

3RD SPECIAL SESSION, WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION –
January 17, 2017

EXECUTIVE SESSION – January 17, 2017

Councilmember D. F. Munson made a motion to meet in closed session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State, #4, (Section 3-305(b)), on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 407, 4th floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember E. Keller seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 3-1 with Councilmember P. D. Corderman voting No.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire was not in attendance at the time of the vote. He indicated he would have voted No to meet in closed session.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember P. D. Corderman, Councilmember E. Keller, Councilmember L. C. Metzner, Councilmember D. F. Munson, City Administrator Valerie Means, City Attorney Jason Morton, Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration, Alex Rohrbaugh, Planner, Jill Frick, Director of Community and Economic Development, Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, Randy Gray, Business Development Specialist, Jonathan Kerns, Community Development Manager, and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk.

The meeting was held to discuss three separate business proposals. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Executive Session was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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17, 2017

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 3rd Special Session, Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:19 p.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2017, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, P. D. Corderman, E. Keller, L. C. Metzner, and D. F. Munson, City Administrator Valerie Means, City Attorney Jason Morton, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

WORK SESSION – January 17, 2017

Offer of Dedication of Land from Columbia Bank

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, reported in 2001, the City widened alley 2-98 around the District Court building located near West Antietam Street. Prior to the construction,

the City donated land from adjacent property owners to widen the right-of-way. One of the property owners was Hagerstown Trust Company, from whom the City needed to obtain lands on both sides of the alleys.

The Mayor and Council discussed this project at the June 5, 2001 Work Session and during the Regular Session of June 19, 2001, a resolution was unanimously approved authorizing the execution of a Contract of Sale with Hagerstown Trust Company for conveyance of additional right-of-way and utility easements.

The surveyor prepared a separate plat of dedication for each side of the alley, and it was staff's understanding that all deeds were executed and recorded by the City Attorney. It was recently discovered that the recorded deed from Hagerstown Trust only conveyed land on the north side of the alley but did not include the land around their parking lot on the south side of the alley. Recently, staff had the opportunity to talk to the prospective buyer of what is now the Columbia Bank property and discussed that the bank intended to convey land on the south side of the alley to the City. Columbia Bank signed the plat of dedication and agreed to convey the land on the south side of the alley to the City.

Representatives from Columbia Bank (formerly Hagerstown Trust) have signed the subdivision plat that conveys land south of the alley to the City. Staff is requesting that the Mayor and City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to execute a deed with Columbia Bank (formerly Hagerstown Trust).

It was the general consensus to approve the resolution as requested during a Special Session on January 17, 2017.

3RD SPECIAL SESSION – January 17, 2017

On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember P. D. Corderman, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in Special Session at 4:21 p.m.

Approval of a Resolution: Authorizing the Execution of a Deed of Conveyance from Columbia Bank

Action: 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 a resolution authorizing the execution of a deed with Columbia Bank (former Hagerstown Trust Company) to accept the offer of conveyance of right-of-way and utility easements as shown on drawing #83-702-13.

**Approval of a Contract: 2017, 2018, and 2019 Western Maryland Blues Festival
Sound Technician**

Action: Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to approve the bid of MHA Audio, Inc., to provide sound and technical assistance for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Western Maryland Blues Festival at a cost of \$ 50,135.00 per year. The MHA Audio, Inc. proposal most closely conforms to the original festival intent and bid specifications set out an RFP P1616.17. Councilmember K. B. Aleshire seconded the motion.

Discussion: It was noted the information requested regarding previous contract pricing was included in the memo submitted for the weekly packet.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember P. D. Corderman voting No.

The Special Session was closed at 4:23 p.m.

City Attorney Jason Morton left the meeting at this time.

WORK SESSION - *continued*

McCleary Hill/Noland Master Plan

Glen Morgan, Bell-Revelle Construction, was present to discuss a planned rehabilitation project for Noland Village. Joanne Ballengee, Executive Director, Sean Griffith, Director of Housing Operations, and David Kump, Director of Special Projects, were also present representing the Hagerstown Housing Authority (HHA).

Noland Village was built in 1972, with the obsolete barrack-style public housing. The architecture of public housing stands in stark contrast to the surrounding neighborhood. The architecture is not adequate for modern families and is inefficient to maintain. Noland Village has a high concentration of large family households.

