

83RD REGULAR SESSION AND WORK SESSION – January 26, 2016

WORK SESSION – January 26, 2016

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this Work Session of the Mayor and Council to order at 5:05 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson, and P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Valerie Means, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

FY 2016/17 Working Budget Status Review

Valerie Means, City Administrator, Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, and Rana Rose, Accounting Manager, were present to provide an overview of the FY 17 budget process.

Ms. Means reported Department Heads have been working on their budgets since early December. Meetings have been held with individual departments to discuss both the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and operating budgets. She stated staff is seeking direction from the Mayor and City Council for the assumptions that have been made based on departmental budgets. It would be helpful if the Mayor and City Council would indicate which projects or initiatives are priority items.

Ms. Hepburn reported the budget balancing process is just beginning. Reports have been created based on the CIP and operational requests. The initial deficit was approximately \$ 3 million. With adjustments made following additional review and meetings, the deficit is at \$ 1.5 million.

Councilmember Brubaker reiterated that these numbers are projections; the City is not experiencing this deficit at this time.

Ms. Hepburn urged everyone to keep in mind this is a working budget. There are many items with significant costs. After a balanced budget is presented to Mayor and City Council (by March 31, 2016), discussions will be held during Work Sessions and adjustments can be made.

Overall revenues in the General Fund are expected to be \$ 41,760,117, with expenses anticipated to be \$ 43,320,425.

There are no new or additional revenue sources in the current FY 2016/17 budget assumptions. There is no increase in property tax rates at this time, which is 91.3 cents per \$ 100 assessed value. Each penny on the tax rate represents approximately \$ 247,000 in revenue. The preliminary estimates for property tax include a growth in assessed values of 2.5% compared to the FY 2015/16 budget. The City's next triennial assessment will occur in December 2016 and be in effect beginning with the FY 2017/18 budget cycle.

All four of the City's collective bargaining contracts will expire in June, 2016. Currently, there is an overall 1.5% salary enhancement for all employee groups included in the budget proposal. In the General Fund, every 0.5% will cost approximately an additional \$ 100,000 in base salaries over current salary levels.

There are no positions included that have not been previously discussed and/or approved. There are 477 full-time positions, with 331 in the General Fund and 146 in other funds and operations. There are a total of 25 unfunded positions across the City, with 14 in the General Fund and 11 in other funds and operations. There are also no reductions in staffing at this time.

Health insurance projections include an overall 7% increase over current levels which represents approximately \$ 3.3 million for active employees compared to FY 2015/16 budget amounts of \$ 3 million. Retiree health insurance will increase from current budget levels of \$ 1.4 million to \$ 1.5 million in FY 2016/17 based on this same increase. Dental insurance projections include an overall 2% increase over current levels, which is approximately \$ 55,000 higher than current budget year amounts. Police & Fire pension projections are 16% of salaries and wages which totals \$ 1.6 million. Reducing the employer contribution to 14% of salaries and wages would total \$ 1.4 million and provide \$ 200,000 in savings over current estimates. Currently, the employees' contributions remain at 7%. State of Maryland pension rates will remain at current levels which is an employer contribution of 8.53% of salaries and wages. The employees' contribution rates are established by the State of Maryland as well and remain at 7% of salaries and wages.

Transfers from the general fund (pay-go funding) are approximately \$ 1 million after initial reductions of \$ 600,000 from budget requests. The remaining \$ 1 million includes funding for a variety of items including: vehicles for various departments - representing \$ 550,000; public safety radios and equipment; facility maintenance and rehab of several city-owned buildings matching funds for multiple grant projects across the Parks Division; and other infrastructure related projects. The assumptions include no new bond issues until FY 2016/17. The City's bond ratings are AA rating from S&P and an Aa3 rating from Moody's. The 2017 bond issue for the General Fund is preliminarily at \$ 6.0 million which would have an estimated 20 year annual debt service of \$ 486,000. It is anticipated that the impact to FY 2016/17 would be limited to one interest payment based on the timing of the issue or approximately \$ 75,000. The projects included as new 2017 bond issue at this time include: City Park Lake dredging (\$1.1 million); Fire Ladder Truck (\$1.25 million); Downtown Redevelopment project (\$ 1.5 million); alley reconstruction (\$ 800,000); and miscellaneous smaller infrastructure rehab projects. In an effort to conserve funds, there is approximately \$ 500,000 in CIP project funding that will be carried over and/or deferred from the current fiscal year until FY 2016/17. These are projects that are already funded and include some IT related projects, public art, and some police building deferrals.

