

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT NO. 46 FOR 2020



November 20, 2020

To Mayor Bruchey and Members of the City Council:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

To obtain City Department or City Boards and Commissions meeting information, please visit <https://www.hagerstownmd.org/27/Government>. We encourage you visit our website at <https://www.hagerstownmd.org> for all City-related updates. Other inquiries may be made by visiting the City Resident 311 page at <https://www.hagerstownmd.org/841/Services>.

NOVEMBER 2020						
<i>For additional information and a complete list of City events, please visit our Calendar of Events on the City's website at http://www.hagerstownmd.org/calendar.aspx</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ELECTION DAY No M&C Meeting	4 7pm Hagerstown Planning Commission Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10 4pm Work Session	11 HOLIDAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	12 4pm Board of Traffic & Parking Meeting 4:30pm Hagerstown Historic District Commission Meeting	13	14
15	16	17 7pm Regular Session	18 7pm Hagerstown Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	19	20	21
22	23 New Elected Officials To Be Sworn In (Time/Location T.B.D.)	24 4pm Inaugural Work Session for Newly Elected Officials	25	26 HOLIDAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	27 HOLIDAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	28
29	30					

COMMUNICATIONS

This Week's Headlines & Media Releases:

- Pandemic Worries and Strengthening Economy Among Public Concerns Expressed to Lawmakers
- Historic Railcars at Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum Vandalized
- City of Hagerstown Focuses on Blight, Tax Differential in Delegation Discussion
- Veterans Honored During Annual Ceremony

- Hagerstown Fire Dept. Seeks to Fill Four Positions
- Hagerstown to Vote on Solar Energy Lobbying Services
- Washington County Restaurant Relief Program Fields More Than 100 Applications
- Bruchey Holds on to Lead for Fifth Hagerstown Council Seat
- More Hospitalizations, Deaths as COVID Surges in Washington County
- City Approves \$573K Fire Pumper Purchase
- Maryland Gov. Hogan Sets New Limits on Religious Institutions, Restaurants, Bars
- Press Release: Virtual City Center Tree Lighting

This Week's Video Projects

- Mayor & City Council Regular Session
- New Administration Orientation
- "Hub Bub" Video Podcast

Channel 25 Hub City Now Programming:

- Mayor & City Council Meeting
- "Utility Payment Plans" :30 Spot
- PayByPhone YouTube Video
- "PayByPhone" Introduction Video
- "Washington County Heroes" Face Covering Campaign Videos
- "Hub Bub" Video Podcast
- Symptoms of COVID-19 Informational Video
- Stormwater Program Informational Video
- MTA Commuter Connection

City Website:

- www.hagerstownmd.org attracted 9,586 user visits for the week of November 9-15, 2020.

- The most popular top entrances (the first page users accessed on the website):

• Home Page	2,303
• Utility Billing Page	1,136
• Civic Alerts Page	270
• Police Page	160
• Collection-Schedules-Zones Page	150
• Firefighters Page	126
• Bids Page	117
• Flying Fitness Page	100
• Jobs Page	85
• Coronavirus Page	81

- Top Searches:

- "True"
- "Pay my bill"
- "Jobs"
- "Trash"
- "Firefighters login"

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Neighborhoods 1st: Members of the Neighborhoods 1st Leadership Team held a roundtable with HPD staff to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Business Development Update: Main Street opened a "Holiday Cheer Shop" to Main Street businesses whom are eligible for the Holiday Cheer grant. This is an alternative way to participate in the holiday decorating opportunity that allows for businesses to "grab and go" and decorate their storefront without having to do the shopping, forward funding, or waiting for the reimbursement check to come in. The businesses have been exceedingly grateful for Main Streets efforts during this time.

The Economic Development team has participated in the following this week:

- Fort Detrick Alliance Board meeting
- EPA Brownfields Basics Training
- Business Recovery Partners Team
- Reopen Washington County - Stakeholder's Meeting

City Center Tree Lighting. Due to the rising numbers of COVID cases in Washington County, staff has modified the annual **City Center Tree Lighting which will now be held virtual.** On Monday, November 23 from 5–6 p.m. the event will be livestreamed on the City of Hagerstown Facebook page as well as City of Hagerstown Department of Community & Economic Development Facebook page, the City's YouTube channel, or on Antietam Channel 25. Santa and Mayor Bruchey will light the tree. Ryan Smetzer will host this unique celebration featuring music by The Hub City Brass & Wind Ensemble and online contests for a chance to win downtown restaurant gift cards.

