

WORK SESSION – November 1, 2005

Mayor Richard F. Trump called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:04 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, 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, and A. Parson-McBean, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney John Urner and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember P. M. Nigh was not present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Trump complimented the community for their support and participation in the Ghost Tours and the annual Alsatia parade. The City of Hagerstown will host a Veteran's Day and Monument Unveiling on Friday, November 11, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. Hagerstown Helps (a community wide event to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina) will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2005. Other events include: 1st Friday Event (November 4 in Public Square); City Farmers Market (November 5 – ideas for Thanksgiving); and Thursday Night Out (Downtown restaurants on November 10). Mayor Trump congratulated the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts for their dedication of the Anne G. and Howard S. Kaylor Lakeside Garden.

University System of Maryland Scholarship Program

Dr. David Warner, Executive Director of University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) and Gaye McGovern were present to discuss a scholarship program.

A group of citizens are raising funds for scholarships for students attending the USMH. The group feels this form of financial support will be essential to help the program grow. A public fund raising campaign was launched last spring with the Gala Event, which the City of Hagerstown sponsored with the USMH Center. That effort is being built on and approval has been granted for up to \$ 212,500 in matching funds through The Community Foundation's Waltersdorf-Henson Challenge Campaign.

They are asking for \$ 25,000 for a scholarship to be named as the Council wishes. The Mayor and City Council may wish to call it the Hagerstown City Council Scholarship or they may have a former city councilperson or other person from local history that they want to honor in this way. Since the matching funds are available, this gift would mean City Council would be helping two people further their education each year once the thresholds in the matching challenge program are met.

Ms. McGovern stated the University System of Maryland makes it more convenient for students. The statistics show the efforts to increase programs is paying off. Continuing support for the Center is extremely important. It helps to have local people in support of the programs.

Dr. Warner distributed a list of the programs available at the Center. In January, 2006, the University of Maryland at College Park will be offering a graduate program in engineering. Towson University will offer a nursing program in 2006.

Mayor Trump stated he knows how hard Ms. McGovern and Dr. Warner are working to bring programs to the Center. He asked how much has been pledged to date. Ms. McGovern stated there was approximately \$ 140,000 ten days ago.

Councilmember Cromer asked if money is in the City's budget for this request. Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated it appears they are asking for a pledge right now and the donation could be paid over several years. He stated he believes \$ 5,000 would be available in the Community Fund.

Councilmember Metzner asked if there is a deadline for the matching grant. Ms. McGovern stated there is a detailed set of benchmarks that she will provide for the Mayor and City Council. At least 60% has to be pledged prior to awarding any scholarship.

Mayor Trump stated he believes the City will be very interested in supporting this effort.

Councilmember Cromer asked if \$ 25,000 would be for two students each year. Ms. McGovern stated the money goes into a fund in perpetuity. The number of scholarships depends on how fast the money comes in.

Councilmember Cromer asked if any of this money would be used for administration. Ms. McGovern stated she is not being paid. Mr. Martin indicated that there are some administrative costs for a community foundation. These costs have been found to be under the national average.

Councilmember Aleshire stated if this donation is approved, other entities may submit requests. Councilmember Metzner stated if this request is considered during the budget process, there will be other requests to be considered. He stated the Council needs to think about the other programs that make requests, such as CASA, food banks, etc. He stated the Council needs to make a determination of where higher education falls on the scale for assistance. Councilmember Aleshire stated he thinks this request should be considered now, rather than waiting until the budget process begins.

Literacy Council of Washington County

William Price, Administrator, was present to discuss the Literacy Council of Washington County. The Literacy Council's purpose is to promote literacy in Washington County, Maryland, by providing free, individualized basic reading and writing instruction and

conversation skills to non-literate, semi-literate or non-English speaking people. All students are adults. Some are adults who want to improve their basic reading skills. Others are adults who want to learn English as their second language.

The Council uses the “Each One, Teach One” method for teaching reading. Volunteers wanting to become tutors need not have any prior teaching experience. All materials are provided free and there is no charge for the training.

Mayor Trump thanked Mr. Price and the Council for the work they do. He suggested considering a donation to the Literacy Council during the budget process. He also suggested that in-kind services could be considered.

Councilmember Metzner complimented the members for their time and effort. This is another example of people helping people, one person at a time.