The current FY 2016/17 deficit does not include any reductions or changes to City services - including no changes to events, recreation, public safety, public works, or golf.

Staff will be working on the Golf Fund preliminary request to keep the General Fund stipend level at \$ 200,000.

At this time, there is a transfer of \$ 100,000 from the General Fund to the Economic Redevelopment Fund in the preliminary FY 2016/17 budget to continue to fund on-going incentives such as Partners in Economic Progress (PEP) subsidized rental assistance and sign and façade grants. This transfer from the General Fund is the same level of on-going funding included in the approved FY 2015/16 budget. The Invest Hagerstown program initiative was funded with a combined total of \$ 1.5 GF Fund Balance reserve funding and encompasses several of the City's incentives: First Third Grant Program, City Center Residency (Rental and Down Payment/Rehab), and City Wide Down Payment and Rehab. The total \$ 1.5 million has not all be spent year-to-date but has been obligated throughout the programs. The grants are disbursed after project completion and approval by City staff.

Currently, staff continues to search for funding sources to ensure continuation with some of the investives that were previously funded with one-time GF Fund Balance reserves. At this time, the Economic Redevelopment Fund holds various properties that are for sale including: Massey Property on Baltimore Street, 170 W. Washington Street, 43-53 W. Washington Street, and 278 S. Prospect Street. The sale of these assets could provide some funding for FY 2016/17. Additionally, staff was recently notified of a \$ 50,000 State Community Legacy grant to fund sign/façade and/or retail and restaurant incentives. Staff has included a match of \$ 12,000 in the General Fund Economic Development department budget for these specific incentives.

Ms. Means asked if the Mayor and City Council wish to make changes to the assumptions that are included in the review.

Councilmember Metzner stated the majority of the Council agrees there will be no tax rate increase for FY 2016/17. This would be the only item off limits for discussion. Examples of other things that could be discussed include reduction in services, and if necessary, staff reductions.

Councilmember Brubaker is concerned about what the City can afford.

Councilmember D. F. Munson will not approve a tax rate increase. However, other alternatives are open for discussion.

Ms. Hepburn then reviewed the Enterprise Funds, which all contribute to the overall health of the organization.

As of June 30, 2015, the Electric Fund had \$ 18.6 million in net position. The Electric Fund expects to realize increases in Retained Earnings for FY 2015/16 in the amount of \$ 161,000 and for FY 2016/17 in the amount of \$ 135,000.

From FY 2015/16 to FY 2016/17's budget, operating income and expenses are estimated to increase in both fiscal years. The FY 2015/16 operating income will be \$ 24.2 million compared to FY 17 operating income of \$ 24.5 million, which is a \$ 300,000 increase. The FY 2015/16 operating expenses will be \$ 24 million compared to FY 2016/17 operating expenses of \$ 24.4 million which is a \$ 400,000 increase. No rate increases are anticipated in FY 2016/17.

The Hagerstown Light Department is currently operating under a Power Service Agreement that began June 1, 2015 and ends May 31, 2017. City staff will begin working on negotiating a new contract.

The Electric Fund currently has 35.3 total positions. Five of those positions are unfunded and remain vacant for FY 2015/16 and FY 2016/17.

The Electric Fund is anticipating that all capital improvement projects for FY 2016/17 will be funded entirely from the Electric Fund. The total amount of CIP projects for FY 2016/17 is \$ 570,000.

As of June 30, 2015, the Water Fund had \$ 84.7 million in net position. The Water Fund expects to realize increases in Retained Earnings for FY 2015/16 in the amount of \$ 104,000 and for FY 2016/17 in the amount of \$ 302,000.

From FY 2015/16 to FY 2016/17's budget, operating income is estimated to increase from \$ 12.3 million in FY16 to \$ 12.4 million in FY 2016/17. However, the operating expenses for Water Fund from FY 2015/16 to FY 2016/17 are estimated to decrease with expenses preliminarily coming in at \$ 12.2 million in FY 2015/16 compared to \$ 12.1 million in FY 2016/17.

In March, 2014, the Mayor and City Council adopted a five-year rate schedule to increase water service rates an average of 2% for services provided in the City and an average of 2% per year for services provided outside the City. The five-year rate schedule was based on a cost of service study; and the current rate schedule began July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2019.