City Farmers Market

- The Market recently welcomed new vendors including: Urban Delights, Sofie Sage Bags, WindUp Raven Creations, Susan's Creations and Hub City Permaculture.
- Staff has planned four Saturdays of Christmas at the Market. As always, the Market is open every Saturday from 6 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Market is also a Toys for Tots donation site this year.
- Special dates at the City Farmers Market include the following:
 - November 28 | Small Business Saturday. Shop from a local vendor!
 - December 5 | Senior Day (65+) – 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free coffee and vendor specials.
 - December 12 | SANTA – 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Children 12 & under receive goody bags while they last.
 - December 19 | Last Chance Saturday – 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Enter to win a door prize. Drawings held at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m. Must be present to win.

PARKS & ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING DIVISION

1. **Wesel Boulevard.** Wesel will reopen to traffic on Wednesday, November 25th. Closing the road for two months allowed us to get 70% of the project complete at a significant cost savings.



2. **Electronics Recycling.** Waste Management collected two trailer loads of items in one of the busiest events we have ever hosted.



3. **Stormwater Protection Program.** Staff continues to gear up for assessing the fee in the new year and developing restoration projects to meet our State permit requirements. A significant effort is being put into impervious area delineation, merging data with utility billing and finalizing parcel database.
4. **Maryland Energy Administration Grant.** Staff submitted a grant application to MEA to install LED fixtures that will replace existing street lights in the Public Square and "000" blocks of North & South Potomac Street.

PARKS DIVISION

1. **Christmas.** Staff is working hard to complete as much of the City Park lights as possible before the December 4th lighting. We feel the larger "on-lake" display, pavilion lights, and bell will all be complete and synchronized to music. If weather and time permits, we will complete the silhouette relocations and tree uplights.
2. **Skate Park Task Force.** The Skate Park Task Force met for the sixth and final time on Monday. They plan to present their recommendations to the new Mayor & Council on December 1st.

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

New Development Cases:

- 55 Sycamore Street. Columbia Gas of Maryland – site plan for MDE-approved remediation work.

Board of Zoning Appeals: The BZA heard one case on November 18th:

- 543 Security Road. Peoples Gospel Tabernacle of Hagerstown – granted a variance to reduce the front setback along Fridinger Avenue to 13 feet. This is an amendment to the case heard last month due to a measuring/drafting error discovered after the hearing.
- 1039 The Terrace. Conner Peterson – variance to install a fence in the front yard along West Irvin Avenue. This case was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the hearing.

Covid-19 Precautions. Beginning December 1st, all Planning Boards will be holding virtual meetings in response to the County-wide increase in Covid-19 cases.

Weekly Activity Report: November 9–13, 2020

PERMITS								
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF NEW APPLICATIONS</u>							<u>NUMBER ISSUED</u>
Building	6	Residential -	4	Commercial -	2	Other -	0	6
Electric	8	Residential -	2	Commercial -	5	Other -	1	10
Plumbing	6	Residential -	3	Commercial -	3	Other -	0	6
Mechanical	9	Residential -	2	Commercial -	7	Other -	0	7
Engineering Dept.	3							3
TOTAL	32		11		17		1	32
<u>Est. Value of Issued Building Permit Projects:</u>					<u>FY21 Fiscal Year Totals:</u>			
Residential	\$ 322,950.00				\$ 6,892,085.00			
Commercial	\$ 725,000.00				\$ 54,551,111.00			
Apartment	\$ 1,000.00				\$ 431,750.00			
Sign	\$ 0.00				\$ 57,851.00			
TOTAL	\$ 1,048,950.00				\$ 61,932,797.00			
<u>Projects of Interest</u>								
- Construct one-story structure for Verizon at 18000 Garland Groh Boulevard - \$475,000								
- Tenant fit-out for new laundromat - \$250,000								
- Construct three new single-family homes in Hager's Crossing - \$315,000								

RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM YEAR: JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021		
	PROPERTIES	UNITS
Registrations received week of Nov 9 – Nov 13	11	29
New applications issued week of Nov 9 – Nov 13	2	3
Total 2020-2021 registered (includes additions and subtractions since 6/8/20)	3,710	9,345
Percentage of rental license renewals that have registered for the 2020-2021 license year	95.7%	96.1%
Notes: The 2020-2021 rental license renewals for 9,722 units in 3,872 properties were mailed on June 9, 2020.		
PAYMENT		
Weekly payment received	\$ 1,950	
Weekly adjustment/credits	\$ 300	
INSPECTIONS		
TYPE	NUMBER CONDUCTED	
Building	39	
Electrical	39	
Plumbing	25	
Mechanical	14	
Safety	12	
Neighborhood Vitality	12	
Quality of Life	0	
Preventive Maintenance	5	
Planning & Zoning	2	
INSPECTIONS KEY:		
Categories of Conditions		
Safety	Conditions which are or reasonably present a hazard to occupant or public.	
	<u>Example:</u> No smoke alarms, improper wiring, handrails	
Neighborhood Vitality	Conditions which cause or tend to cause diminution to property	
	<u>Example:</u> Weeds, trash, debris, junk vehicles, deterioration of a structure.	
Quality of Life	Conditions which negatively impact occupants.	
	<u>Example:</u> Damaged surfaces, damages elements, missing screens	
Preventive Maintenance	Conditions which are technical violations and need addressed to prevent deterioration.	
	<u>Example:</u> Mortar deterioration, clogged gutters, minor rotting wood	
Planning & Zoning	Conditions which violate Land Management Code requirements (zoning, forest conservation, floodplain, historic district and other requirements) and progress inspections of development projects for site plan compliance.	
	<u>Examples:</u> Uses not permitted in property's zone, construction of new facilities, follow up inspections on open violations.	

POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATS

Calls for Service:	1,323	Field Interviews:	3
Arrests/Warrants Served:	12	Moving Violations:	21
Domestic Violence Calls:	24	Safety Repair Orders:	0
DUI Arrests:	1	Warnings:	40
Reports Filed:	109		

REPORTS

11/12/20: Officer K. Hill made contact with a victim of fraud. The victim advised that she was contacted by a male who stated he worked for Amazon and that he had connections to her bank account. His call was to inform her that fraudulent charges were being made from her account to an unknown source in Russia and she must take action quickly. She was instructed to purchase a large sum of Target gift cards. The suspect stated that he would gather the credit card information and put that money back into her bank account. The victim did as instructed. When she was unable to reach the suspect, she then realized she has been scammed. The officer advised her to work with her bank since this would be an international matter. No further details are available.

11/13/20: Officer Repp responded to South Cleveland Avenue for a parking complaint. The silver Honda Civic in question did not have a current registration. It is unknown who had been driving the vehicle. Wrenches and Wreckers Tow Company towed the vehicle to their tow lot. The smell of marijuana was coming from the vehicle. Wrenches and Wrecker attempted to open the vehicle so officers could search the vehicle but it could not be opened. A hold was placed on the vehicle for the registered owner. No further information available.

11/14/20: Officer K. Hill made contact with a victim who stated her 2017 Kia Sportage had been stolen. The victim had her vehicle parked in her driveway, however left it completely unsecured. Unfortunately, she had a spare set of car keys in the vehicle. Nothing of value had been left in the vehicle. The victim stated she did not think there were any security cameras in the area where the vehicle was parked. There is no suspect at this time and no further details are available.

11/15/20: Officer Daveler was dispatched to Randolph Avenue for a report of a possible burglary. The victim stated that someone had done damage to her windows and front door of her home. The victim had the water and electric shut off to her residence and had moved in with her mother. The victim did however permit a male to stay at the residence. When she discovered evidence of drug usage and that he was permitting others to stay in her home, she took steps to have him evicted. When she last visited her home on November 1st, she discovered the damage as well as the appliances had been moved from the original placement. The victim is suspicious the male did the damage. She will be working with the court system for the eviction of the male and property damage.

11/18/20: HPD was alerted to a shooting in the area of Matthews Alley cross from Sheetz. Officer L. Dean located the victim laying on the ground in Matthews Alley. The victim was alert but complaining of belly pain and had a gunshot wound to the lower back and abdomen area. Community Rescue Service arrived and took over the care of the victim. She was transported to Meritus Medical Center for further treatment. The officer was able to learn the victim and her boyfriend were walking in Matthews Alley when a black vehicle pulled up to them and asked if they had any marijuana. A black male exited the vehicle and began shooting at them subsequently hitting the victim. The officer collected evidence from the scene. There is no further information available.