Flow Transfer Agreement for Washington County Hospital Sewer Allocation

The Mayor and City Council received a letter from the Washington County Commissioners outlining their request for the Mayor and Council’s consideration of a new flow transfer agreement that would result in the provision of 150,000 gallons per day of sewer allocation for the new hospital.

John Urner, City Attorney, was prepared to provide his opinion to the Mayor and Council on the legal issues associated with this request in reference to the Maryland Department of the Environment Judicial Consent Order, which was approved in January, 2005 for the City’s sewer system. Acting Water and Sewer Manager, Chris Bordlemay was present to provide the Mayor and Council his analysis of the impact of this request on the sewer system.

Mayor Trump stated that Councilmember Nigh is not able to attend this meeting. She has made a request that this be discussed when she is able to attend the meeting. Councilmember Cromer stated she knows Councilmember Nigh had asked that this discussion be tabled until next week. She has been working through many things during her mother’s illness and passing away. Councilmember Nigh had been working through this issue with the hospital for quite some time. She has a lot of questions and would like to participate in the discussion.

Councilmember Metzner stated he understood the Mayor and Council were to hear from legal counsel and the sewer department at this meeting. He suggested hearing the reports from both the attorney and the sewer department and then discussing the reports at next week’s meeting. Councilmember Cromer wondered when Councilmember Nigh would have time to review a tape of this meeting. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated the Council needs to respect

Councilmember Nigh's wishes in this request. The written opinions from both parties were distributed and discussion will be included on next week's agenda.

Information Technology Strategic Plan

Scott Nicewarner, Information Technology Manager, presented the first strategic plan related to Information Technology (IT) to the Mayor and City Council.

The strategic principles include:

1. Evolve the Information Technology Organization
2. Invest in and implement flexible and open systems to replace the aging and unsupported HP3000 platform.
3. Provide citizen access to the maximum number of city functions as possible.
4. Centralize all departmental technology operations, while decentralizing support needs.
5. Establish a Business Resumption/Disaster Recovery strategy for City operations.

The business continuity benefits will be: (collaborative effort through the MML for disaster recovery)

1. Development and maintenance of a reliable plan structure
2. Efficient Resource Commitment and Task Allocation
3. Reliable, Accurate Plan Notification and Distribution
4. Thorough Plan Management Reporting

The Teleworks Center is a great resource for training benefits. Hagerstown has taken a lead role in exploring an open system (which provides more flexibility). This will allow the City to move forward with technology in a community based environment. There is the potential to place electronic kiosks throughout the City for citizens and visitors.

Mr. Nicewarner stated the Information Technology Department is moving toward being a technology resource, rather than a data entry shop. He introduced the members of the Staff. They are: Leon Albin, Barbara Steiner, Lola Hagerty, Tim McCarty and Mike Pellegrino.

Mayor Trump and Councilmember Metzner thanked the Staff of the IT Department for their efforts.

Councilmember Cromer asked what type of kiosks would be placed around the City. Mr. Nicewarner stated they would be touch screen terminals, where people would be able to use the links for downtown businesses and the City's website. They could be located either inside or outside. It would be a small stand with a touch screen.

Priorities for 2006 State of Maryland General Assembly

The Mayor and Council discussed their legislative, project and funding priorities for the 2006 Maryland General Assembly. In the past, the Mayor and Council have presented their priorities to the County Delegation in December. This meeting provides an initial opportunity for the Mayor and Council to consider their priorities. Additional meetings can be scheduled for further opportunities to establish the information to present to the Delegation this year.

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, stated the Washington County Delegation is able to meet with the Mayor and Council on Friday, December 2, 2005. He presented material regarding the Maryland Municipal League's priorities for 2006, the County Commissioner's list, and the City's requests from December, 2004. He asked if there is other information the Mayor and Council would like to explore with the Delegation, or if there were questions about the lists presented.

Mayor Trump suggested making an effort to obtain some of the extra Program Open Space money.