The Water Department currently has 54.5 total positions. Four of those positions are unfunded and remain vacant positions.

The Water Fund is anticipating that its FY 2016/17 capital improvement projects will be funded through several sources; Bond Financing \$ 1,252,000, MDE Loans \$ 1,375,000, and the Water Fund \$ 1,127,000, totaling \$ 3,754,000 for FY 2016/17.

As of June 30, 2015, the Wastewater Fund had \$50.1 million in net position. The Wastewater Fund expects to realize a decrease in Retained Earnings for FY 2015/16 in the amount of \$ 84,000 and an increase in Retained Earnings for FY 2016/17 in the amount of \$ 184,000.

From FY 2015/16 to FY 2016/17's budget, operating income and expenses are estimated to increase in both fiscal years. The FY 2015/16 operating income will be \$ 13 million compared to FY 2016/17 operating income of \$ 13.6 million which is a \$ 600,000 increase. The FY 2015/16 operating expenses will be \$ 13.1 million compared to FY 2016/17 operating expenses of \$ 13.4 million which is a \$ 300,000 increase.

In March, 2014, the Mayor and City Council adopted a five-year rate schedule that began July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2019. The new rates are as follows: FY 2015/16 4% rate increase; FY 2016/17 4% rate increase; and both FY 2017/18 and FY 2018/19 2% rate increase. Additionally, the projections for FY 2019/20 will include an additional 2% rate increase.

The Wastewater Department currently has 48.2 total positions. Two of those positions are unfunded and remain vacant.

The Wastewater Fund is anticipating that the FY 2016/17 capital improvement projects will be funded through several sources; Bond Financing \$ 1,747,000, MDE State Grant \$ 300,000, and the Wastewater Fund \$ 1,227,000 totaling \$ 3,274,000 for FY 2016/17.

Councilmember Brubaker asked when the current trash and recycling collection contract expires. Rodney Tissue, City Engineer indicated it expires at the end of 2017.

Mayor Gysberts commended staff for providing this information. Budget discussions will continue throughout March, April and May.

Councilmember Munson asked if the City's water system is tested regularly for lead content. The City of Flint, Michigan has been dealing with excessive amounts of lead in their water system. Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, reported lead regulations are set by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the City's water supply and distribution system is tested continuously and meets the regulations. Staff conduct tests at the plant, at homes, and at older homes with copper lines.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

83RD REGULAR SESSION – January 26, 2016

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this 83rd Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 7:03 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson, and P. M. Nigh; City Administrator Valerie Means, City Attorney Mark Boyer, and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk.

The invocation was offered by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

Mayor Gysberts announced the Rules of Procedure for this meeting will be followed as adopted September 24, 2013. It was announced that the use of cell phones during meetings is restricted and that all correspondence for distribution to elected officials should be provided to the City Clerk and should include a copy for the City Clerk for inclusion in the official record.

The next scheduled meetings are: Work Sessions at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, and Tuesday, February 16, 2016, and the Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. There will be no meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

APPOINTMENTS

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to re-appoint James Stouffer to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Stouffer's term will expire on January 31, 2019.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to appoint Micheal Line to the Hagerstown Loan Review Authority. Mr. Line's term will expire on July 31, 2019.

GUESTS

The High Performance Award was presented to Gary Seavolt and B. J. Zirkle, both Public Works employees. They were returning to the City shop in mid-December and noticed a man in distress at Culligan Water. They called 911 and performed CPR until emergency personnel arrived. Mr. Seavolt completed CPR training on December 2, 2015 and Mr. Zirkle completed the training on December 9, 2015.

Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, provided an update on snow removal from the snowstorm on January 22 and 23, 2016. He thanked all departments for their help during the storm. He thanked citizens as well for their patience. More than 30 inches of snow fell in Hagerstown during the storm. Streets continue to be plowed and snow is being removed from some areas. He thanked the Mayor and City Council and Ms. Means for their efforts to gain assistance from the State Highway Administration on Saturday evening.

