

**Planning Commission  
MINUTES – Regular Meeting**

**April 14, 2021  
City of Hagerstown, Maryland**

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Douglas S. Wright, Jr., chair, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, in the Council Chamber, Second Floor, City Hall. Also in attendance were C. Davis (via Zoom), S. McIntire (via Zoom), C. Ploscaru (via Zoom), J. Stone (via Zoom), R. Thomas, and J. Wheeler. The following staff members participated in the meeting: K. Maher, Director of Planning & Code Administration; S. Bockmiller, Development Planner/Zoning Administrator; M. Flick, Planner; and D. Calhoun, Planning Commission Secretary.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **Roll Call.**

All commission members participated in the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of March 31 were not available for approval.

### **Development Review:**

None.

### **Planning Commission Business:**

#### **FY 2022 Capital Improvements Program.**

Staff Report: (Staff memo is in the meeting file) Each year the Planning Commission reviews the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and offers comments to the Mayor and City Council. The proposed CIP for FY 2022 includes \$13.7 million in the General Fund, \$2.59 million in the Wastewater Fund, \$2.76 million in the Water Fund, \$1.01 million in the Stormwater Management Fund, and \$1.1 million in the other Enterprise Funds. Staff provided highlights from a planning perspective:

Urban Improvement Project Plaza – New plaza to serve Urban Improvement Project (UIP) and host downtown gatherings (also service needs of the Maryland Theatre and Barbara Ingram School for the Arts); \$1.421 million for acquisition of the property and construction of plaza.

Hagerstown Cultural Trail – Cultural trail extension to West Washington Street. Mr. Wright asked about the funding for the stadium and the eastern edge of the stadium and whether the stadium will be built over the existing trail. Ms. Maher stated that the trail will still lead pedestrians to City Park; however, the trail may need to be readjusted. Mr. Wright was concerned that this will be a waste of money. Ms. Maher restated that the trail will not go away but it may have to be re-routed. The City has been working on this West Washington Street extension for a smoother access to the trail, which will also tie into the Market Walk that ends up at the Market House.

City Park Improvements – Rebuild pedestrian bridges, maintenance projects, and movie screen at Buys Band Shell.

Fairgrounds Park Improvements – Design and construction of skate park. Ms. Maher noted that this project has been in the Park Plan since the inception of the Fairgrounds Park; however, there is now a user group and the project is moving forward.

Antietam Creek Waterway Trail – Construct portage trail and small parking lot on Mt. Aetna Road which will allow users to get their boats to the creek.

Professional Court Extension – Widening and reconstruction of Professional Court to accommodate the new County bridge; this project will span two fiscal years.

Road Resurfacing – Includes North Burhans Boulevard, Jefferson Street, Belview Avenue, and others.

Alley Reconstruction – Alley 5-62 (wall on alley between Mealey Parkway and East Irvin); Alley 2-076 and 2-077 (Howard to Pine); Alley 3-41 (Library to East Baltimore Street).

Sidewalk Replacement Program. – City has assumed responsibility for sidewalks; this is related to the City’s Stormwater Management Plan.

Consolidation and Relocation of Public Safety Assets – Land acquisition for two new facilities; collocate Hagerstown Fire Department headquarters and one or more volunteer companies (covers three fiscal years). Mr. Stone was concerned about the City’s plans to eliminate the only remaining downtown fire company. Ms. Maher stated that the City is looking at a parcel in the West End that would get the Western Enterprise station closer to the developments on the west side of Hagerstown. Mr. Stone believed eliminating all of the fire companies from the downtown area sends the wrong message. He wants the remaining fire station to stay downtown. Ms. Maher will forward Mr. Stone’s concerns to the Mayor and Council.

Fire Department Training Center Improvements – New burn building, new pole building with SCBA maze, second hydrant, showers and restrooms; this project covers two fiscal years. The training center dates from the 1960s.

Citywide Collection System Rehabilitation – Correct infiltration and inflow into system to increase capacity at the plant.

Edgemont Reservoir Improvement Project – Compliance with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) dam safety and reservoir requirements to enable use of this water source; and monitor seepage and acquisition of watershed areas when they become available.

Stormwater Management Implementation – Construct stormwater management retrofit facilities at MKS Business Park using new stormwater management fee and bond funds. There is a stormwater management facility for the business park that is not functioning as it should. The plan is to replace the outlet structure with a concrete weir wall and to install water quality features.

Stream Restorations – Design Hamilton Run restoration adjacent to Longmeadow Park to address bank erosion issues.

Green Streets – Reconstruct existing streets to improve pedestrian access, decrease impervious surfaces and construction of new planting beds and tree pits for stormwater management.

Commission/Applicant Discussion: Mr. Thomas reiterated the need for east end water pressure improvements, especially in light of construction of the new hotels on All Star Court. Ms. Maher stated that this upgrade is in the Water Master Plan and could be expedited if the Black Rock PUD goes forward. Mr. Wright commented that he was pleased to see \$900,000 in the CIP for new sidewalks and that some funds were put aside for the Northwest Connector.

**MOTION:** (Wheeler/Thomas) I move we recommend the CIP to the Mayor and Council, and based on our review have found it in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ACTION:** APPROVED (ABSTAIN - McIntire)

**Board of Zoning Appeals – April Hearing.**

Commission members had no recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals on the cases filed for the April 21 hearing.

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**Announcements.**

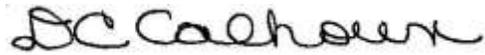
None.

**Adjourn.** It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn (4:33 p.m.)

5/12/2021

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Approved



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Debra C. Calhoun – Secretary