Councilmember Aleshire stated some of the items listed in the memo from last year can be marked off as being completed. There are some items that need to be continued. He stated he thinks the main items are: Central Booking, School for the Arts and USMD Operating Funds. He stated the Mayor and Council need to make the delegation aware of the report for Workforce Housing. He stated the Delegation should also be aware of the City's autonomy in the excise tax issue. He stated a clear message needs to be given to the Delegation, that the City respects and reserves the right to have that autonomy. The improvements are needed at the Edgewood Drive/Dual Highway Intersection. There will soon be pressure to make the improvements from developers. He stated the City may have to implement Eminent Domain and he would not want any state law to jeopardize that ability without considering how it could affect the expansion of the library and other projects. He stated the list could be separated into the following two categories: Funding and policy.

Councilmember Parson-McBean stated she feels the bond projects topic is also important. Councilmember Aleshire stated the City, as a municipality, has a great ability to secure funding.

Councilmember Metzner stated he thinks the Mayor and Council should discuss the priorities with the Washington County Commissioners. In the last two years, the City and the Council

have been able to present a joint list to the Delegation. He stated the City needs to continue stating that Central Booking and funding for the USM center are a high priority. Councilmember Aleshire stated he thinks there will be specific bond requests for the School for the Arts. Councilmember Metzner stated the library is also extremely important. He stated he thinks presenting a joint list of community needs would be beneficial. He stated the discussion about eminent domain should be very specific. He stated the study the Delegation requested in reference to workforce housing is being completed.

Mayor Trump agreed workforce housing is an important issue. He asked if this should be discussed with the 2+2 committee. Councilmember Aleshire stated the concept of workforce housing will work only if both the Mayor and Council and the County Commissioners support the concept.

Mayor Trump indicated he will contact Greg Snook, County Commissioner President, to discuss a joint presentation and list.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he does not support some of the County's priorities. Mayor Trump asked if a public statement should be made indicating not all the priorities are supported by the City. Mr. Zimmerman stated if a bill is introduced during the General Session, the Mayor and Council could indicate if they supported the bill at that time.

Councilmember Cromer asked that a higher tax rate for vacant buildings be implemented. Alfred Martin, Finance Director, stated there is a program in Philadelphia for higher taxes for vacant land. Councilmember Cromer indicated she was talking about vacant buildings. Mr. Martin stated this may be something to ask the City attorney to research to see if this type of tax could be implemented. The City is limited by State law for implementing new taxes, unless there is statewide legislation.

Councilmember Aleshire stated an addition to the list should be a report from the Water/Sewer task force. He stated it would be helpful to hear a report from the group about the effect of State legislation at the local level.

Mr. Urner stated Staff should look at proposed legislation in the area of annexation. Last year's legislation contained a number of elements that may impact the sovereignty of the City. He stated they understand there will be more legislation this year. He indicated the City may have a different perspective than the County does in regard to annexation. Mr. Zimmerman stated Staff will obtain further information from the Maryland Municipal League.

Program Open Space Projects

Junior Mason, Parks and Recreation Department, was present to discuss the proposed

Program Open Space Requests. Funding for the following projects, listed in priority order, is proposed:

1. Fairgrounds Park – Grandstands Roof Replacement (\$ 200,000)
2. Fairgrounds Park – Additional Lighting and Electrical Upgrades to Walking Trail (\$ 125,000)
3. Fairgrounds Park – Double Tennis Court (\$ 70,000)

Councilmember Aleshire asked if the area for the tennis court is where the outdoor skate park was to be located. Mr. Mason indicated there has not been a big interest from the skate park users for an outdoor skate park. He indicated this is also the area where the fireworks are staged. The outdoor skate park being located on the concrete slab is not being pursued. Councilmember Cromer has received complaints from users that they can only skate when the building is open. She stated they could skate more often if there was an outdoor skating area. Mr. Mason stated there would still need to be someone there and the area would not be unlocked all the time.

Councilmember Parson-McBean asked when the new bathrooms would be installed at Wheaton Park. Mr. Mason indicated this is proposed to be a Program Open Space request next year. The request for funding is being included in the CDBG program this year. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated this timetable is not acceptable. The State has said the bathrooms at Wheaton Park are unacceptable and the repairs need to be made. The cost to relocate and rebuild the bathrooms is estimated at \$ 75,000. The existing bathrooms are not handicap accessible and they are not visible from the park. Mayor Trump stated it appears the restrooms are adequate, but not totally accessible. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated they are not adequate. Councilmember Metzner stated the bathrooms should be included on the list before the tennis court. Councilmember Aleshire stated he agreed, because he is not ready to give up on the skate park. Councilmember Parson-McBean stated the bathrooms should be added, instead of the tennis court.