Mayor Gysberts thanked the employees who have spent many hours working through the snowstorm. Work will continue to plow and remove snow. He pointed out snow removal efforts are hindered when residents throw snow back into the street. He asked resident to not do this.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dot Kline, 1036 Benjamin Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, still has difficulty hearing in the Council Chamber. She does not think new positions should be created. She does not think the A & E Trail should be done until the City Center is thriving. She stated she believes people are being sent to Hagerstown to take advantage of the social services that are offered here. The Reach program should be run 24 hours per day. The old YMCA building could be used for the program. The Mayor and City Council should discuss the possibilities for Hagerstown with the Pen Mar Realtor group. The group is a great asset.

Jason Physioc, 155-159 Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, agreed with Ms. Kline. He would like to discuss his ideas with the Mayor. One suggestion he has is to turn the bike lanes into ski lanes during snow storms.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Valerie Means, City Administrator, also thanked Public Works and City employees, the State, and the County for working through the historic snow storm.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember P. M. Nigh had no additional comments.

Councilmember D. F. Munson had no additional comments.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker noted this was a historic snowstorm and many people worked many hours to keeps streets at least passable.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire has received only 4 contacts from citizens regarding snow removal. He pointed out that low number of contacts shows what staff has accomplished. He stated the Herald Mail editorial implied the City of Hagerstown pulled the rug out from under the Suns by promising them a new stadium and then not following through. This statement is not true. The Herald Mail is again stating people are from Hagerstown when they live outside the City limits.

Mayor D. S. Gysberts thanked the City crews again for their efforts. He noted trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day this week.

MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the minutes, as presented, for the Mayor and City Council meetings held on December 1, 2015, December 8, 2015, and December 15, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

- A. Fire Department:
 - 1. Replacement of Deputy Fire Marshall Vehicle – McCafferty Ford (Mechanicsburg, PA) \$ 63,692.19

- B. Public Works:
 - 1. Ford F250 Pickup Truck – Hertrich Fleet Services (Milford, DE) \$ 24,542.00

- C. Utilities:
 - 1. Wastewater: Emergency Replacement of Existing Servers – Optimum Controls Corp. (Reading, PA) \$ 65,284.00
 - 2. Wastewater: Increase in Approved Operating Budget for Payment to Consultants and Legal Counsel in FY 16 for WWTP Rating Study – Black & Veatch/Aqua Law \$ 60,000.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of an Ordinance: Kreyn Local Conversion Overlay, 702 W. Washington Street

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an ordinance for a Local Conversion District Overlay, including the two conditions endorsed by the Planning Commission, on property located at 702 West Washington Street. This Ordinance was amended during its introduction by the Mayor and City Council to remove ambulatory health care as a permitted use for the property.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance: Acceptance of Easement: Beazer Homes Corp.

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to approve and adopt a Deed and Declaration of Easement from Beazer Homes Corp. that grants the City the right, but not the obligation, to enter an easement area at Collegiate Acres for inspection or maintenance activities.

B. Introduction of an Ordinance: Adding Chapter 187 to the City Code, Nuisance and Abandoned Property Abatement

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to add Chapter 187, Nuisance and Abandoned Property Abatement, to the Code of the City of Hagerstown. This chapter provides definitions for nuisance and abandoned properties and sets up procedures for the City of Hagerstown to follow in the effort to rehabilitate or eliminate nuisance properties and abandoned properties within the city. This amendment is intended to provide additional protections for the City's neighborhoods from blight and nuisance conditions.

C. Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending Chapter 65 of the City Code, Property Maintenance Habitual Offender

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to amend Chapter 65, Property Maintenance Habitual Offender, of the Code of the City of Hagerstown. This chapter will be renamed Habitual Offender and will be amended to apply to not only Chapter 64, Property Maintenance Code, but also Chapter 140, Land Management Code, Chapter 185, Nuisance Abatement, Chapter 197, Rental Facilities, Chapter 232, Vacant Non-Residential Structures, and Chapter 233, Vacant Residential Structures. In addition, a definition of "Premises" will be added to the chapter. These amendments are intended to provide additional protections for the City's neighborhoods from nuisance actions and conditions.

D. Approval of a Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding with Way Station (Turning Point)

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Hagerstown and Way Station.

This MOU would allow for a Mobile Crisis Program, staffed by an employee of Way Station, who would respond to requests for emergency outreach from law enforcement. This will connect a person in crisis with a professional who will assist them in avoiding hospitalization and the need for future law enforcement contact.

