from 106 to 105.

The City has been notified it was awarded a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention effective October 1, 2010. The new grant is for \$ 75,000 annually. The old grant had only covered \$ 40,000. Chief Smith requested that this grant restore the 106th position at the Hagerstown Police Department. Current levels are 99 sworn officers, with three additional retirements scheduled for the near future.

The CAC Detective handles the majority of sexual child abuse (and serious physical abuse) cases and works out of the Center. There is no cost match to the City and no retention requirement. The grant must be renewed from year to year.

It was the general consensus to accept the grant for the stated purposes.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Proposals for Amending the Zoning Ordinance Pertaining to Fences in Front Yards

Stephen Bockmiller, Development Review Planner/Zoning Administrator, provided a summary of the Planning Office's current plans to address the issue of fences in front yards; including a citizen's proposal to allow fences in front yards under certain limitations and circumstances.

The Planning Office plans to submit comprehensive updates and amendments to the Land Management Code (mostly Article 4 – the Zoning Ordinance) to the Planning Commission for its consideration in late November. The list of amendments is substantial and the Planning Commission should start review and discussion in early January. Staff is proposing amendments to Subsection K.1 which governs fences. However, the draft that will be put before the Planning Commission will not include provisions for front yard fences embedded within the text.

In deference to a citizen's request and the Mayor and Council's previous discussions on this topic, the front yard fence proposal will be included in the materials sent to the Planning Commission as a separate memorandum for discussion purposes. Staff will defer to the Planning Commission as to whether the text should be recommended for adopting and embedded in the draft that will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for its consideration. In review of the proposal, staff has added a seventh requirement or criteria addressing fence materials.

Mayor Bruchey expressed concern that the Planning Commission would review this proposal and decide not to pursue it. The Mayor and Council may not have an

opportunity to discuss the proposal. Mr. Bockmiller indicated the Mayor and Council could direct the Planning Commission to discuss the proposal with the intent of providing an opinion to the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Brubaker stated the Planning Commission is required to review zoning issues prior to a discussion of the Mayor and Council. They are an advisory board.

Mr. Bockmiller stated this topic would be scheduled for a Planning Commission meeting in the next several weeks.

Councilmember Haywood asked how long it takes for a citizens' request to go through the review process. Mr. Bockmiller indicated an average time is six to seven months.

Hagerstown Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines

Larry Bayer, Community Resources Director, and John Lestitian, Department of Community and Economic Development Director, stated the Hagerstown Revolving Loan Fund was created by the Mayor and Council in early 2000 to provide a source of funds for existing businesses and those relocating into the City. Over that time, \$ 2,452,023 has been lent to 17 businesses.

In order to meet the changing needs of businesses seeking assistance, several changes have been made to the operating guidelines over the past 10 years. Staff has recently completed an analysis of the entire program and recommends that Mayor and Council repeal the existing guidelines in their entirety and replace them with the following amendments.

The proposed guidelines were reviewed by the HRA and they unanimously support the changes.

While most of the provisions of the current guidelines remain, there are some modifications which need to be highlighted:

1. Public Benefit – Currently, there is no way to objectively determine if there is any direct public benefit derived from assistance through the program. The proposed guidelines call for the creation of one full-time job for each \$ 25,000 or fraction thereof lent. Additionally, total compensation, including benefits not mandated by law, on an annualized basis must be equal to at least 110% of the federal poverty level for a family of four. That amount is \$ 11.51 per hour.
2. Equity Participation – In the proposed guidelines, required equity in a project remains at 20% for all applicants except for new or recently opened restaurants. In these cases, the equity requirement would be 40%.
3. Interest Rate – The proposed guidelines call for the interest rate of HRLF loans to be the LIBOR rate plus 1% at the date of loan approval, but in no case less than 3%. Currently loans are made at whatever the rate is plus 1%.

4. Loan Application Fee – An application fee equal to 1% of the amount being applied for will be charged. It is currently a flat \$ 100 per application.
5. Loan Decision Process – The most extensive changes to the guidelines are proposed to the loan decision process. According to existing guidelines, all loan requests in excess of \$ 10,000 but less than \$ 200,000 are presented to the HRA for approval. If denied, the applicant is informed as to the reason and advised of their right to appeal this decision to Mayor and Council. The appeal request is presented to Mayor and Council who make the final decision. Staff recommends a change to this process which will leave the final decision on loan approval with the HRA.

Staff will continue to accept and underwrite all applications. They will ensure that the application package is complete and perform an analysis of the loan request to assure that it meets all programmatic guidelines and prepare a written analysis of business plan, financial projections, etc. Based upon the underwriting and analysis performed, staff will make a recommendation to Senior Staff Committee on approval or denial.