Ed Baer Property, North Burhans Boulevard, East of Mitchell Avenue

Stephen Bockmiller, Development Review Planner/Zoning Administrator, stated Mr. Baer has received a contingency contract to purchase a tract on North Burhans Boulevard from Bruce Pitts. Mr. Pitts desires to apply for a PUD (Planned Unit Development) overlay on this property (which is approximately 3 acres of C-2 zoning and 3 acres of R-2 zoning). The proposed development is a 91-unit townhouse condominium development, with the roads within to be dedicated as City streets. The proposed design would create a new public street that connects Mitchell Avenue with North Burhans Boulevard.

Given that the proposed design includes the maximum number of dwelling units permitted by the PUD regulations and the unique nature of the site and the design of the project, the Planning Department advised Mr. Pitts that he should approach the Mayor and City Council to obtain their feedback on the proposal.

If the Council approves a PUD overlay for this project, it is the opinion of the City Engineer and the Planning Department that when heavy engineering of the site is undertaken, the developer will:

1. Need to make significant investment in infrastructure in the form of retaining walls, etc., or
2. He is likely to lose from 10 to 15 of the units shown in order to design the project with more traditional engineering techniques.

There have been several proposals made for this site. Councilmember Cromer asked if the back of the buildings would be facing Burhans Boulevard. Mr. Pitts stated they have looked at the possibility of installing a berm to shield the view. He stated the Engineering Department has indicated strongly the roads should be connecting, with no cul-de-sacs. Councilmember Cromer asked if they could eliminate eight of the buildings. Mr. Pitts stated if they eliminated the buildings, financially, the project would not be able to move forward. She asked if Mr. Pitts was indicating that the project would not go forward if all 91 units were not approved. Mr. Pitts stated losing eight would cause the project to end.

Councilmember Aleshire asked Mr. Urner if the Board of Zoning Appeals approved 45 units and the zoning laws changed before the project was completed, would they still be allowed to complete 45 units. Mr. Urner indicated it would depend on where the developer is in the process. If the developer had acted on that approval, he would have a vested right to carry it out.

Mayor Trump questioned the accessibility to Marshall Street and Mineral Avenue. He asked if this is a space the City wants developed into a residential use and what kind of compromises will have to be made to achieve this.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he doesn't think the connection to Marshall Street is more important for areas further north, than it is for Salem Avenue. He stated another point is that a Planned Unit Development designation would be required in this predominantly commercial area. He stated there would be no fences, pools or anything else in this neighborhood. He stated it appears the plan is to max out the development capacity at the expense of open spaces. Staff has pointed out the sidewalk is planned for only one side. This is in order to allow for the construction of more units. He stated he doesn't support the project as it is.

Mr. Urner suggested that the Mayor and Council consider three things in discussing this proposal with the developer. Those three things are as follows:

1. Does this development at this location further the Comprehensive Plan?
2. Can this development be completed and comply with the PUD ordinance requirements?
3. Is this development compatible with the adjoining area?

He suggested that the Mayor and Council look at the proposal with a conceptual view, rather than the “nuts and bolts” view.

Councilmember Metzner stated this has been a difficult property and many efforts have been made to develop it. He stated he is concerned about the roads.

Mr. Pitts stated he will address the concerns expressed by the Mayor and City Council before a final plan is submitted. He stated that adhering to the process will cause a reduction in the number of units.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he would not agree to rezoning the site since it is in a commercial location. Mr. Pitts noted that most of the surrounding area is residential. Mayor Trump asked what the property can be used for if not for a commercial use. Councilmember Aleshire stated none of the previous plans have been approved for a residential use.

There was some discussion about the access for a commercial use, which is non-existent from Mitchell Avenue.

Mayor Trump asked how to get the property approved for a residential use. Councilmember Metzner stated he thinks the issue will be whether or not a developer can make the project work with the density the Council wants.

Councilmember Metzner stated he is not opposed to rezoning the property. Councilmember Aleshire pointed out the property would still be zoned C2, with a PUD overlay. Mr. Pitts stated the overlay would be less significant than rezoning the property.

Mayor Trump stated the developer should be given direction on how to move forward. Councilmember Aleshire stated the items discussed give a good explanation of the concerns of the Council. He stated there will also be an issue with the infrastructure.