Because extensive rehabilitation is needed, annual and major capital improvements are needed, the Hagerstown Housing Authority has developed a proposal for the redevelopment of the existing Noland Village. Highlights of the proposal include:

1. De-concentration of poverty by placing 140 affordable units offsite and rehabbing (or new construction/enhancement) 110 remaining units
2. Replacement of 250 Affordable Housing Units with superior, high-quality design and construction totally indistinguishable from market rate development
3. Construction of 15 new Market Rate units at offsite location
4. Homeownership units infusing donation of Developer and Hagerstown Housing Development fees to reduce purchase expenses of homeowner

5. New Community Center
6. Similar breadth and scale to Gateway Crossing
7. Total development cost is anticipated to be more than \$ 70 million

The rehabilitation of Noland Village meets the goals of the City's Comprehensive Plan by making strategic investments to improve low-income neighborhoods and other areas exhibiting conditions of slum and blight. The main goals of the Five Year Consolidated Plan are to improve the living conditions of all residents in the City of Hagerstown, create a suitable and sustainable living environment, and to address the housing and community development needs of the City's residents. Goals not explicitly stated include Economic Development, joint efforts by government entities, and increasing the tax base.

For every 1,000 LIHTC units developed, approximately 1,130 jobs are supported annually. Approximately 60% of these jobs are in construction. The project includes a construction contractor stipulation to ensure at least 70% of construction supports local businesses.

If nothing is done at Noland Village, it will continue to deteriorate and be a financial drain on HHA, which could affect its ability to manage other properties. There would be the potential for further neighborhood decline and an increase in social and economic problems. Noland Village would become the home of choice for the lowest income households and no working families will choose to live in the community.

Mr. Morgan noted the current plan splits Noland Village into two parts.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he lives close to Noland Village and has a family member who rents a unit from the HHA. Recently he called in a report of shots fired at Noland Village. He wondered what benefits the plan creates with the area and the location of the new housing (on the site of Gateway Crossing). He noted there has not been a significant decrease in the number of police service calls at Gateway Crossing. He is concerned when he hears that working people won't live in Noland Village if the deterioration continues. He has witnessed debris and trash at the property, along with the crime issues. He wonders what community should have to put up with those issues. He doesn't support creating more subsidized housing.

Councilmember Corderman wants to continue to focus on things to reduce the need for social services. He would like to know what the residents in the neighborhood think about the proposed rehabilitation.

Councilmember Keller pointed out the median income in Hagerstown is \$26,000. Affordable housing is needed, but Noland Village as it exists is not acceptable. She stated, as elected officials, they need to try to find ways to create jobs to increase the median income.

Councilmember Munson asked how the construction will be funded. Mr. Morgan indicated funding will be from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Federal tax credits, and the State rental housing program. The project will take four years to complete.

Councilmember Munson clarified that the ultimate outcome of the rehabilitation is to lower the concentration of poverty at Noland Village and provide a decent standard of housing. If nothing is done, the costs to maintain Noland Village will be prohibitive. He wondered if there would be funds available to repair the damage if that happens. Mr. Morgan stated there are no capital funding programs available to renovate this community.

Councilmember Munson pointed out that the project will be completed, whether or not the Mayor and City Council support it. Mr. Morgan indicated the project complies with the City's zoning regulations and the HHA does not need a financial contribution for the project from the City. The HHA would like to have the support of the Mayor and Council and their cooperation as the project moves forward.

Councilmember Munson stated he does support this project. It is important to de-concentrate poverty and introduce homeownership in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Metzner reminded everyone that Ross Street was a slum area before it was replaced by Gateway Crossing. People who are poor and down trodden shouldn't be forced to live in "bad" housing. He thinks the people living in the area where the new housing will be constructed will not be supportive of the project. He thinks the biggest point is that tenants are handled appropriately. He believes Gateway Crossing is a success.

Councilmember Aleshire asked for statistical information for the incidences of bed bugs in Noland Village recently.

Mr. Morgan will provide this information. He stated he and the HHA will reach out to the residents in the area of the new housing prior to the start of the project.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out there are currently 250 units at Noland Village. Of the 250 units, 140 will be relocated to the Gateway Crossing site. He wondered if the remaining units will be one or two bedroom residences. Mr. Morgan indicated they will be creating the appropriate units for the existing tenants. There will be 150 one-bedroom units at Noland Village. These are intended to be occupied by senior citizens, couples, or single people.

Mr. Kump pointed out the HHA is required to maintain the number of public housing units that exist at Noland Village.

Councilmember Corderman stated he does not think the families in the existing neighborhood will be positively impacted by the rehabilitation. He asked who they could contact to voice their concerns.

Mr. Morgan indicated the property owner will pay taxes, but at a reduced level.

