

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WORK SESSION – February 16, 2016

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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 of all members present to meet in closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, #7 (Section 3-305(b)), and to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, # 1 (Section 3-305(b)) on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 3:32 p.m. in Room 407, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. The following people were in attendance: Mayor D. S. Gysberts, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, Councilmember D. F. Munson, Councilmember P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Valerie Means, City Attorney Mark Boyer, Nathan Fridinger, Electric Operations Manager, Paul Rose, Attorney with Miles and Stockbridge, and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk. Councilmember L. C. Metzner was not present.

The meeting was held to discuss the status of the MELP property and a potential appointment to the Economic Development Commission. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Executive Session was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

WORK SESSION – February 16, 2016

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and Council to order at 4:19 p.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2016, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, D. F. Munson, and P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Valerie Means, City Attorney Mark Boyer, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember L. C. Metzner was not present.

Preliminary Agenda Review

Mayor Gysberts reminded everyone that the State of the City will be presented on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. at Hager Hall and at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Free Library.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Community and Economic Development:
  - 1. Street Closures for Events in 2016
  - 2. Open Containers Law Exemption and Application Permits:
    - a. Blues Prelude – June 2, 2016, Maryland Theatre at University Plaza
    - b. Blues Fest – June 3 and 4, 2016, Maryland Theatre at Central Parking Lot

- c. Blues Club – June 3 and 4, 2016, M & T Bank at Central Parking Lot
  - d. Maryland Theatre Wind Downs – at Maryland Theatre – May 20, 2016, June 10, 2016, July 15, 2016, August 12, 2016, September 30, 2016, and October 21, 2016
  - e. St. Patrick’s Day Run Fest After Party – March 12, 2016, Community Free Clinic at University Plaza
  - f. Augustoberfest – August 25 and 26, 2016 – Augustoberfest Charitable Foundation, Inc. at Central Parking Lot and Surrounding Area
  - g. University System of Maryland at Hagerstown Graduation Celebration – May 24, 2016 at University Plaza
3. Trick or Treat Date – Monday, October 31, 2016

B. Parks and Engineering:

1. Engineering: Handicap Ramps at Walnut Street and Antietam Street – Odd Jobs Contractors (Keedysville, MD) Not to Exceed \$ 39,900.00
2. Engineering: Signal Upgrade at Walnut Street and Antietam Street – Valentine Electric, Inc. (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 44,635.00
3. Parks: Mowing for Golf Course for 2016 Season (4<sup>th</sup> year of 5 year contract) – JR Services (Smithsburg, MD) \$ 16,500.00
4. Parks: Mowing for Various Parks for 2016 Season (4<sup>th</sup> year of 5 year contract – JR Services (Smithsburg, MD) \$ 71,504.52

There were no questions about items on the preliminary agenda. This completed the review. All items are scheduled for approval on February 23, 2016.

FY17 Employee and Retiree Healthcare

Karen Paulson, Director of Human Resources, and Rebecca Royal, CBIZ, were present to discuss employee and retiree healthcare.

As previously presented to the Mayor and City Council at the health care program annual review, the long term cost projection provided by CBIZ in the City’s health care program was 9% to 10% for the next five years. This projection assumed the plan structure and premium structure would remain unchanged. Most of the projected increases are due to claims costs as the City’s health plans are self-funded.

As the projections exceed the increases the City has budgeted, the Health Care Committee was tasked to evaluate the plans and make modifications that result in \$ 300,000 in expense reduction while still offering competitive benefits. The committee reviewed many different options and arrived at the following recommendation. The committee members then took the proposed plan to their memberships for vote. Each of the union contracts requires 3 of the 5 employee groups to approve changes in the plan. Three of the employee groups approved the changes, one did not approve, and one has not completed their vote. Since the language in the union contracts require 3 of the 5 to approve in order to move forward, for the sake of timeliness implementation and

communicating the changes, the City has 3 of the 5 approvals required to move forward for Mayor and City Council approval.