Senior Staff Committee is a new step in the process. This committee will review the staff recommendation, determine that the loan does meet programmatic requirements and assess the anticipated public benefit to be realized. They will have the authority to approve loans up to \$ 50,000. Loan requests above this amount will be forwarded to the HRA with a recommendation to either approve or deny the request. The senior staff committee has the authority to deny any request they determine fails to meet programmatic or public benefit requirements. In the case of a denial, the applicant may appeal the decision to the HRA for final determination.

The HRA will review all requests for assistance in excess of \$ 50,000 and those appealing a denial from senior staff. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Senior Staff Committee and all other information available, the HRA will make a determination to approve, deny or table the loan request. In the event of a denial by the HRA, the applicant may request to make a personal appearance before the HRA. The HRA will consider any new information presented by the applicant and make their decision. All decisions by the HRA are final.

Councilmember Haywood wondered if the requirement for one full time job could include the principal executive. This would help ensure continuance of the small businesses.

This proposal removes the requirement for the Mayor and Council to hear appeals. Councilmember Breichner stated the Mayor and Council have made some mistakes approving loans in the past. Councilmember Metzner would support a clause that allows for an appeal to the Circuit Court.

The costs involved with processing loans are not covered by the existing \$ 100.00 fee per application.

Councilmember Brubaker wondered if the minimum compensation for each job would be difficult to meet, especially for the restaurant industry. Councilmember Easton asked if the \$ 11.51 per hour stated in the regulations could be listed as an average wage. Mr. Bayer indicated staff feels this is public money and there should be the ability to provide assistance for the community. Councilmember Easton asked for clarification of the average wage in Hagerstown.

Councilmember Brubaker would like a semi-annual status report on the activity of the revolving loan program.

Councilmember Haywood asked how quickly funds would be disbursed. Mr. Bayer stated if no real estate transaction is involved, the average time is 60 days. Reimbursement payments are usually made within seven days. Councilmember Haywood asked if there had been any complaints. Mr. Lestitian indicated one complaint was a misunderstanding.

Councilmember Breichner would like to know who would be considered senior staff for reviewing the recommendation.

Staff will make the changes requested and return with a revised version of the guidelines at a future Work Session.

2011 Tour of Washington County

Karen Giffin, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, Joseph Jefferson and Tim Dickenson, AVC/Team Hagerstown Washington County Racing, were present to discuss the 2011 Tour of Washington County Stage Race.

Recently the Antietam Velo Club was contacted by Councilmember Ashley Haywood and the Bicycle Safety Committee to consider hosting the kick off of the 2011 Tour in City Center Hagerstown on the evening of Friday, June 17, 2011.

The 2011 season will mark the fourth year the Tour of Washington County and this Tour De France styled event has continued to grow in each year of its existence. An abbreviated schedule of events is proposed that would start at 7:00 p.m. and conclude around 10:30 p.m. These races would bring in close to 350 racers who would be staying in Hagerstown for the entire weekend, as the official stage race would begin on the following Saturday morning. As in the past, all of these events would be insured and sanctioned by USA Cycling.

The Mayor and Council are supportive of this event being held in the City Center and asked staff to move forward with the scheduling.

Proposed Traffic Calming Program

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, discussed a traffic calming program for the City of Hagerstown. Based on recent surveys, traffic and speeding issues are the most common complaint from the residents of Hagerstown. The Engineering Department receives frequent requests for traffic calming and Mr. Tissue believes that the City should endeavor to install physical traffic calming devices when warranted. To this end, the program establishes a systematic way of evaluating the requests with the ultimate goal of the City installing physical calming measures where warranted and to eliminate requests where the perception of speeding is not substantiated by facts.

This program was developed by studying the best practices of numerous jurisdictions in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Many communities actively install physical traffic calming devices. Staff believes this program will be an asset in evaluating the many requests received. The Board of Traffic and Parking reviewed the program and are recommending the Council approve it.

If the program is implemented, the City will need to fund the installation of physical traffic calming devices. However, these would only be requests that staff support and can show that physical traffic calming is warranted. Based on Council input, staff agrees that they should lower the petition requirement to 25% to initiate the request. The program provides a systematic way of screening and evaluating the requests received.

Councilmember Brubaker thanked staff for developing this program and these types of programs should be implemented to support the City's neighborhoods.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to include adoption of the program on the October 26, 2010 agenda.