John Urner, City Attorney, stated the Mayor and Council should consider whether or not they see this as two separate uses – residential on the Mitchell Avenue side and commercial on the Burhans Boulevard side. If they want to see a plan that integrates this into one use, a PUD is

appropriate. If that is the case, they need to consider how much they are willing to relax the requirements to allow for development of a difficult piece of property.

Mr. Pitts stated one of the streets had been proposed as a private street. The developer would make that a public street that would meet all the requirements for dedication to the City. Councilmember Metzner indicated this would be creating a west end bypass. Mr. Urner indicated that any through street has to be a public street.

Mr. Pitts stated the discussion provides him with direction and he will make every effort to address the modifications.

Councilmember Aleshire stated the Mayor and Council are not under any obligation to approve the PUD. They have discussed relaxing one aspect of the requirements, but they are not addressing the other things that have been discussed on numerous occasions. He stated this PUD is being designed for one specific type of development and that is not his idea of what a PUD designation should be.

Mr. Pitts stated he will discuss the possibility of exclusive yards to create more green space. He stated he will look at the compatibility of the surrounding uses. If the PUD is not approved, the property could be developed with 45 residential units on the back part of the property with an auto shop or a bookstore in the front. The property could also remain vacant.

Residential Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and Conversion of Multi-Family to Single-Family Residences Tax Credit Program

Deborah Everhart, Economic Development Director, stated the Intergovernmental Committee of the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission is proposing to both the City of Hagerstown and Washington County a tax credit program for both residential rehabilitation and conversion of multi-family dwellings into a single-family residence.

The Residential Tax Credit Program will provide incentives to property owners who improve their properties for higher resale value and enhance the neighborhood. In addition, the program will reward property owners who attract responsible tenants to their rental units. The program provides relief from increased property taxes which result from repair and rehabilitation of the buildings.

The Conversion of Multi-Family to Single-Family Residences Program will provide incentives to property owners who remove rental units from residential buildings and create owner-occupied dwellings. The program will also provide assistance with utility fees and relief from increased property taxes which result from conversions of multi-family buildings to single-family residences.

The tax credit for a qualifying structure would commence on July 1st of the tax year following the completion date of the conversion/rehabilitation project. If the assessment on the property increases following a qualifying improvement project, the City and County would grant a tax credit on the increase in assessment up to the maximum amount of the cost of qualifying improvements for a period of five (5) consecutive years. During the term of the tax exemption, the property owner must submit to the Department of Planning an annual self-certification application to ensure continued compliance with the program's eligibility requirements.

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, and Alfred Martin, Finance Director, were also present to discuss the program.

The designated area is the Community Legacy Area. If approved, the program would be a collaborative effort between the City of Hagerstown and the Washington County Commissioners. The Staff of the Community Development Department could provide the administrative part for the program. The program would provide encouragement for people to make improvements and investments in their property.

Mayor Trump asked if there were any negative aspects of the program. Mr. Martin indicated the administrative part is complex. There could be a temporary loss of incremental revenue if the City wants to jump start redevelopment of these areas. Mr. Zimmerman pointed out the City would not be losing existing revenue.

Ms. Everhart stated if there is alley access to the rear of any of the properties benefiting from the tax credit, they will be required to create off street parking.

Councilmember Metzner stated he thought all property was re-assessed every three years. Mr. Martin stated there are interim re-assessments for improvements (other than cosmetic) that are made to properties. Councilmember Metzner asked how the City will resolve losing the amount of revenue for an increased assessment if there is a tax credit. Mr. Martin stated the tax credit cannot be for more than the certified amount of the improvement.

Mr. Martin stated the program is designed to attract redevelopment of the areas where housing stock needs to be improved.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out some of the repairs/improvements are difficult. Repairs must be at least \$ 20,000.00. He asked if there was a way to quantify the in-kind service owners are providing. He stated he supports the program. Councilmember Metzner stated he supports the program also.

Councilmember Cromer stated the \$ 20,000.00 number seems low. Mayor Trump stated if the Mayor and Council are going to be serious about reinvesting, they should consider raising the \$ 20,000.00 minimum. He suggested they also consider Councilmember Aleshire's request for credit for in-kind services.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to support the program and consider the suggestions made.