PRESS RELEASES

UPDATE: On 11/16/20 at about 12:20 p.m., HPD Detectives made a second arrest in the murder of Daynard Johnson. Brock Jerome Smith, age 31 of Hagerstown, was arrested on an active warrant for the murder. Smith was stopped in a vehicle in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and was taken in to custody without incident. HPD would like to thank the Greencastle Police Department for their assistance in this matter. Smith is currently being held at the Franklin County Pennsylvania jail and is awaiting extradition. This is still an on-going homicide investigation and HPD expects additional arrests to be made. Smith is charged with the following: 1st and 2nd Degree Murder, Conspiracy to Commit 2nd Degree Murder, firearms related charges and numerous other charges in relation to the commission of murder.

PUBLIC WORKS

CHART NO. 1 – GENERAL PARKING SYSTEM DATA

		Current Week	Previous Week
Number of Permit Holders	A & E Deck	103	101
	University District Deck	198	198
Number of Student Permits	Central, Market, Rochester Lots	27	29
Number of Patrons Using Decks	A & E Deck	957	1112
	University District Deck	783	932
Number of Citations Issued	(Includes Warnings)	147	252
Late Payment Notifications		NA	17
Peak Occupancy (%)	A & E Deck	51%	52%
		Thu @ Noon	Wed @ Noon
Peak Occupancy (%)	University District Deck	36%	38%
		Tue @ 2 PM	Thu @ 2 PM

CHART NO. 2 – A&E PARKING DECK WEEKLY OCCUPANCY

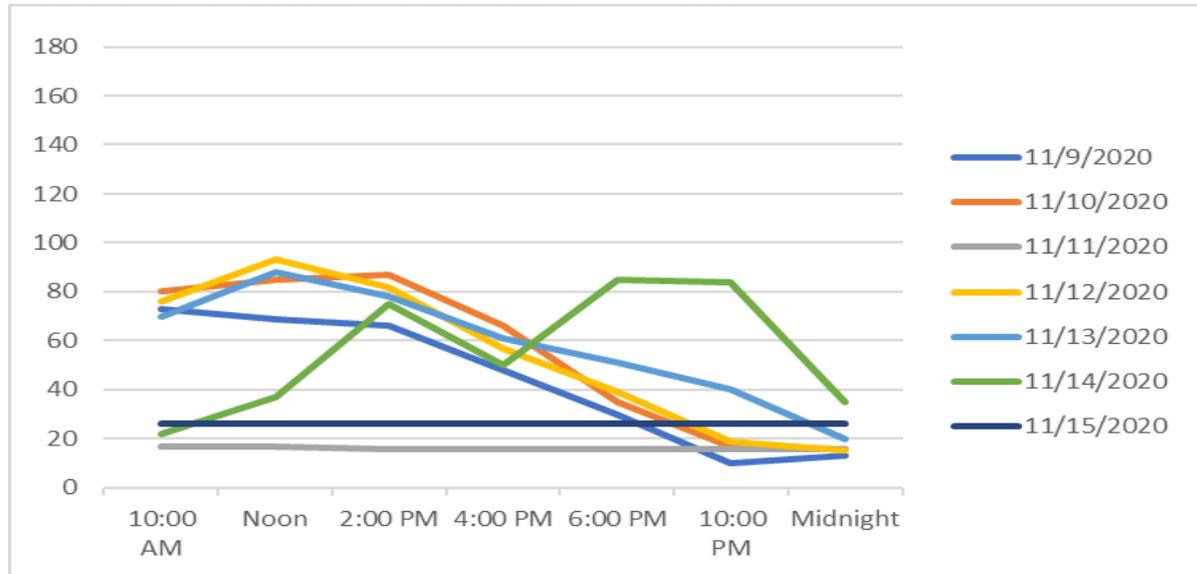
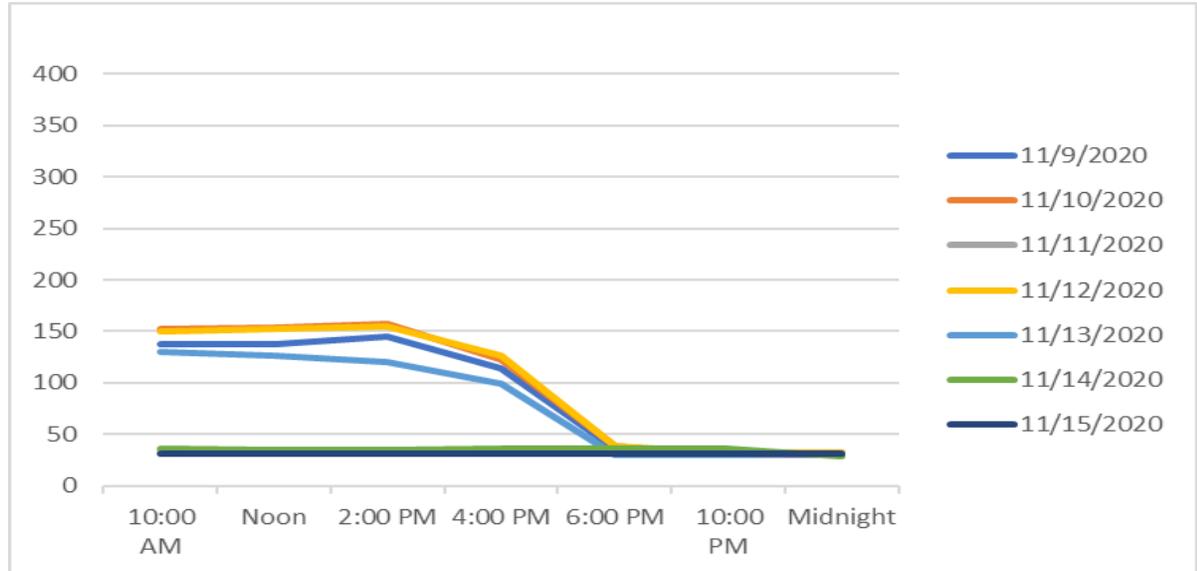