Department of Utilities Review

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, Nathan Fridinger, Electric Division, Nelia Tidler, Finance, Donnie Barton, Wastewater Division, Nancy Hausrath, Water Division, Ed Norman, Engineering and Robert Gebbia, Laboratory, were present to provide a review of the City's utility operations.

Mr. Spiker reported there are 128 staff positions within the Department of Utilities and 16 are vacant. The utilities face the same issues as those departments from the general fund. The mission is to enhance the quality of life in the community by providing reliable, competitively priced utility services through skilled, safety-oriented and customer focused employees.

The Wastewater Division has reached the 30 month mark without a discharge operations notice.

Mr. Fridinger, Electric Operations Manager, reported there are 38,000 electric customers served by the City of Hagerstown. A current average monthly residential electric bill of 700 kWh for a Hagerstown Light Department (HLD) customer is currently 17% lower than Allegheny Power's rate, 64% below PEPCO's winter rate, and 67% below BG&E's winter rate.

It is anticipated the HLD may have to seek a rate adjustment from the Public Service Commission due to the loss of two major customers. Councilmember Haywood asked if incentives are available to entice manufacturing and industrial customers to locate in Hagerstown. Mr. Spiker indicated there is a special rate class that is evaluated on a case by case basis. The HLD will continue working with the Economic Development Department to promote Hagerstown.

Over \$ 10.2 million has been expended during the past 19 years in major upgrades to the electrical sub-transmission and distribution system in order to meet HLD customer's current needs and to prepare for future growth. Ongoing improvements such as the substation and distribution maintenance programs are vital, ensuring that the HLD will be able to continue to properly serve all of the electric customers' needs. The HLD received two grants in 2010, which assist residential customers in reducing their electric costs. Grant applications for 2011 have been forwarded to the MEA for review.

Councilmember Breichner pointed out the HLD had a scope to detect energy loss at one time. Mr. Spiker reported energy audits for customers are still done.

Councilmember Haywood wondered what kind of programs will be available for customers who use renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar energy. Mr. Spiker stated the smaller uses would be a carry over credit. A large scale project could reduce the amount of energy purchased and have an impact on the City's overall costs.

Councilmember Breichner stated the biggest capital expense is generation. Mr. Spiker indicated generation is continually discussed with consultants. The current contract with Allegheny Power ends in May, 2013. The purchase proposal will start being reviewed 18 months prior to the expiration date.

Donnie Barton, Wastewater Operations Manager, reported there are 58,000 wastewater customers. The treatment plan capacity will be upgraded to 10.5 mgd in December, 2010. The Headworks Project and the ENR Upgrade are 99% complete. The UV Disinfection is 100% complete. Inflow and Infiltration Projects are a number one priority.

The City of Hagerstown entered into an agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment on July 12, 2005. This agreement outlines specific corrective actions required to be completed by the wastewater division by January 1, 2011. Every parameter in the consent judgment has been met. The City is waiting for a meeting with MDE to close out the order and end the agreement.

The Salem Avenue Rehabilitation project will reduce the inflow and infiltration cost by \$ 850,000. Staff has taken over some of the work on this project in order to meet the completion date of December, 2010.

The Citywide Rehabilitation Project will reduce inflow and infiltration throughout the City's system. Nearly 350 sites have been identified, estimated at nearly \$ 8,000,000. Phase 1 is budgeted at \$ 3,200,000 with \$ 1,422,560 ARRA Grant funding, \$ 800,000 from a BRF Grant and \$ 827,440 funded through a 0% interest loan from MDE. This will continue to be prioritized as funding becomes available. There are significant challenges during a wet year. Staff anticipates applying for additional MDE grant funds of \$ 400,000 to \$ 600,000. Concrete sleeves have been installed in all manholes.

A new sludge processing equipment project is scheduled for 2013/14 (design and upgrade) in order to replace 1980 vintage equipment.

Through the Sewer Capacity Allocation Program, 120,000 gallons of capacity are allotted each year. There is more than 300,000 gallons now available. This program is proposed to stay in place after the consent judgment is complete.

Nancy Hausrath, Water Operations Manager, reported the Hagerstown Water Distribution system is comprised of over 400 miles of water mains ranging in size from 2" up to 36". Hagerstown has 7 water storage tanks, with an 8th under construction. There are four pumping stations that help convey water throughout the system. There are approximately 2,200 fire hydrants used for system maintenance and fire suppression. Virtually all potable water delivered to the 88,000 customers is derived from the R. C. Willson WTP on the Potomac River. The Breichner Plant in Smithsburg is permitted at 700 k gpd and is available as needed.

Mr. Spiker reported the Water Division also operates the storeroom. He stated a desktop ordering program would help this operation immensely.

The 6.4 MG Hellane Park Water Tank is to be completed in December, 2010 utilizing zero interest MDE and ARRA funding. The R C. Willson Phase 1A Transmission Main Replacement completion is scheduled for the Spring of 2011, using a zero interest MDE loan and EPA grant.

The distribution water meter replacement program is on schedule to replace 2,000 meters per year with radio read meters. This will continue through 2014. Councilmember Breichner stated he read that radio read meters reduce water revenue loss. Ms. Hausrath indicated staff is still working on the leak detection program.

The R. C. Willson Phase 1B Transmission Main Replacement from Bottom Road to Governor Lane Boulevard is scheduled to resume in 2014 dependent upon financing sources.

Nelia Tidler, Utilities Finance Manager, provides on financial information regarding all the utilities. Losing the Hospital and Good Humor will impact electric and wastewater funds. The sluggish economy has impacted revenue as well.

The division is moving forward to enhance customer services, i.e. online access by customers to their accounts, begin, transfer and stop services online, enhanced online payment, etc. Overtime reduction and hiring freezes have allowed cost savings. Generation/transmission pricing for eclectic will be reduced approximately 10% beginning in June, 2011 through the end of the contract in 2013.

Ed Norman, Engineer, reported the Engineering Division guides clients/consultants and agencies through infrastructure design via plan review and approval process. Staff provides accurate as-built infrastructure information for internal and external customers. They handle the water and wastewater permits approval process and inspection of approved plans for construction. The Engineering Division provides support for the water plant, wastewater plant and field capital improvement projects. A GIS (Geographical Information System) is provided for design and verification of the facilities. Water and wastewater data is continually updated.

Bob Gebbia, Chief of Laboratory Testing, stated the USEPA Stage 2 Disinfectant Byproducts Regulation preliminary studies and testing have been completed and indications are that with the present treatment process, the City will not meet the October 1, 2012 deadline for THM (trihalomethanes) maximum contaminant levels of 80 ug/l. The Water Division is looking into other treatment techniques to reduce those levels.

Another round of Lead and Copper testing is coming up in 2011. Because of the results received, the City's testing requirements have been reduced to three years of testing, three years off. This regulation is unusual in that the samples are collected by customers at their home taps. Also in 2011, the Radionuclides Rule comes into effect. Because City sources are surface water, there has not been problems with radiouclides in the past and no problems are expected next year. These contaminants are found mainly in ground water. The Total Coliform Rule is worked on daily by laboratory staff. Samples are collected throughout the system and testes.

The first half of NPDES permit biomonitoring and chemical toxicity testing was completed and the wastewater plan discharge was found not to be toxic to aquatic life. The second half of the testing will be done at the end of the permit in 2012. New filters installed at the wastewater plant due to tighter discharge regulations will require more process testing to insure their proper function.

One of the technicians in the lab is dedicated to working on county issues.

Councilmember Brubaker stated there are a number of years left with projections of water capacity. There is a limit to the sewer capacity. These issues should be reviewed continually. Mr. Spiker indicated the MDE would not permit a 2 million gallon transfer allocation at this time. Ms. Hausrath indicated the City should start the process for a

water withdrawal permit within the next two years, in anticipation of the 2018 renewal of the current permit.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if any changes to the electric service boundary are possible to include the entire city limits. Mr. Spiker indicated the Town of Easton was denied a boundary change. He understands the regional electric supplier may be willing to “sell” territory.

Mr. Barton indicated an issue for the Wastewater Division will be pharmaceuticals and how to deal with them. This may also impact the water division. Oxygen treatment may be another issue, but staff is prepared to review this.

The next big issue for MDE is anticipated to be the next Chesapeake Bay Cleanup and who will pay for it.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated the Utilities Division has a talented staff that impact citizens on a daily basis. He thanked all the employees for this dedication and hard work.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember F. W. Easton had no additional comments.

Councilmember A. C. Haywood had no additional comments.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Councilmember W. M. Breichner had no additional comments.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker had no additional comments.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II stated he is pleased a compromise was considered for the sprinkler requirements. He spoke with fire department members about issues and safety. They know their safety is mandatory for him, as well as safety for police officers and other employees. On the other hand, he is not sure how much safety this will provide to firefighters. He is concerned there may be a false sense of safety if the system has not been inspected or maintained regularly. The savings on an insurance premium with a sprinkler system would take many years to recover. He is not supportive of government mandating his safety at his own home. He pointed out that contractors and realtors can certainly point out the benefits of a sprinkler system to potential homeowners.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, on a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: November 23, 2010