E. Approval of a Resolution: Lease with Spickler's Market Located at 117 East Franklin Street

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to authorize the execution and delivery of a lease between the City of Hagerstown and Spickler's Market for commercial space located at 17 East Franklin Street. All terms and conditions are outlined in the lease agreement that was presented with the resolution.

F. Approval of a Resolution: Lease with Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau-Visitor Center – 6 N. Potomac Street

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to authorize the execution and delivery of a lease between the City of Hagerstown and the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor Center for commercial space located at 6 North Potomac Street. All terms and conditions are outlined in the lease agreement that was presented with the resolution.

G. Approval of a Resolution: Acceptance of Street Dedications: Beazer Homes Corp.

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution to accept the offer of dedication from Beazer Homes Corp. for Yellow Jacket Road, Cavalier Court, Demon Deacon Court, Hurricane Court, and a portion of Nittany Lion Circle in the Collegiate Acres development.

H. Approval of a Resolution: License Agreement: 920 W. Washington Street – Tenable Group, LLC

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution that authorizes the execution of a License Agreement between the City of Hagerstown and Tenable Group, LLC for the installation of fencing in the rights-of-way of Devonshire Road, West Washington Street, and Wakefield Road. This approval shall be contingent upon Tenable Group, LLC obtaining the necessary approvals from the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission.

I. Catalyst Project #8: Authorization for One Additional Full Time Position to Support Neighborhoods Through Abatement of Weeds and Rubbish

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the addition of one full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker position. This position is necessary to support the neighborhoods through the abatement of weeds and rubbish violations. Funding for this position would be covered by the funds that would have otherwise been budgeted by the Planning and Code Administration Department for private contracting services. This action is consistent with the City's vision and commitment to housing, neighborhoods and the Community's City Center Plan.

Discussion: Mayor Gysberts noted one of the reasons the Council is taking this action is so nuisances will be abated more quickly.

Councilmember Brubaker stated good documentation of the condition of properties prior to the abatement will be needed for court appearances, if necessary.

J. Acceptance of Wastewater Division Request for Grant Funding Through the MDE for I & I Remediation

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the request to allow City staff to move forward with the process required to secure grant funding for Inflow and Infiltration Remediation through the Maryland Department of the Environment in the amount of \$ 300,000.

K. Authorization to Apply for State Grant for George Washington Statue

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to authorize staff to apply to the Maryland Heritage Area Program for a \$ 30,950 grant to match funds in hand for the proposed George Washington Statue Project downtown. Prior committed funds include a grant from the Sons of the American Revolution and contributions from Washington County and the City of Hagerstown.

L. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Washington County Narcotics Task Force

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember P. M. Nigh and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously

agreed by voice vote to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington County Narcotics Task Force. The Washington County Narcotics Task Force provides investigative services to the City of Hagerstown and Washington County. These investigations are in the area of illegal drug dealing, trafficking, and gang related crimes.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Hagerstown Police Department assigns 1 sergeant and 4 police officers to this investigative group, as staffing allows investigating cases both in the City and County. The County provides the same number of officers along with an Intelligence Analyst and 3 office associates.

The Narcotic Task Force is required to update their MOU every few years. This is the revised MOU, it is consistent with current practices in this area, and has further been reviewed by the City Attorney, Mark Boyer, who is satisfied with the agreement.

M. Approval of Purchase of Fire Gear from Witmer Public Safety Group (Williamsport, MD) \$ 138,581.40

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember P. M. Nigh, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve of the purchase of protective fire gear for firefighters from Witmer Public Safety Group (Williamsport, Maryland) for \$ 138,581.40. Funding is from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Grant (FEMA) that was awarded to the Hagerstown Fire Department in the amount of \$ 153,637.00.

N. Approval of Hagerstown Suns Fireworks Schedule for 2016

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve eight fireworks shows after Hagerstown Suns baseball games during the 2016 season and that the Mayor and Council's approval will exempt these eight shows from the City of Hagerstown's Noise Ordinance under section 155-5 of the Code of the City of Hagerstown.

O. Approval of Funding for a Community Coalition Lobbyist

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to authorize the expenditure of \$ 5,000.00 from the General Fund in order to contribute toward hiring John Favazza with the firm of Manis, Canning & Associates, as the Community Coalition Lobbyist. Other partners include the Chamber of

Commerce, CHIEF, the Greater Hagerstown Committee, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Washington County Public Schools and the Washington County Free Library.

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 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: February 23, 2016