Councilmember Munson wished Ms. Ballengee well. She will be retiring at the end of January. She has been a good and strong leader. She helped to make things happen in Hagerstown, for example the Cultural Trail.

2017 Bond Project Listing and Potential Calendar

Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, was present to continue discussing the 2017 bond project listings and review the projects for Water, Wastewater, and Property Management funds. In addition to the project listing, a bond schedule calendar has been drafted.

Ms. Hepburn noted a debt repayment for projects within the Enterprise Funds is made from the respective fund. Those calculations are included in the fund's budget.

Water Department projects include plant improvements to the Willson Treatment Plant, Edgemont Reservoir improvements, rehabilitation to portions of the water distribution mains, and improvement to the SCADA software and hardware. The total FY17 Budget Request is \$ 1,252,000, with \$ 1,106,474 being proposed for bond financing.

The largest project in the Wastewater Fund is the facilities improvement project with Synagro. This project includes upgrading equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sludge Pelletizing facility. Other projects include collection system rehabilitation, upgrade the electrical switch gear, and replacement of 20 grinder pumps. The total FY17 Budget Request is \$ 1,747,000, with \$ 1,300,000 being proposed for bond financing.

Through the Property Management Fund, the City acts as a landlord for various properties, including the Elizabeth Hager Center. The roof replacement project was discussed by the Mayor and City Council at a previous Work Session. The additional cost is expected to be \$ 120,000, which will be included in the bond request.

Staff recommends returning by the March 7, 2017 Work Session to get direction and approval to begin the 2017 bond issuance process.

The following bond schedule was approved:

January 24, 2017	Introduction of the bond ordinance
January 31, 2017	Approval of the bond ordinance
March 7, 2017	Approval of bond resolution

Review of Pioneer Hook and Ladder Building, 21-23 W. Franklin Street and Possible Addition to the Competitive Negotiated Sale (CNS) Program

Jill Frick, Director of Community and Economic Development, and Fire Chief Steve Lohr, were present to discuss the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Building, 21-23 W. Franklin Street.

The Hagerstown Fire Department (HFD) has made the decisions to vacate the property at 21-23 W. Franklin Street for a variety of reasons. The 2016 Truck 1 has been permanently moved to the City-owned facility on Eastern Boulevard. HFD has worked closely with the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company on this decision. The East Franklin Street building was evaluated jointly, and estimated the priority repairs in excess of \$ 125,000 and full renovation in excess of \$ 350,000. Other factors prevent this location from being the better site for fire-rescue deployment. The City has committed to providing Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company a small amount of dedicated office space and storage in the Eastern Boulevard facility within the building's existing footprint.

The Competitive Negotiated Sale is a process that facilitates the sale of City-owned properties with the goal of returning the property to the private sector for its redevelopment and highest/best use. The City of Hagerstown makes real estate available for purchase and redevelopment. The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) coordinates the process and accepts purchase applications. The Mayor and City Council identifies properties to be offered for sale and ultimately approves any development concept and purchase.

The building is a 5,500 square foot, 2-story building. If it is turned back to the private sector it could help with revitalization of the unit block of W. Franklin Street. It is zoned CC MU, which allows a wide variety of uses, including residential, commercial, and light industrial.

Councilmember Aleshire indicated as the owner of the building, the City has some influence over the eventual use.

Councilmember Munson stated some volunteers have expressed an interest in the building. Chief Lohr stated there are fewer than 10 volunteers at the station. Councilmember Munson understands the emotional attachment to the station of the volunteers who spent most of their lives giving to the community; however, he doesn't see any way 7 to 10 people would have the resources to repair the building in order to stop the deterioration. He suggested adding it to the CNS list, with the intent to sell it to a taxpaying entity.

Chief Lohr stated he does not anticipate a public safety need for the building in the future.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to add the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Building to the Competitive Negotiated Sale program.

ZM-2016-03: Conversion District Amendment – Jeffrey Crampton, 901 Pope Avenue

Alex Rohrbaugh, Planner, was present to follow up on the December 20, 2016 Public Hearing for the proposed Conversion District amendment for 901 Pope Avenue and get direction on how the Mayor and City Council wish to proceed for the January 31, 2017 Regular Session.

The Public Review meeting for this proposal was held on December 20, 2016. The record was held open for 10 days afterwards, and Staff did not receive any additional public comment to date. The Planning Commission took testimony from the applicant, and no others in attendance spoke in favor of or against the rezoning.