Staff commends the Committee on their hard work evaluating and explaining the options to their groups. Staff feels the changes are reasonable and equitable. The Committee members are: Deanna Pelton and Brian Henry – IAFF 1605, Tom Bartles and Tom Kelley – AFSCME 3373, Mike Hanlon and Boyd “Chip” Cook – AFSCME 1540, Dan Howe – IBEW 307, Steve Ryan and Cindy Eichelberger – Non-union employees, and Bill Thompson and Ray Foltz – Retiree representatives.

A side by side comparison was shown of the current plan and the recommended changes. These changes result in an estimated \$ 287,570 reduction in healthcare expenses.

Level Medical Plan: There are no changes to the employee weekly premiums, the \$ 20 per week opt-out, or prescription drug coverage. Recommended changes include copays, coinsurance, deductible and out-of-pocket maximums.

Retiree Under 65 Plan: The recommended change affects the current deductible for medical coverage. The deductible for the prescription plan will remain at \$ 200.

Medicare Eligible Retiree Plans: The current deductible of \$ 100 will change to \$ 150 for the Medicomp Plan. The contribution made monthly to the Health Reimbursement Account Plan will change from \$ 400 to \$ 350. The HRA update will require side agreements from all 4 union groups as the dollar amount is defined in the current contracts. The union groups are aware of this requirement.

Ms. Royal pointed out the employee contribution, medical coverage, copay, and the opt out payment are not changing.

Ms. Paulson recognized that change can be difficult; however, it is necessary to ensure the long term viability of a competitive healthcare program for employees and retirees. She thanked the Health Care Committee members and employees for their work on this recommendation.

Mayor Gysberts noted the union contracts dictate that the Health Care Committee reviews any amendments and a majority of the employee groups approve any amendments before they are presented to the Mayor and City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Munson asked if any of the plan amendments considered increased benefits. Ms. Paulson indicated no options enhanced the plan.

Mayor Gysberts reminded everyone that the City has been absorbing the increase in health care premiums.

Councilmember Brubaker noted these amendments will improve projections, but they do not solve funding shortages in future years. Additional adjustments may be required in future years.

It was the general consensus to include approval of the plan changes on the February 23, 2016 agenda and to begin the open enrollment process.

#### Edgemont Reservoir and W. M. Breichner Water Treatment Plant

Nancy Hausrath, Water Operations Manager, was present to discuss options for treating seepage at the Edgemont Reservoir and the current status and needs of the W. M. Breichner Water Treatment Plant.

The Edgemont Reservoir, constructed in 1902, is the raw water supply for the W. M. Breichner Water Treatment Plan (BWTP). In 1993, major reservoir work was completed which resulted in modification of the spillway capacity, construction of a new intake tower, re-lining of the existing 30" cast-iron drawdown pipe, construction of a new concrete emergency spillway, and removal of 20,000 cubic yards of silt.

Recent inspections (beginning in 2006) have revealed areas of concern near the left abutment of the downstream toe to include a wet area, missing and exposed toe-drain pipe, and tree root intrusions into the earthen embankment. As a result of the 2006 findings, the City contracted with Triad Engineering in 2007 to perform a geophysical investigation to determine the source and extent of the spillway channel seepage.

As a result of the 2007 study and as required by the Maryland Department of the Environment – Dam Safety Division (MDE-DS) and to control the seepage traveling beneath the dam and possibly through the lower portion of the dam, the City contracted with Triad Engineering to prepare plans and specifications to construct a subsurface interceptor drain and remove root intrusions – this work was completed in 2009/2010 in an effort to ensure stability of the structure.

In December 2013, a new seep formed at the toe. The flow from this seep is directly related and proportional to the pool elevation in the reservoir and as such, the reservoir has been maintained a minimum of six feet below the emergency spillway elevation.

The City met with officials from MDE-DS in February 2014 to discuss this seepage and recommendations for remediation. Resulting from this meeting and subsequent site inspection(s), MDE-DS provided follow-up correspondence detailing the required work. This correspondence also provides notice that MDE-DS intends to draft a formal Consent Agreement to establish timeframes for permanent repair or removal of the Edgemont Reservoir/Warner Gap Hollow Dam.

As required by MDE-DS, staff worked with Triad Engineering to complete the required engineering proposals for a Dam Breach Analysis, Geotechnical Evaluation of

the Spillway Floor, and a Geotechnical Evaluation of the Toe Seepage. Triad completed a report that identifies needed work and preliminary engineering and construction estimates as follows:

1. Spillway Floor Evaluation \$ 18,000 to \$ 25,000
2. Construct Blanket/Toe Drain \$ 40,000 to \$ 60,000
3. Control Reservoir Elevation \$ 75,000 to \$ 250,000
4. Filling Voids Under Spillway \$ 75,000 to \$ 150,000  
Floor and Retaining Wall Foundation
5. Extensive grouting program \$ 2,000,000 to \$ 2,500,000
6. Complete removal of the \$ 3,000,000 to \$ 4,000,000  
Embankment/structures and restoration

Based on the most recent annual inspection performed by MDE on May 19, 2015, the current condition of the dam is considered unacceptable due to ongoing seepage problems at the right abutment and under the spillway. The report evaluates and determines the most appropriate remedial action to restore the embankment to a condition acceptable to MDE. Remediation may include a recommendation to breach the reservoir and restore the site to its original condition. Should this occur, staff will likely recommend a hydrologic study to determine the viability of a ground water supply (well system) from the BWTP.

To comply with MDE-DS requirements, the City has retained the services of Triad Engineering. Triad Engineering, in conjunction with City staff, continue to collect monitoring well data (changes in ground water levels associated with reservoir pool elevation) and conduct routine dry and wet weather site inspections of the earth embankment. The preliminary discussion of the option of utilizing ground water supply with MDE and the engineering consultant is forthcoming. In order to utilize a well system, studies must occur detailing the aquifer/hydrologic capabilities of the site, local and state requirements, and final permitting through the MDE.

The following discussion points contain options related to the anticipated compliance, regulatory, public safety requirements, and financial obligations of the Water Division. Any costs associated with the following are estimates derived through discussions between staff and Triad Engineering:

1. The repair of the existing Edgemont Dam (grout injection and sub-soil stabilization at the toe and repair of the spillway) may approach \$ 3,000,000 to \$ 5,000,000. If repairs of this nature were to be completed, the City still has associated liabilities and responsibilities for the operation of a dam that is over 110 years old.
2. If the cost benefit analysis of the Edgemont dam repairs exceeds a threshold of the costs associated with a change in water supply treatment, the breaching of the reservoir and restoration of the site is estimated at \$ 3,000,000 to \$ 4,000,000. Total site restoration of the property may require the removal of

- the existing structures located at the reservoir.
3. Estimated study costs of the initial ground water system to be located at the BWTP are approximately \$ 100,000 – this estimate can be refined should the Mayor and City Council wish to pursue this option.
  4. CIP CO405 will require further engineering studies to determine cost estimates required to attain the change in the source supply treatment parameters.
  5. If the Edgemont dam was breached and the property returned to a more natural state, the need for a watershed protection area is eliminated. The consideration of the sale of a portion of the approximately 1300 acres would greatly assist in the offset of any of the aforementioned costs associated with a change in water supply treatment. A major point of consideration would be retaining sufficient property utilized as a buffer for the Appalachian Trail per the 2006 agreement (\$ 800,000 one-time payment).

Councilmember Aleshire stated the unknown costs are very concerning.

Mayor Gysberts pointed out the reservoir was constructed in anticipation of serving 100,000 people. He believes the only logical choice is to invest in the upgrades.

Councilmember Brubaker noted the report states the Breichner plant is not operational and the upgrades to return it to service are estimated to cost \$ 5,000,000 to \$ 10,000,000. He wondered what the best practices are for serving customers efficiently. Ms. Hausrath stated the focus would be on replacing the transmission line to create an interconnect, a project that could cost \$ 30,000,000.

Mayor Gysberts asked if staff feels the Breichner plant is needed. Ms. Hausrath stated it has served the City well but it is unusable in its current state. She would be more inclined to recommend investing in the transmission mains. However, she is hesitant to say the Breichner plant is not needed.

Councilmember Munson believes Hagerstown will grow and need the water supply. He does not have an interest in removing the dam or selling the surrounding land.

Ms. Hausrath stated a funding package and request has been submitted to MDE for assistance.

Mayor Gysberts noted there is not a consensus to permanently shut down the BWTP. There is a consensus to begin the process to make the repairs to address the seepage at the reservoir.

Staff will develop a plan for moving forward with a request for proposals in order to determine which option is the most feasible.

Traveling Screen Replacement and Tank Mixing – Continuation of the R. C. Willson  
Phase IV Disinfectant By-Product Rule 2 (DBPR2) Project

Nancy Hausrath, Water Operations Manager, reported staff continues to work with the MDE Safe Drinking Water Act Program staff to ensure long-term compliance with all drinking water regulations. Now that the Chloramination conversion has occurred, the City must address the limitations in the water distribution system associated with water age. Given the size of the system and location of the necessary water storage tanks, water age, lack of tank mixing, nitrification and pH become major areas of concern. The most efficient way to address nitrification and decreasing pH in the water storage tanks is to install active tank mixing.

In addition to the tank mixing, staff has been working with Hazen and Sawyer to address the traveling screens at the R. C. Willson Plant. The screens are the first barrier when bringing raw water from the Potomac River into the low service pump station. The screens were installed in 1973 and have exceeded their useful life expectancy and replacement parts are no longer available.

Staff prepared a funding package through MDE (requesting grant and loan funds). Funding has been approved and staff anticipate this funding package will move to the formal approval process in late spring/early summer of 2016. The funding package submitted to MDE includes funding for planning, design, construction, management, construction, and contingency totaling \$ 1.38 million, with a local share of \$ 70,000 to \$ 100,000.

It was the general consensus to move forward with the project. The actual funding package amount will be amended to reflect actual bid amounts plus contingency and will be presented for approval in March, 2016.

Synagro Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Thickening Project/Dryer Rebuild Projects

Joe Moss, Wastewater Operations Manager, was present to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Thickening Project and Dryer Rebuild Projects. As background information, in November of 1998, the City of Hagerstown entered into an agreement with Enviro-Gro Technologies (currently Synagro) to build a pelletizing facility designed to process and dispose of the sludge that is produced at the Hagerstown WWTP. The initial term of the contract was ten years, with an option to allow Synagro to extend the operating term for an additional five years, which was executed during April of 2001. In August, 2006, the contract was extended another 5 years with a provision containing one year renewals.

The Mayor and Council approved a ten year contract extension with Synagro on September 24, 2013. The agreement further extends a relationship in excess of twenty years whereas Synagro converts the solid waste component of the wastewater treatment process into pellets which are then land applied as a soil amendment or disposed of by

other means, depending upon the market. The Wastewater Division owns the building, equipment and the associated hardware, with Synagro supplying the technology, labor, and disposal services for the operation. CIP 712 was updated with a jointly developed master plan, detailing expenditures of \$ 5.1 million and incorporated into the approved five year rate plan for the Wastewater Division.

At present, the only process utilized at the WWTP for sludge thickening is a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) tank which has been in service for over 35 years. When the DAF is out of service for maintenance or repair there is no alternative process available to thicken sludge. In an effort to develop a redundant sludge thickening process, staff asked Synagro to have their engineering firm for this project, GHD, explore a range of back-up thickening methods that would serve as an alternative process when the DAF was out of service.

The study identified the most cost-effective option for back-up sludge thickening to be the conversion of the existing unused fermenter tank into a gravity thickener.

Phase 2 of the Project (Dryer Rebuild Project) was originally described in terms of scope-estimated cost and attached to the approved Synagro Third Extension Agreement. An updated quote will allow for the treatment of air from the dryer building as well as from the process equipment. As an additional step, staff solicited a further proposal for a larger system.

The estimated cost to upgrade the equipment in the WWTP and the Sludge Pelletizing facility (Synagro) and providing funds for the remainder of Fiscal Year 16 and the first half of Fiscal Year 17 is \$ 1,000,000.

It was the general consensus to include approval of Phase 1B and Phase 2 of the project on the February 23, 2016 agenda.

A five minute recess was taken.

#### Trash Codes and Complaints about Trash Storage

Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration, Paul Fulk, Inspections Manager, and Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, were present to continue discussion on the trash in public view issue and possible modifications to existing codes and/or procedures to address complaints on this issue.

On December 8, 2015, staff made a presentation to the Mayor and City Council on issues of concern for staff and neighborhood representatives regarding the issue of trash in public view. On January 19, 2016, a follow-up discussion was held on revised recommendations based on the December 8, 2015 feedback.

From the January 19, 2016 discussion, there appeared to be consensus to revise the Code to require trash bags to be stored in enclosures, in trash cans or indoors between collection dates – so no trash bags are stored outdoors between collection dates. There also seemed to be consensus that downtown is different and that different trash standards would be appropriate. Since it was agreed that set out of trash bags for collection in the downtown was unsightly and it would be preferable to require set out in trash containers, the idea of the City purchasing trash containers for downtown property owners was suggested. Two Councilmembers seemed to be in agreement with the staff proposal, however, if different standards are proposed for other neighborhoods if requested by residents, it was suggested that all property owners be notified and public hearing be held prior to adoption.

Staff has reviewed the input from the Mayor and City Council and from the Historic Heights neighborhood and prepared draft code amendments for the Mayor and City Council's consideration. Staff is not proposing that the City purchase trash containers for downtown property owners at this time due to budget constraints. It is estimated the impact to the City budget would be \$ 45,000. Another issue to be resolved is Mayor and City Council adoption of a policy on special circumstances where staff would be permitted to deviate from the standards proposed. It is proposed that the special circumstances policy be approved concurrently with approval of the ordinance to amend the City Code. The following special circumstances have been suggested in prior discussions:

Special Circumstances for storage of trash containers: No trash container shall be stored in the front yard, on a front porch, in a public way, or in view of S. Prospect Street unless staff determine that:

1. The property does not contain a side yard to allow access to a rear yard or to allow for side yard storage or storage out of view of S. Prospect Street; and
2. the property does not have internal storage capability or a garage, or
3. poor permanent health or disability of sole occupant makes compliance with the standard a hardship; or
4. severe topography makes it infeasible to store trash as prescribed in Chapter 117

Councilmember Munson thanked staff for their efforts to address the concerns of residents regarding trash. He asked if a process for enforcement has been discussed. Ms. Maher indicated Code staff have been included in the discussions and they believe these amendments are enforceable without being overwhelming.

Residents will be notified of the amendments through a variety of ways, including mailings and flyers.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out that having an in-house crew for abatements of violations will provide resolution in a timely manner. He suggested providing uniform

containers for downtown residences, changing the color of the bins, and providing pick up of dumpsters from the alleys.

The Code amendments and policy will be scheduled for introduction in early March, with approval later in March.

Hagerstown Suns: Proposed Fourth Amendment to Lease at Municipal Stadium

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, was present for a follow-up discussion from the January 19, 2016 Work Session regarding the Hagerstown Suns' request for a fourth amendment to the current lease. The Suns' request extends their lease at Municipal Stadium for the 2017 and 2018 baseball seasons. Some of the changes from the current lease include:

1. Up to \$ 35,000 will be invested by the City in the Stadium each season.
2. City will do general maintenance of facility outside the normal day-to-day maintenance and cleaning.
3. City will make improvements to the locker room and wall padding prior to the start of the 2016 season (paid for by 2016 rent).

City Attorney Mark Boyer prepared the Fourth Amendment for the Mayor and City Council's review. The Suns ownership signed the Amendment.

Mr. Tissue stated the general maintenance of the facility includes typical maintenance items such as replacing bleacher seats and refurbishing the lights. It does not include upkeep of the restrooms.

Councilmember Brubaker thinks the objective of detailing the maintenance and responsibilities is to ensure the stadium is in good repair.

Mayor Gysberts pointed out this agreement puts the rent money back into maintenance and makes the upkeep a combined effort between the City and the Suns. He noted the Suns have made some improvements to the facility as well.

Councilmember Aleshire asked that a tally be kept of repairs and maintenance completed by the City at the stadium.

It was the general consensus to include approval of the fourth amendment on the February 23, 2016 agenda.

Catalytic Project #5: Linking Trail from AE District to City Park – Hagerstown Cultural Trail: Phase I Land Acquisitions, Purchases, Contract Approval and Public Art Master Plan

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, Teresa Cochran and William Cochran, Cochran Studios, were present to discuss Catalytic Project #5: Linking Trail from AE District to City Park.