CHART NO. 3 – UD PARKING DECK WEEKLY OCCUPANCY



CENTRAL MAINTENANCE GARAGE REPAIR DATA

	Current Week	Previous Week
DCED	1	2
Fire	0	4
Human Resources	0	0
Light	0	0
Parks & Engineering	1	1
Police	6	7
Public Works	2	10
Wastewater	0	3
Water	1	0
Weekly Totals	11	27
Yearly Total	1081	

AFTER HOUR CALL BACKS. There were no call backs for this week.

DELBERT HORST TO RETIRE. Street Supervisor, Delbert Horst, is scheduled to retire on Monday, November 30th. Delbert's career was mostly in the Traffic Control Division working as a traffic signal technician and as the supervisor for a period of time. When the department was short-handed, he lent his talents in construction to help rebuild the handrails around the City Hall clock tower, designed and built a "spiral" staircase in the Elizabeth Hager Center to access the roof, constructed the bell base sitting on the 2nd floor of City Hall and many other significant projects. His handywork can be found all throughout the City. For the last 3 ½ years, Delbert has filled the role of Street Supervisor finally deciding to step down and enjoy retirement. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

Service Calls

- Sat. 11/14
- 753 West Washington Street – total outage; customer's main breaker tripped. Time Out: 15.5-16.0
 - 204 North Cannon Avenue – wire down; no HLD facilities were not found to be affected. Time Out: 16.3-16.7
- Sun. 11/15
- 930 Mount Aetna Road – wire down; wire belonging to Verizon. Time Out: 8.2-8.7
 - 1151 The Terrace – pole damaged; street light was broken in traffic accident. The circuitry was disconnected and the facilities were removed until follow up replacement was completed the following business day. Time Out: 11.9-12.2
 - 330 Dual Highway – lines down; lines were found to belong to Antietam Cable. Time Out: 13.6-13.8
 - 423 North Locust Street – lines arcing; the tree branches were trimmed from the service wires. Time Out: 18.1-19.4
 - 11 East Baltimore Street – partial outage; squirrel caused a fuse to operate. Time Out: 19.7-22.5
- Mon. 11/16
- Pangborn Park – pole damaged; The circuitry was disconnected and the facilities were removed until follow up replacement was completed the following business day. Time Out: 5.5-6.3

Engineering

- Multiple permit reviews, underground locates, and service upgrade requests have been reviewed and/or completed by engineering staff.
- The Staff Engineer finalized plans for electric utility facility upgrades along Wesel Blvd and along with the Finance Dept. posted an RFP for major materials needed to complete the work.