At the Public Hearing, a discrepancy was pointed out between the application and the December 15, 2016 staff memo and analysis on permitted use #2, retail and wholesale trade, concerning motor vehicle sales. Staff looked into this matter and has determined that the rezoning application does not propose adding any motor vehicle sales, whether indoor or outdoor, to the list of approved uses as evidenced by the strikeout in the application. Staff has corrected the discrepancy and reworded #2 in the Ordinance and Findings of Fact to be consistent with the application and without the strikeouts.

At its November 9, 2016 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended to the Mayor and City Council approval of the Conversion District overlay amendment, subject to the following site plan condition: Any trash dumpster enclosures in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance.

It was the general consensus to include approval of the ordinance on the January 31, 2017 Regular Session agenda.

A-2017-01, Annexation – 2009 Salem Ave North LLC (Fulton), Salem Avenue

Alex Rohrbaugh, Planner, was present to discuss a proposed annexation of 2009 Salem Ave North LLC (Fulton), Salem Avenue. The proposed annexation is scheduled for introduction at the January 31, 2017 Regular Session. The Annexation Plan is also scheduled for adoption at that time. Following introduction, a Public Hearing on the annexation would take place on March 28, 2017.

The Fulton family has assembled some properties on the north side of Salem Avenue in anticipation of future redevelopment for commercial clients as yet unknown. Annexation is proposed at this time to get the tract ready for redevelopment, so the 4-6 month time delay association with the annexation process will not be an impediment to securing future commercial prospects.

Currently, the properties are zoned HI (Highway Interchange) in the County and contain a commercial building on four acres, three small houses, and a small commercial building. Public water and wastewater are not currently in Salem Avenue in this area. As redevelopment plans materialize, in addition to extension of utility lines, the Fultons anticipate a plan that sees a roadway/driveway connection to Terps Boulevard and extension of Garland Groh Boulevard into this area to serve commercial development between Terps Boulevard and I-81.

The total area of annexation is approximately 5.75 acres. The property is zoned HI (Highway Interchange) in the County, and if annexed, the property would be zoned CG (Commercial General). The zoning classifications are consistent with one another; therefore, no express approval of a zoning change is required from the County Commissioners. The Future Land Use Plan in the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan identifies this area as Medium-Density Residential and Industrial. The forthcoming Comprehensive Plan update, visionHagerstown 2035, has preliminarily identified the Salem Avenue corridor north of I-81, including the area of annexation, as CG.

The City Planning Commission will be reviewing the appropriateness of CG zoning for the annexation at their meeting on January 25, 2017.

Should the annexation resolution be introduced and the annexation plan be adopted on January 31, 2017, a Public Hearing will be held on March 28, 2017. In accordance with State Law, there must be a period of at least 30 days between the introduction of the resolution and the public hearing to allow state and county review. The applicant, members of the public, the County Commissioners, and the State have an opportunity to comment at the public hearing. The annexation resolution would then be scheduled for a vote on adoption in June. If adopted, the annexation would become effective 45 days later.

Introduction of the Resolution and Approval of the Annexation Plan will be included on the January 31, 2017 Regular Session agenda.

Planning and Code Administration Update

Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration, and Paul Fulk, Code Compliance Inspector Technology Specialist, were present to provide an update on the codes administered by the Planning and Code Administration Department and those amendments to codes made during the previous administration. In addition, they provided an overview of communication improvements that have been implemented in response to suggestions from the public that should help to ease the development and property management process.

Blaine Mowen, Chief Code Official, Pam Harris, Building Inspector, George Parrish, Electrical Inspector, and Gary Lambert, Program Manager, were also present.

The Planning and Code Administration Department (PCAD) administers or assists with the administration of 17 ordinances in the City Code. Planning staff administer the Land Management Code (zoning, subdivision and land development, forest conservation, and floodplain) which guides how land may be used and improved. Code Administration staff administer the Building Code and 15 other codes intended to promote public safety and to protect property values and quality of life in Hagerstown.

As the department works to protect the City's neighborhoods and ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and businesses, staff administers the 17 codes mentioned previously. As part of this work, staff interacts with a wide array of customers on a daily basis: home-owners, property managers, tenants, neighbors, realtors, developers, potential investors, business-owners, architects, engineers, building contractors, plumbers, HVAC contractors, electricians, sign contractors, etc. Some are seeking assistance in solving a nuisance in their neighborhood or gaining the attention of their landlord with a property deficiency. Some are subject to the City's inspections because of an open permit or because they own rental property or vacant property. Some are seeking staff's help in understanding the code requirements affecting their planned improvement project or the planned use of their property. Some received notices from staff because of code violations on their property which need to be corrected. Some take great pride in their property and some do not. Some are trying to do the right thing and some are trying to cut corners or work outside the codes. Staff has productive working relationships with some and strained interactions with some. It is staff's goal to help make the City the best it can be and to protect citizens from unsafe or nuisance situations. Unfortunately, staff meet resistance at times when the City's code requirements conflict with the goals and priorities of owners, managers, and occupants of property in Hagerstown.