City Administrator's Comments

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, thanked the City Staff for their assistance with the annual Alsatia Mummer's parade, especially the Hagerstown Police Department and the other police departments. There had been a threat made prior to the parade and security was increased. He stated Staff has been discussing in-house vs. outside contractor work. It is being suggested that a group be established to talk through how the options can be analyzed, with the involvement and participation of the unions. The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) was discussed at the Washington County Commissioner's meeting. The County is working with the Board of Education to develop mitigation plans for when a school is at, or above, capacity.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilmember A. Parson-McBean thanked Staff for helping her put something together to inform the public about Ruth Monroe. She also thanked the Mayor for allowing staff to assist her. She thanked Karen Giffin, Public Information Manager, and Eric Hastings for their assistance with the televised program. She thanked Councilmember Aleshire, Councilmember Metzner and Councilmember Nigh for attending the service. She thanked the local, federal and state law enforcement agencies for helping to keep the City safe during the Alsatia Mummer's Parade. She thanked the NAACP for showing the support to the community. She was impressed with the reception of the residents. She also thanked the Alsatia Club for making sure the parade was held. She apologized to Councilmember Cromer for saying something that was not so nice.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire stated the Fire Department responded to a house fire this week and there was an obvious lack of personnel. He stated it is good that the City and County Planning Departments have met. They will be holding another joint meeting in February. He thanked Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, for the information she provided to the citizen's advisory committee for the schools about the impact of development on schools. He wondered if the committee was the Council of Governments. He wants to make sure City staff is attending appropriate meetings. Mr. Zimmerman indicated he thought the group consisted of the Citizen Advisories from the individual schools.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner stated he agrees with Councilmember Parson-McBean's comments about the Alsatia Parade. He stated Acting Police Chief Charles Summers wants to especially thank the Washington County Sheriff's Department. He thanked Acting Chief Summers for looking out for the safety of the Mayor and Council. He stated the thoughts of this group, as well as the community, are with Councilmember Nigh.

Councilmember Metzner stated Fire Chief Hawbaker is being more vocal about staffing shortfalls. He stated the Mayor and Council need to make sure the fire department doesn't face what the Sewer Department has faced. He would rather talk to citizens about raising taxes rather than about why something wasn't done to alleviate a tragedy.

Councilmember K. S. Cromer mentioned that Councilmember Penny Nigh was not present at this meeting because her mother passed away on October 30, 2005. She thanked Colby Lushbaugh, Public Works Department, for all that he does for the city and the Mayor and Council. She reminded everyone the Memorial Boulevard monument dedication will be held on November 11, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. She wanted to attend this, but will be out of town that day.

She stated she met with a group of city employees about the in-house vs. contracting out work. She was told some of employees were scolded for attending this meeting. She stated she has an open door policy and any employee who wishes to talk to her on their time are welcome. She stated it is totally unacceptable if they are scolded for meeting with her. Mr. Zimmerman stated he was not aware of any scolding, but he will check into it. He is sure this did not come from the Human Resources Department or from his office.

She stated the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing for the hospital's request will not be held on November 10, 2005, as she stated last week. Mr. Zimmerman stated he will contact the County Administrator to find out the date of the hearing.

She stated the Mummer's parade was a success. The Mayor kept things lively throughout the evening. She stated the police agencies did an exceptional job. She thanked all the groups and citizens that came for the parade. She thanked Acting Police Chief Charles Summers for everything he did. She stated Mr. Crampton (owner of the property on S. Potomac Street that is being considered for annexation) had advised her that the drainage area at the property has been cleared and there should be no further problems.

She then discussed the number of under-utilized buildings. She stated she would like to see a fee or tax imposed for vacant buildings. One of the vacant buildings is the old MELP building. She asked for a status report from the Code Compliance Office for this building. She asked if the commercial/industrial properties are treated the same as residential properties. Mr. Zimmerman stated this could be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Work Session and Executive Session
Mayor & City Council
Hagerstown, Maryland

November 1, 2005

Mayor R. F. Trump reminded everyone the annual Gridiron Classic football game will be held on November 11, 2005. He encouraged everyone to attend the game.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember K. S. Cromer, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to meet in closed session at 7:12 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a) #3 to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, and #4 to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to located, expand, or remain in the State. No formal action was taken at the session. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, 2nd floor at the City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: