

WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – November 10, 2009

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember W. M Breichner, Councilmember F. Easton and Councilmember A. C. Haywood attended a wreath laying at the Memorial Boulevard Veterans Monument at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:40 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers W. M. Breichner, F. Easton, A. C. Haywood; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney Mark Boyer and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk. Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and Councilmember L. C. Metzner were not present.

Citizens Police Academy Graduation

The following members of the Second Citizen's Police Academy were awarded certificates by Mayor Bruchey, Chief Arthur Smith, Police Officer Gerald Kendle and Verna Brown: Bobby Lee Akers, Cory Beatty, Roger Douglas, Robert Everhart, David Johnson, George Knode, Jr., Barry Lee Martin, Jennifer Martinez, Austen McCarter, Lee McGraw, Catherine Messersmith, Robert Miller, Sr., William Vann Murray, Linda Reid, Sandra Stickler and Ronald Thomas. Joseph Bach, Laura Kirby and Stanislaus (Stan) Pawlus completed the academy but were not able to attend the meeting.

HAYSL/YMCA Fairgrounds Park User Agreements

Lewie Thomas, Recreation Facilities Manager, was present to discuss the Hagerstown Area Youth Soccer League and the YMCA User Agreements for both groups at Fairgrounds Park.

The user agreements are renewals of existing agreements. The terms will be from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. The users will have the right to renew this agreement up to three additional one year terms beginning January 1, 2011.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to renew the agreements. Formal approval will be scheduled for the regular session on November 24, 2009.

Draft Amendment to Suns Lease Agreement – Stadium Naming Rights

Lewie Thomas, Recreation Facilities Manager, and Bob Flannery, Hagerstown Suns Manager, were present to discuss an amendment to the lease with the Suns to cover the issue of selling stadium naming rights.

Examples of other leases had been provided to the Mayor and Council for review previously. Mark Boyer, City Attorney, stated the Mayor and Council could identify the location of the signs but the signs would have to comply with the sign ordinance. The

location could be approved and the details of the sponsorship could be kept as confidential as possible, within the limitations of the Open Meetings Act.

Councilmember Easton asked if the Mayor and Council would be approving the sponsor or giving permission to seek a sponsor. The Mayor and Council would be granting permission to seek a sponsor.

Councilmember Breichner mentioned all street signs would have to be changed if permission is given to change the name from Municipal Stadium. He is not in favor of removing Municipal Stadium from the name. It has been called Municipal Stadium since the 1930's.

Mr. Thomas stated the West Virginia Power team granted the rights to name their stadium to the team. The terms of the agreement are similar to what is being presented in the amendment.

Mr. Flannery understands Councilmember Breichner's concerns. Many teams have sold sponsorships in an effort to raise money. He stated changing the signs should not be a big issue.

Councilmember Breichner would support selling the rights to the field but not the stadium. Mr. Flannery would prefer sponsorship for the stadium. Councilmember Easton is not opposed to renaming the stadium but he would want the Suns to cover the cost of sign replacement. There are 10 or 12 signs. A cost estimate will be provided.

A sponsor has not been approached.

Approval of the amendment will be included on the agenda for November 24, 2009.

Mark Boyer left at this time.

Geographic Information System Strategic Plan

Scott Nicewarner, Director of Technology and Support Services, was present to discuss the implementation and strategic plan for the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) operations. David Holdstock, Geographic Technologies Group, Inc., was also present.

The City of Hagerstown has been utilizing the ESRI GIS products for the past 10 years. During that period, the system has been used primarily as mapping tools for the Engineering Dept. to computerize paper maps and drawings. With increased interest by other City departments and the general public in additional graphical representations of City information, as well as the supporting data behind this information, staff recognized the need to conduct an assessment of the GIS operation to better understand the costs and benefits of the technology, as well as the opportunities for expansion and improvement of the service based upon industry best practices.

In May, 2009, the Mayor and Council authorized entering into a partnership with Geographic Technologies Group (GTG), of Wilson, North Carolina to study the City's operations both in general and in conjunction with GIS usage. On-site interviews were held with each City department and information acquired. The result of these interviews, as well as discussions with key stakeholders and industry professionals familiar with GIS operations related to municipalities, is being presented to the Mayor and Council in the form of a strategic plan to guide the City in its continued GIS operations.

Understanding the current financial climate, staff will take the recommendations of GTG as presented in this strategic plan and produce more specific recommendations for moving forward with the expansion of the GIS operations both internally and to the public over the next year.

Mr. Holdstock indicated the plan includes a three year implementation schedule. With the GIS system, vehicles could be located at any given time, access could be provided in the field to work orders, and access to information would be provided to citizens. This technology could save time and money. A centralized data base will provide better location capabilities for the fire department. The police department would be able to quickly track where crime occurs. The GIS should be managed and set up through the Information Technology department. Onsite training is recommended.

Councilmember Easton suggested discussing a joint plan with Washington County. Mr. Holdstock suggested talking to other organizations as well.

Staff will discuss the plan and determine which segments would be most advantageous for the City and bring the information back to the Mayor and Council for approval.

Doub Property Annexation, Case No. A-2008-02

This discussion was postponed until a full Council is present.

Proposed Amendments to the Land Management Code – Local Conversion District

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, reported there was no additional testimony provided following the public hearing on October 27, 2009. This amendment would allow "Mom and Pop" type of businesses to be located in residential districts. The Planning staff would suggest a fee of \$ 500.00 for the necessary application for small scale projects. This should cover the cost of the legal advertising that is required and the legal mailings that are required. It would not cover staff time. The fee for a regular rezoning application is \$ 2,000.00 plus \$ 10.00 per adjacent property owner.

It was the general consensus to include the amendment on the agenda for the November 24, 2009 meeting.

Home Occupation Amendments

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, stated home occupations are currently approved through the special exception process. There is a significant amount of time and money involved in the process. Staff was directed by the Planning Commission to modify the home occupation provisions of the Land Management Code as follows:

1. A definition was created for a home workstation. This is proposed as a permitted accessory use to all legal residences. There will be no visible exterior evidence of any use other than a residence and no customers coming to the home. The Planning Department will produce an application form that requires an outline of the nature of the business in order to issue a zoning certificate. The intent is to eliminate the necessity, expense, time delay and inconvenience of a special exception from the Board of Zoning Appeals for those uses that are clearly of no consequence to the neighbors (i.e. bookkeeping, internet based businesses, etc.).
2. The current provision for Special Exceptions for Home Occupations is proposed to be removed. The current practice of a home occupation as defined and allowed would be eliminated and no longer allowed within the City.

The Planning Commission held a public review meeting on July 29, 2009. No public comments were received. The Planning Commission forwards this text amendment to the Mayor and Council with a positive recommendation for adoption. A public hearing will be held before the Mayor and City Council on November 24, 2009.

Planned Hagerstown Civil War Book

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, was present to discuss a planned Civil War history book. The years 2011 through 2015 will mark the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. A small staff working group has been meeting to consider ideas to suggest to City management of ways to officially commemorate this milestone. The group plans to forward recommendations in early 2010.

By late spring, the third round of historic interpretive markers for which the City has received grants from the Maryland Heritage Area program should be completed and installed. This will bring to nearly four dozen the number of historic interpretive panels that will have been installed in the downtown and outlying areas.

Through the process of completing the grant projects, staff has determined that there is sufficient material around which to frame an illustrated book on Hagerstown's role in the Civil War. The Planning Department and the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau plan to submit a publishing proposal to Arcadia Publishing of Charleston, South Carolina to produce a book for their "Images of America" series, under the title "Civil War Hagerstown." The proposal would include the timeline of providing a deliverable product to the publisher in the fall of 2010, with

release to coincide with the beginning of the 150th anniversary commemoration in April, 2011. Once in circulation, it should help generate tourist traffic as the role of the City in the Civil War becomes better known.

While the materials thus far collected serve as a solid framework, it will be necessary to secure additional images. To get the best images available, this may include the need to purchase publication licenses for certain images or reimburse parties for scanning fees.

Therefore, the Planning Department and the CVB plan to each provide \$ 200, plus the City will include \$ 100 worth of staff time to leverage a \$ 500 grant from the State to create a pool of \$ 900 for the purpose of accomplishing this goal. The City of Hagerstown would hold the copyright on the book and would receive the royalties generated by sales. Therefore, the seed money provided up front for producing the manuscript will be recouped by royalties in 2011-2012. All production and printing costs and most marketing is handled by the publisher. Stephen Bockmiller, Development review Planner/Zoning Administrator, will serve as the staff member assigned to this project.

It was the general consensus to move forward with this project.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, reminded everyone that City Hall will be closed on November 11, 2009 in observance of Veteran's Day. Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, reported the Trash and Recycling Task Force has been diligently working on questions from the Mayor and Council. The task force wants to get the community involved. A flier will be included in electric bills in the hopes of getting input from customers. The flier and questionnaire is also available on the City's website.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember W. M. Breichner expressed condolences to the family of former employee Kenneth Rusty Alexander, who passed away this week.

Councilmember A. C. Haywood expressed condolences Councilmember Metzner's family on the passing of his father-in-law and to former Councilmember Cromer's family on the passing of her mother.

Councilmember F. Easton expressed condolences to Councilmember Metzner and former Councilmember Cromer. He thanked all veterans for their service.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey echoed the condolences already mentioned. He urged everyone to keep all veteran's in mind.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WORK SESSION – November 10, 2009

On a motion duly made by Councilmember A. C. Haywood and seconded by Councilmember F. Easton, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, #1 at 6:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. The following people were in attendance: Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember W. M. Breichner, Councilmember F. Easton, Councilmember A. C. Haywood, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, Deborah Everhart, Economic Development Director and Donna Spickler, City Clerk. The meeting was held to consider an appointment to the Economic Development Commission. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: December 22, 2009