- Engineering staff provided lighting plans and updates for improvements being made to Pangborn Park.
- Engineering staff performed substation inspections and reports.
- HLD line crews and HLD's substation contractor installed a new recloser and control at our Bulldog substation. These devices and solid-state controls will reliably protect HLD's overhead and underground equipment from overcurrent events while reporting operations and values to HLD's SCADA system.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, November 11, 2020	6.26	0.97
Thursday, November 12 2020	6.27	0.08
Friday, November 13 2020	5.33	0.00
Saturday, November 14, 2020	5.16	0.00
Sunday, November 15, 2020	5.32	0.26
Monday, November 16, 2020	5.35	0.00
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	5.33	0.00
Weekly – Avg. Flow / Total Rainfall	5.57	1.31
Nov - Avg. Flow/Total Rainfall	5.26	1.33

Miscellaneous

- Replaced lower bearing and bearing housing on screw conveyor(s) at headworks.
- Repaired leak and replaced air release valve on heating system.
- Calibrated O2 sensor on PSA oxygen skid, performed maintenance on valves and actuators.
- Replaced faulty interlock and pneumatic air switch on make-up air fan in boiler room.
- Installed insulation, heat tape and winterized plant equipment where needed.
- Routine MVP Plant Work orders & Corrective Work orders.

Wastewater Collection

SSES Weekly Progress

Activity	Districts	L. F. main	Feet of lateral	# inspected
CCTV Inspections	N/A			
Flushing	#9	9,722'		

Collection System Maintenance Tasks

- Sewer backup, 1217 Sherman Avenue, problem on the private side.
- Odor complaint, 17650 Potterbell Way, plumbing issue inside residence, flushed main line as a precautionary remedy.
- Grinder pump call, 1533 Kensington, reset pressure switch.
- Grinder pump call, 11040 Eastwood Drive, replaced pig tails.
- Grinder pump call, 11127 Mahogany Drive, replaced pump.
- Nearing completion on Eldridge Drive project for Public Works.
- Continued working on PS #9, new SCADA installation, and PLC upgrade.
- Cleaned and disinfected Shop and all Collections vehicles.
- General pump shop repair work.

Administration

Wastewater Division – Customer Call Log Summary 2020							
Type	Blockages	Grinder Pumps	Odor Complaints	Flushing	WW Pump Station	Other	Totals
Weekly	1	2	1	0	0	3	7
YTD 2020	49	84	18	1	1	117	270

Engineering

- Review of Site Development and City Permit Drawings.
- Gathering information for service inquiries.
- Updating GIS databases completed with water projects.
- Ongoing Construction Inspection of ongoing water projects.

WATER DIVISION

Plant Flows – System Demand (MGD)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Willson</u>	<u>Breichner</u>	<u>Total</u>
11/12/20	9.72		9.72
11/13/20	9.56		9.56
11/14/20	9.54		9.54
11/15/20	9.38		9.38
11/16/20	9.76		9.76
11/17/20	9.76		9.76
11/18/20	9.64		9.64
Average			9.62

Water Production at R. C. Willson & Pump Station Distribution

- Staff worked on facility maintenance and routine preventative maintenance.

Water Production at Breichner / Edgemont Reservoir. The Edgemont Reservoir pool elevation is currently at 1.83 feet. Site evaluation continues per the contract with Hazen and Triad. City staff and Hazen and Sawyer continue to work with MDE Dam Safety on the final Dam Evaluation Report, design criteria and project schedule. Emergency Action Plans have been completed.

Water Distribution

- Crews performed customer service work and new meter installations as needed.
- Crews continue to replace residential meters throughout the water service area.
- Crews installed new service on Willow Circle.

Laboratory

- Process and regulatory testing were routine for the week.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Site Plans	-	-
Preliminary Plats	-	-
Final Plats	-	-
Replat	-	-
Grading Plan	-	-
Development Plan	-	-
Building Permits	6	-

- Review of Site Development and City permit drawings
- Construction Inspection of ongoing construction projects
- Updating GIS mapping
- Responding to inquiries about water service



Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Nicewarner
City Administrator