

WORK SESSION – December 20, 2006

Meeting with Senator Donald Munson and Delegate John Donoghue

Mayor Robert E. Bruchey, II called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2006 in the Council Chambers at the City Hall. Present with the Mayor were City Council Members M. E. Brubaker, K. S. Cromer, L. C. Metzner, P. M. Nigh, and A. Parson-McBean, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

The work session was being held to discuss the Mayor and City Council legislative priorities and concerns with Senator Donald Munson and Delegate John Donoghue. Senator Munson was not in attendance. The meeting was recorded but not televised.

Revenue Sharing

Mayor Bruchey stated there is nothing on the MML legislative list this year to assist in the double taxation calculations. He stated there needs to be fairer and more equitable reimbursement for duplicated services. There are twelve departments that use general fund money for duplicated services. Only two departments receive any reimbursement amount.

Delegate Donoghue asked what Mayor Bruchey wanted legislatively for this issue. Mayor Bruchey stated being a “shall” county may encourage the Commissioners to review all instances of County revenue being paid from City residents. Delegate Donoghue asked if the Mayor and City Council have discussed this with the County Commissioners. Councilmember Metzner indicated it has been discussed for many years but no changes have been made.

Mayor Bruchey suggested that all counties in Maryland be “shall” counties. The recommendation was not supported by MML this year because there are many new members of the House and Senate. Delegate Donoghue indicated he would contact Scott Hancock, MML Executive Director, to discuss this. Mayor Bruchey asked the Washington County Delegation to support an open discussion with the County Commissioners about the tax set-off. Councilmember Cromer stated the issue of revenue sharing seemed to be a closed topic during the 2+2 Committee meetings.

Mayor Bruchey stated certain revenue streams that are received for the County General Fund is from sources inside the City of Hagerstown, with the City receiving no direct financial benefit. The City should receive a portion of the revenue generated from recordation taxes, title transfer taxes, and hotel motel taxes.

Prison Release

The City of Hagerstown realizes that the State of Maryland has Parole and Probation laws that must be followed. Much of the situation that plaques the City is not under the

control of the State Delegates directly. The Mayor and Council asked that the Delegation seek changes in the Parole and Probation laws to reflect changes that would benefit the City of Hagerstown.

Delegate Donoghue stated Pat Cushwa has been named to Governor Elect O'Malley's administration for the transition team. She will be the person to speak with about public safety issues. No policy has been set at this time.

Barbara Ingram School for the Arts

The Mayor and Council asked for continued support of the School for the Arts. This project is a crucial part of the Arts and Entertainment revitalization efforts on South Potomac Street.

Delegate Donoghue stated he and Senator Munson are both on the Board and will do what is necessary to support the School for the Arts.

Community Free Clinic Funding

It is imperative that the Community Free clinic continue to serve the uninsured and underinsured citizens of Hagerstown and Washington County. The County and City have been supportive in the continued service that this facility provides. The Mayor and City Council request that special attention be given to this worthwhile facility this fiscal year.

Delegate Donoghue stated a Medbank program was started in Hagerstown and is working well. He stated he will continue to pursue bond bills.

Holly Place Funding

Holly Place is an elderly care facility for those who do not have the funds to enjoy a retirement home with medical care amenities. The Mayor and City Council asked that a funding source for this facility be identified and utilized. The City of Hagerstown does not have the financial ability to fund this facility.

Delegate Donoghue stated there is concept to use the third floor of the Western Maryland Hospital as a place for the residents of Holly Place. A meeting will be held on December 24, 2006 at Western Maryland to discuss this.

Central Booking

The Mayor and City Council asked Delegate Donoghue to ensure Central Booking stays a priority and that funding moves forward.

Delegate Donoghue stated there is \$ 95,000.00 in seed money in place for the facility. He suggested visiting the facility in Frederick County. Chief Smith stated the City of

Frederick does not pay anything to the facility because the City residents pay County taxes.

Library Expansion

The Mayor and City Council asked Delegate Donoghue for continued support of the Washington County Free Library expansion effort. They asked that the delegation remain focused on this vital downtown revitalization and expansion effort.

Delegate Donoghue stated support for the library expansion will continue.

Delegate Donoghue urged the Mayor and City Council members to contact him with concerns and questions. Councilmember Metzner thanked Delegate Donoghue for making the effort to find out the needs of the City.

Mayor Bruchey asked Delegate Donoghue to convey to the House and Senate that Hagerstown is not in favor of a fire tax.

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 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: