

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT NO. 6 FOR 2021



February 12, 2021

To Mayor Keller 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>.

FEBRUARY 2021						
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						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3pm Executive Session 4pm Work Session	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 3pm Executive Session 4pm Work Session	10 4pm Hagerstown Planning Commission Meeting	11 4pm Board of Traffic & Parking Meeting 4:30pm Hagerstown Historic District Commission Meeting	12	13
14	15 HOLIDAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED	16 4pm Work Session	17 7pm Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23 7pm Regular Session	24 7pm Hagerstown Planning Commission Meeting	25 4:30pm Hagerstown Historic District Commission Meeting	26	27
28						

COMMUNICATIONS

This Week's Headlines & Media Releases:

- A Year With COVID: State of the County Video Hits Highlights of 2020
- Spotlight on Jonathan Street
- Washington County Offers Unique Sites in Black History
- County Seeks a New Airport Director
- Board Awards WCPS Superintendent New Four-Year Contract
- Committee Begins Weighing Future of Some Washington County Schools
- Staff Trying to Contain COVID at Washington County Jail
- Four Paramedics Could Join County's Roster
- CVS to Offer Limited Number of COVID-19 Vaccines
- Jobs, Transportation are Among Chamber's Priorities
- HCC Nursing Ranked Second in the State

- Trash & Recycling Advisory: Presidents' Day

This Week's Video Projects

- Mayor & Council Work Session
- "Council WRap"
- WMPA Graduation Video Production
- "Hub-Bub" Video Podcast

Channel 25 Hub City Now Programming:

- Mayor & City Council Meeting
- "Council WRap"
- Meritus/"The Flip Side" Vaccine Segments
- "Utility Payment Plan" Promo
- Black History Month Tribute to Washington County Athletes
- Symptoms of COVID-19 Informational Video
- "Hub-Bub" Video Podcast
- Stormwater Program Informational Video
- MTA Commuter Connection

City Website:

- www.hagerstownmd.org attracted 12,857 user visits for the week of February 1-7, 2021.

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

• Home Page	2,921
• Utility Billing Page	1,442
• Civic Alerts Page	895
• Collection-Schedules-Zones Page	664
• Trash & Recycling Page	304
• Police Page	197
• Bids Page	125
• Firefighters Page	125
• Jobs Page	114
• FAQ Page	83

- Top Searches:

- "When should I set out trash/recycling/yard waste for collection?"
- "Pay my bill"
- "Trash"
- "Residential trash"
- "True"

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HYAC: The Hagerstown Youth Advisory Council met on February 8th to discuss plans for an upcoming Earth Day Clean-up Event.

Community Development Update: Project update for January includes:

- Residential Rehabilitation Program Projects in Progress: 11
- CDBG Program Loan Payments: \$3,081.23
- Business Revolving Loan Fund Payments: \$4,052.91
- Environmental Reviews Completed: 5
- Maryland Historical Trust Reviews: 1

- Staff completed an application cycle for the FY 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service funding. Applications were accepted until January 8, 2021 and 14 applications were received. Applications will now be reviewed by staff and the CDBG Citizen Advisory Committee with award announcements occurring in the Spring.
- Staff completed an application cycle for a second allocation of federal CARES Act funding through the Community Development Block Grant program. Applications were accepted until January 22, 2021 and six applications were received. Applications are currently being reviewed with Mayor and City Council.
- Staff opened a 30-day comment period for residents to provide feedback on suggested funding changes to the FY21 CDBG Action Plan. Residents have until February 22, 2021 to provide feedback on the proposed addition of a skate-park activity and a proposed rehabilitation of the fit room at Fairgrounds Park. Those interested in providing a comment can contact DCED or do so on the City's website.

Business Development Update. Economic Development team members participated in the following this week:

- Secretary Holt visit to tour of properties throughout the City
- Weekly Business Recovery Partners Team

Events. Staff attended a Maryland State Arts Council webinar: *Problem Solving Through the Creative Process*

PARKS & ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING DIVISION

1. **UIP/Cultural Trail Phase II.** The Planning Commission approved the plat to purchase the Hager5 land and the County Commissioners approved an Easement for the land behind 33 West Washington Street for the Plaza. Staff plans to bid the contract on February 24th.

2. **Engineering Statistics**

Description	Week of 2/7/21	Calendar Year 2021 TOTALS
Traffic complaints received	8	19
Work Orders completed	5	12
Traffic counts completed	0	0
Construction Projects		
Description	Week of 2/7/21	Calendar Year 2021 TOTALS
Projects advertised for bids	0	13
RFP's Advertised	0	2
Projects under construction	9	10
Projects completed	0	0

PARKS DIVISION

1. **Earth Day and Arbor Day 2021.** Staff is partnering with the Hagerstown Youth Advisory Council, Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance, and Department of Natural Resources for an Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 24th, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Hager House. Activities that day will include trash pick-up, stream clean-up and tree planting.

2. **Virtual Programs**
 - Belly Dance (hybrid class): Mondays at 7 p.m.
 - Belly Dance: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
 - Dance Fitness: Mondays, 6pm
 - Yoga for Weight Loss: Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
 - Yoga to Relax and Renew: Tuesdays at 6 p.m.
 - Strength Training: Thursdays at 6 p.m.
 - Square Dancing: Thursdays at 7 p.m.
 - Virtual Gymnastics: Saturdays at 7 p.m.; Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

3. **Ice Rink.** The Ice Rink has been dealing with a refrigerant leak in the ice making equipment. Staff is working diligently to make temporary repairs and plans to address the issue completely when ice is removed next summer for annual maintenance.

4. **Community Garden.** Last call for interested gardeners for the 2021 season. Applications are due February 16th. As of now, it appears we have enough gardeners for each plot and a short waiting list.

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

New Development Cases:

- 811 Wesel Boulevard – NorthPoint Development – site plan for tenant in Building 2.

New Businesses:

- 20 West Washington Street – Dream Affairs, LLC – event planning business for the The Grand building ballroom.
- 48 East Franklin Street – ONE Touch Tattooz – tattoo services and graphics.
- 4 West Washington Street – Helping Hands Health Services – administrative office for mental health services for youth and adults.
- 186 Eastern Boulevard North – HealthFirst, LLC – community pharmacy.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission considered these matters on February 10:

- 43-45 West Washington Street – Hager5, LLC – approved the final plat.
- South End Shopping Center Bank – 1107 Maryland Avenue – approved the site plan with waivers for a new bank on a pad site.
- 1329 Pennsylvania Avenue – Barbara Bacon – approved a waiver request to the buffer requirement for a fence.

Board of Zoning Appeals: The BZA hearing was postponed to a date to be determined later. The Zoom meeting failed and a quorum could not be attained.

Weekly Activity Report: February 1–February 5, 2021

PERMITS								
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF NEW APPLICATIONS</u>							<u>NUMBER ISSUED</u>
Building	20	Residential -	13	Commercial -	6	Other -	1	7
Electric	10	Residential -	4	Commercial -	5	Other -	1	8
Plumbing	6	Residential -	6	Commercial -	0	Other -	0	6
Mechanical	9	Residential -	5	Commercial -	4	Other -	0	11
Engineering Dept.	0							0
TOTAL	45		28		15		2	32
<u>Est. Value of Issued Building Permit Projects:</u>					<u>FY21 Fiscal Year Totals:</u>			
Residential				\$ 281,500.00				\$ 19,386,341.00
Commercial				\$ 161,000.00				\$ 71,330,656.00
Apartment				\$ 4,000.00				\$ 715,500.00
Sign				\$ 13,100.00				\$ 94,818.00
TOTAL				\$ 459,600.00				\$ 91,067,715.00

Projects of Interest		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire pump house with water storage tank at 1050 Wesel Boulevard - \$50,000 - Tenant interior renovations for Brooke's House Coffee Shop at 1081 Maryland Avenue - \$100,000 - Construct single-family home at 12702 Nelson Drive - \$105,000 - Construct single-family home at 352 Dayspring Lane - \$165,000 		
RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM YEAR: JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021		
	PROPERTIES	UNITS
Registrations received week of Feb 1 – Feb 5	0	0
New applications issued week of Feb 1 – Feb 5	2	2
Total 2020-2021 registered (includes additions and subtractions since 6/8/20)	3,772	9,543
Percentage of rental license renewals that have registered for the 2020-2021 license year	99.0%	99.0%
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	\$ 0	
Weekly adjustment/credits	\$ 150	
INSPECTIONS		
TYPE	NUMBER CONDUCTED	
Building	23	
Electrical	34	
Plumbing	14	
Mechanical	6	
Safety	14	
Neighborhood Vitality	38	
Quality of Life	3	
Preventive Maintenance	0	
Planning & Zoning	0	
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:	1,210	Field Interviews:	18
Arrests/Warrants Served:	11	Moving Violations:	33
Domestic Violence Calls:	20	Safety Repair Orders:	2
DUI Arrests:	3	Warnings:	37
Reports Filed:	92		

REPORTS

02/04/21: Officer Michael Anderson was dispatched to Summer Street for a report of a motor vehicle blocking the roadway. Upon arrival the officer found a grey Jeep blocking the roadway. A check with dispatch showed the vehicle was registered to an address in Frederick, Maryland. No other information was available to contact the owner. The surrounding neighborhood houses were checked to see if anyone knew the owner of the Jeep, however the officer was unable to locate the owner. Just as the vehicle was about to be towed, the owner arrived on scene and claimed the vehicle. The owner paid the tow fee and the officer released the vehicle to the owner.

02/06/21: Officer Huff responded to Sheetz on East Washington Street in reference to a male who was trespassing. The officer approached the male and asked him to identify himself. The male gave his name and the officer recognized him as the male that Officer Romero had just recently served a No Trespass Letter on. Officer Huff was able to verify the letter which had been served on the male back on November 6, 2020. The male stated he uses the restroom at Sheetz since he is homeless. The officer explained to the male that he was no longer permitted on the property of any Sheetz in Hagerstown. The male left the Sheetz property. No additional details are available.

02/07/21: Officer Flinn was dispatched to the emergency room at Meritus Medical Center for a reported assault. The victim stated that her boyfriend assaulted her and she needed medical attention. The victim explained that she and her boyfriend were in her parked vehicle at Triple Clean Laundry Mat on Salem Avenue when the conversation turned physical. The boyfriend struck the victim numerous times in the head. He also did damage to the victim's vehicle. The emergency room staff diagnosed the victim as having a concussion. The officer observed the victim's face to be swollen. The victim was advised to get a protective order against the boyfriend and also file for Malicious Destruction of Property with District Court for the damage to her vehicle. Officer Flinn will be filing charges against the boyfriend. No further details are available at this time.

02/08/21: Officer Nichols responded to West Washington Street for a report of a disturbance. The caller stated that she and her boyfriend had a verbal disagreement at Meritus Medical Center. She left Meritus in her vehicle and told the boyfriend he needed to find another way home. When she arrived home, she began to pack his personal belongings in his backpack. The victim called the police when the boyfriend arrived at her home and attempted to gain access into her residence. The boyfriend stated he just wanted to retrieve his personal belongings. The victim advised police that she had found a handgun in her boyfriend's backpack. The officer spoke with the boyfriend and questioned him about the gun. He stated he does not own a gun and had no gun in his backpack. The boyfriend seemed to think the victim was trying to "set him up". The officer confiscated the gun since the gun had no serial number and there was no way to verify the owner. The boyfriend received all his personal belongings and left the residence with no further issues.

OTHER NEWS/INFORMATION

Congratulations to the Graduates of the Western Maryland Police Academy. On Friday, February 5, 2021, five recruits graduated from the Western Maryland Police Academy and received their assignments in the Patrol Division at the Hagerstown Police Department. Officer Michael McDermott and Officer Celmarie Perez Velez were assigned to the Alpha Platoon under the command of Lieutenant John Lehman. Officer Brandon Decker, Officer Hanna Rowe and Officer Travis Wheat were assigned to the Baker Platoon under the command of Lieutenant Joe Zimmerer. All five officers have been sworn in and began their field training on Monday, February 8, 2021. We congratulate the new officers for their accomplishments and wish them much success with their field training program.

Congratulations to Detective Dustin Vogel - Officer of the Month. Detective Dustin Vogel has been selected as Co-Officer of the Month for December 2020. Detective Vogel has been employed by the City of Hagerstown for six years and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigation Unit.



Detective Vogel was nominated by his supervisor for Officer of the Month for a variety of reasons, but primarily for volunteering to respond to investigate a recent homicide while he was scheduled to be off with his family. While not “technically” supposed to be working or on call, Detective Vogel volunteered to come in to help with the investigation and then ended up taking the lead on the investigation. Along with other detectives, Detective Vogel spent his entire evening working the case. With little sleep, he returned to work the next day to continue the investigation, sacrificing time with his family to do his part to bring closure to the case.

Even though Detective Vogel has only been assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division for less than a year, he has been the lead investigator for several recent major cases. Incidents like this demonstrate his level of commitment to the Department and the citizens

of Hagerstown. According to his supervisor, “The citizens of Hagerstown are lucky to have a Detective like him.”

Based on his level of commitment to the job and his outstanding work, Detective Vogel has been selected as the Hagerstown Police Department Co-Officer of the Month for December 2020. The Hagerstown Police Department is proud to have dedicated officers such as Detective Dustin Vogel as one of its own and congratulates him for a job well done.

PUBLIC WORKS

CHART NO. 1 – GENERAL PARKING SYSTEM DATA

		Current Week	Previous Week
Number of Permit Holders	A & E Deck	120	118
	University District Deck	238	238
Number of Student Permits	Central, Market, Rochester Lots	22	21
Number of Patrons Using Decks	A & E Deck	NA	893
	University District Deck	NA	815
Number of Citations Issued	(Includes Warnings)	1	263
Late Payment Notifications		NA	1
Peak Occupancy (%)	A & E Deck	NA	45% Fri @ Noon and Sat @ 6 PM
	University District Deck	NA	31% Wed @ 10 AM

PARKING NOTES. Due to the inclement weather that occurred this week, the parking decks were basically free all week. When that occurs, occupancy data cannot be retrieved. Street sweeping was suspended (and continues to be suspended until further notice) so there were no sweeping tickets. Parking enforcement was pretty much just major infractions such as parking at a hydrant.

CENTRAL MAINTENANCE GARAGE REPAIR DATA

	Current Week	Previous Week
DCED	0	0
Fire	0	0
Human Resources	0	0
Light	1	1
Parks & Engineering	0	0
Police	1	8
Public Works	7	3
Wastewater	1	2
Water	5	3
Weekly Totals	15	17
Yearly Total	105	

AFTER HOUR CALL BACKS

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 @ 4:45 PM: Report of Avalon Avenue blocked with snow in the street. Staff found a minor pile that had been thrown into the street from someone digging out their car. Street was cleared.

Thursday, February 4, 2021 @ 5:29 PM: 911 called about a missing manhole lid at the rear of 200 Summit Ave. Staff found a missing water meter lid that had probably been pushed off during snow operations. A traffic cone was placed to mark the location and the Water Department was notified the next day.

Friday, February 5, 2021 @ 3:15 PM: Unannounced delivery of road salt delivered to 51 West Memorial Boulevard. An equipment operator was called in to receive the salt and place it in the storage shed.

SNOW STORMS #6 and #7

Winter storm Orlena arrived on Sunday, January 31, 2021 and continued to snow over the next 3 days. While it was not an overly deep snow, 10.8” of snow had fallen when it was over. Crews continued to work through the week to clear streets, parking lots and parking spaces throughout the city. Alleys were also opened due to the amount of snow.

Another storm hit on Sunday, February 7, 2021. The warmer temperatures made this a relatively simple storm to address with mostly road salt. Very little plowing was needed to remove the 2.4” of snow.

SEASONAL STAFF. Public Works is currently advertising for Seasonal Staff positions to begin work in early April. These employees are general laborers helping with painting, property abatements, mowing grass, etc. Starting wage is \$11.75/hour (current minimum wage). If you know anyone interested in applying, please direct them to the Human Resources office either online or at (301) 739-8577 ext. 298.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

ELECTRIC DIVISION

Service Calls

- Mon. 2/8 - 430 ½ Mechanic Street – total outage; the customer’s meter socket was burnt up and advised to contact electrician for needed repairs. Time Out: 18.6-19.4
- Wed. 2/10 - Mitchell Avenue and Fremont Street – total outage; line crews replaced transformer fuse. Time Out: 1.8-2.7
- Rear, 58 East North Avenue – total outage; crews replaced the faulted transformer. Time Out: 5.6-9.0

Engineering

- Multiple permit reviews, underground locates, and service upgrade requests have been reviewed and/or completed by engineering staff.
- The Engineering Designer completed multiple designs for system improvements and customer work.
- The Staff Engineer completed lighting design and specification details for the A&E Trail extension.
- The Staff Engineer began design a new 13.8kV service to a proposed manufacturing facility and rebuild of surrounding HLD facilities.
- The Staff Engineer released a bid for power transformer bushings to replace aging HLD units.
- Engineering staff purchased tools and materials to aid in the maintenance and construction of HLD electric facilities.
- The Engineering Designer continue work involving the affect Wesel Blvd road improvements have on lighting facilities.

- Engineering staff completed multiple updates to HLD's electric model in the GIS space.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Wastewater Treatment Plant at Frederick Street

Date	Flow (mgd)	Rainfall (inches)
Wednesday, February 3, 2021	5.76	0.00
Thursday, February 4, 2021	6.25	0.00
Friday, Feb 5, 2021	6.42	0.00
Saturday, February 6, 2021	6.00	0.00
Sunday, February 7, 2021	6.21	0.09
Monday, February 8, 2021	6.04	0.00
Tuesday, February 9, 2021	5.90	0.00
Weekly – Avg. Flow / Total Rainfall	6.08	0.09
Feb - Avg. Flow/Total Rainfall	6.02	0.33

- Troubleshooting of instrument air dryer.
- Drained down and cleaned USA filter scrubber so the chemistry can be replaced.
- Replaced level controller on UV channel #1.
- Routine MVP Plant Work orders & Corrective Work orders.

Wastewater Collection

SSES Weekly Progress

Activity	Districts	L. F. main	Feet of lateral	# inspected
CCTV Inspections	#16	375'	23	1
Flushing	Trouble spots			

Collection System Maintenance Tasks

- Grinder pump, 20011 Cherry Hill Circle, reversed plugs.
- Grinder pump, 1647 Woodlands Run, pulled and replaced pump.
- Grinder pump, 11002 Eastwood Drive, replaced the pump cleaned cannister.
- Snow removal: Assisted Public Works as well as our own facilities.
- Exercised generators.
- General pump shop repair work.
- Hauled a load of scrap to Conservit.
- Hauled barrels from drying bed to Station #13.
- Worked on pig tail at the pump shop.
- Hydro excavated water valve at the WWTP.
- Cleaned all vehicles.

Administration

Wastewater Division – Customer Call Log Summary 2021							
Type	Blockages	Grinder Pumps	Odor Complaints	Flushing	WW Pump Station	Other	Totals
Weekly	7	1	0	0	0	2	10
YTD 2021	24	9	0	0	0	16	49

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>
02/04/21	11.17		11.17
02/05/21	11.23		11.23
02/06/21	10.75		10.75
02/07/21	10.75		10.75
02/08/21	10.92		10.92
02/09/21	10.94		10.94
02/10/21	11.14		11.14
<i>Average</i>			<i>10.99</i>

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 2.79 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.

Laboratory

- Process and regulatory testing were routine for the week.

Engineering

<u>Reviews:</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
Site Plans	-	1
Preliminary Plats	-	-
Final Plats	-	-
Replat	-	-
Grading Plan	-	-
Development Plan	-	-
Building Permits	11	-

- Site plan and city permit drawing reviews
- Updating GIS mapping
- Construction inspection, quality assurance testing and as-built info for ongoing projects



Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Nicewarner
City Administrator