The genesis of this project came from the Community's City Center Plan developed by Urban Partners in 2014 that was the result of broad community input. In October of 2014 and again in January of 2015, public meetings were held specifically to obtain community feedback on this project. Staff is pleased to present the finalized first phase of this project for the Mayor and City Council's approval.

The trail is the first step in this 10-year project with the following end goals:

1. Creating market rate new townhomes along the trail
2. Rehabilitation of several buildings on West Antietam Street
3. Creating a destination-quality trail between the beautiful City Park and the City Center Arts and Entertainment District.

The recommended name for the trail is "Hagerstown Cultural Trail". An extensive rationale for why this name was selected can be found in the Public Art Master Plan that is part of the memo. This name emphasizes a sequence of experiences that will be aesthetic, artistic, and educational in nature.

A final draft of the logo was presented. It utilizes the image of "Diana" from the Washington County Fine Arts Museum and conveys the image of "shooting for the stars" and the Museum is the anchor destination at the City Park end of the trail. To use this image, the City will need to enter into a legal agreement and finalize the intellectual property issue of the artist's rights. This will be provided to the Mayor and City Council for approval at a later date.

The construction bid is for the construction of a 10-foot wide concrete paver trail that begins on the north side (District Court side) of West Antietam Street; passes along the west side of the Antietam Paper building; heads south through land to be donated by the Herald Mail where a small park will be located; crosses Baltimore Street at mid-block; crosses through the lands of the Hagerstown Housing Authority, of which they have granted easements for a small sculpture garden; crosses through the lands of Ellsworth properties, which they have granted easements for; crosses Lee Street at mid-block, turns and heads west to where it crosses Summit Avenue; follows along the Virginia Avenue side of the triangle owned by the City; crosses CSX railroad and connects to the existing trail at Park Circle. The trail at this point is the existing 10' wide trail from Park Circle into City Park.

Staff anticipate the future “Marsh Run Trail” to the stadium along Memorial Boulevard will connect to the Cultural Trail at Park Circle.

The low bid for the contract was submitted by C. William Hetzer, Inc. in the amount of \$ 1,222,000.60. Staff reviewed the bids and found several items that could be eliminated or reduced. This results in a contract with a not-to-exceed the amount of \$ 1,180,000.

This contract includes all basic infrastructures of the trail including grading, sediment control, pavers, lighting, security system, landscaping, relocation of Hood Street, drainage, pedestrian radar-detection system and flashing signs at each midblock crosswalk. When pedestrians are detected along the trail (or when they push the buttons), the lights will flash warning motorists that there are pedestrians in the area who have the right of way.

The trail cost for Phase I is \$ 1,676,079. An additional \$ 450,000 is set aside for the first phase of the public art. The funding for the project comes from various sources including bond financing, proceeds from the sale of land, Community Legacy Grant for the signage, Program Open Space grant and, a donation from the Hagerstown Housing Authority.

To save funds and to maintain control of the quality, staff are recommending other subcontracts and purchases for the project, including pavers, granite insets, signs, crosswalks, security cameras, purchase of lighting, and trash cans, benches, and dog stations.

Mayor Gysberts indicated that County Commissioner John Barr intends to sponsor the paint for the “mural of unusual size” that is included in the plan.

Councilmember Nigh stated the key to the success of the trail will be convincing citizens this isn't an impulsive project.

This phase of the trail crosses the CSX railroad spur along the east side of Virginia Avenue. Staff has worked with CSX for approximately 18 months and they continue to address their requests. At the City's request, the Mayor and State Highway Administration (SHA) has agreed to completely update this crossing in 2017 at their expense.

Future phases of the project are anticipated to be constructed in FY 18. Phase II includes construction of the trail north of Antietam Street, past District Court, through the City-owned building at 43-53 West Washington Street, connecting to University Plaza and the existing trail to the Farmers Market. Phase III is the enhancement of the triangular shaped park at the south end of the project at Park Circle.

The information presented also includes seven letters of support recommending the construction of the trail.

Mr. Cochran stated the City of Hagerstown has done a great job of laying the ground work for the Cultural Trail, in fact, more than he has experienced in other locations. He believes the trail can link the incredible downtown to the beautiful City Park. Hagerstown is an industrial town and many patents have been registered by Hagerstown residents. Innovation built Hagerstown more than industry.

The Public Art Master Plan, developed by the Cochran Studio, was then presented. The goals for The Hagerstown Cultural Trail are ambitious. All design and planning efforts were directed to create a durable, high-profile, high-performing attraction that serves many purposes simultaneously, and that achieves the diverse goals for the Trail, set by the City and Stakeholders.

This project can help redefine Hagerstown in the minds of residents and visitors alike as a place of innovation, positive change and fresh thinking. It can help attract large employers by adding to the City's youth appeal with a prominent, creativity-driven attraction, something corporate recruiters need to attract talented and educated workers to Hagerstown.

The plan recommends artworks at an unusually wide range of scales, designed to encourage interactivity for all ages, ability levels and interest, and they are intended to greet visitors with one surprise after another, to encourage longer stays, and to reward repeat visits with new experiences.

Successful public art can help transform this city into a cultural destination that radiates energy and excitement, sharpening the City's competitive edge as a magnet for visitors. This trail can create a multi-dimensional must-see and must-explore urban destination of discovery and delight, a prominent "Creative Campus" at the center of the city that is almost unique among peer cities. This Creative Campus can re-brand Hagerstown as a forward looking center – a place of innovation, a city where creativity thrives and collaborative achievement is part of everyday life.

Public art is utterly unique in its public reach, providing access to high quality cultural experiences for people of all races, creeds, and income levels, 24/7/365.

The Master Plan recommends artwork sightings at Antietam Street, parklet near the Herald Mail, Hagerstown Housing Authority Area 1, Hagerstown Housing Authority Area 2, Ellsworth Electric property color tunnel, Lee Street, Triangle Park, and City Park Lake.

The Master Plan also recommends an elaborate version of Geocaching called Hidden Hagerstown. Hidden Hagerstown would include local history stories as part of the logbook. The caches are meant to be registered on the Geocaching.com website so they

are visible to a worldwide audience and discoverable through the Geocaching app for avid geocachers that are in the area. The cache “trinkets” can be stocked with Hagerstown-centric items at any point.

Once the permanent anchoring works are established, a wide variety of temporary sculpture can enliven the Trail from time to time, creating new attractions on a seasonal or period basis.

Councilmember Aleshire stated it seems citizens have embraced the educational aspect of downtown. This path accentuates the positive investment and highlights educational opportunities in Hagerstown all along the trail.

Mayor Gysberts stated this is a way to invigorate new housing in this great area of downtown. He believes this will encourage private investors to be a part of the vision.

Councilmember Brubaker stated moving from one end of the trail to the other should be easier with open spaces. The streetscape will have to be inviting.

Councilmember Munson stated he learned a lot from reading through the information in the plan. He noted there may soon be a statue of George Washington by a famous artist in front of the Court House.

Mayor Gysberts thanked everyone who has worked diligently on this project and for the presentation during this meeting.

It was the general consensus to move forward with the process as mentioned. The ordinances for the land issues will be introduced on February 23, 2016 and approved on March 1, 2016 in a Special Session. The ordinances will go into effect in 30 calendar days so the completion of all land acquisitions should occur in early April. Therefore, construction could start in mid-April and conclude by October 2016. Approval of the various construction components could be scheduled for approval on February 23, 2016 as well.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS**

*Valerie Means, City Administrator* announced that trash pick-up will be delayed one day the remainder of the week due to the weather today.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Councilmember P. M. Nigh* had no additional comments.

*Councilmember M. E. Brubaker* stated the MML Legislative Committee has been busy reviewing submitted bills for the 2016 Session.

*Councilmember K. B. Aleshire* had no additional comments.

*Councilmember D. F. Munson* had no additional comments.

*Mayor D. S. Gysberts* thanked the County Commissioners for their interest in the City and their willingness to be committed partners to achieve this shared vision for Hagerstown.

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 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by D. K. Spickler*

Donna K. Spickler  
City Clerk

Approved: March 22, 2016