Communicating effectively and providing helpful service tools are important as the department works to administer the codes and facilitate efforts to protect and enhance public safety, health, and welfare. There is always room for improvement and staff welcomes input from customers. They have utilized customer feedback surveys to gain input and have analyzed the results of the Main Street Program's recent survey. They have met with stakeholders, Main Street workgroups, the Pen-Mar Board of Realtors, Neighborhoods 1st groups, Council members, and other groups to learn more about concerns they may have or have heard and to discuss possible solutions to the issues raised. This work is hard but necessary.

Efforts and initiatives to enhance communications with customers and to provide better tools to customers include:

1. On-line tool to track status of permits and inspections
2. Permit applications and instructions
3. How-to brochures for simple permits
4. Meetings with stakeholder groups
5. Pre-purchase/design meetings, building walk-throughs, code discussion meetings, and progress meetings

6. Revisions to Vacant Structures Program
7. Revisions to Rental Licensing Program
8. Door hangers altering to property violations
9. Code Administration website updates and changes

Efforts to improve communication and to ease the Development and Property Management Process include:

1. Communication training
2. "Getting Ready for Rental Licensing Inspections"
3. Property Maintenance Code inspection checklist
4. On-line Trade Permits and Fence Permits
5. Removing surprises during permit inspections
6. Update of Property Maintenance Code
7. Road map of what to expect when renovating an old building

Mr. Fulk reviewed the additions and amendments made during the previous administration to the City Codes administered by PCAD staff. A listing of the amendments is included in the packet material and in a power point that was used during the presentation.

There were 2,287 permits issued in 2016. The total number of building permit plan reviews was 531. 90% of the projects were reviewed in less than 20 days. Councilmember Corderman wondered how these statistics compared to the Washington County Permits Office.

Staff completed 5,393 inspections in 2016, and 87% of the inspections passed on the first inspection conducted.

In 2016, 720 rental interior inspections were conducted and 1,874 deficiencies were identified. The top three Code deficiencies were smoke alarms, ground fault receptacle, and plumbing fixture conditions. 2,709 rental exterior inspections were conducted, with 2,616 deficiencies being identified. The top three deficiencies were rubbish, garbage, trash on property, chipping paint, and high weeds.

Councilmember Corderman asked if there is a process for rental inspections that will eventually rotate through the entire stock of rental housing. Mr. Fulk noted inspections only occur at turnover.

Councilmember Aleshire asked how a property owner can protest items on an inspection report. Mr. Fulk indicated an appeal could be made to the Board of Code Appeals. The fee for an appeal request is \$ 50.00.

Mr. Fulk stated staff accommodates requests for quick inspections if possible. If someone reports an unsafe condition, staff immediately inspects the property.

The Mayor and City Council have expressed their desire to create a task force to review the code enforcement process.

Councilmember Munson clarified that owner occupied homes are subject to these regulations. Mr. Fulk stated the Property Maintenance Code applies to all properties in the City. The Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) also applies to every property.

Councilmember Munson thanked the Code Administration staff for their efforts to have a severely deteriorated building on Salem Avenue demolished.

Councilmember Keller thanked staff for providing this information. She understands that PCAD staff have difficult jobs. The information shown during this presentation shows staff is handling the challenging situations. However, there is still a perception that doing business in Hagerstown is difficult. She asked that everyone work on resolving the negative perception.

Councilmember Metzner stated a recent survey indicated 93% of respondents are satisfied with interactions with City staff. He invited the 7% who are not to speak to the elected officials.

Councilmember Aleshire noted much of the negative response is from the same people who have been managing properties in the City of Hagerstown for decades. He wondered if there a pattern with the complaints. If the complaints indicate there is a process issue, it could be addressed through the City Code.

Councilmember Corderman pointed out the Main Street Hagerstown survey showed significant criticism. Ms. Maher acknowledged that it did and reported staff is evaluating the response.

Ms. Maher stated it seems comments and conditions noted during plan reviews are not being transferred to the people who are doing the work. She stated staff is attempting to fix this process issue.

Councilmember Corderman stated a customer survey should be sent out. In order to receive immediate feedback, he wondered if offering a discount on permit fees would encourage responses. The standards have to be applied consistently. He hopes the Codes are implemented at the same time as the County. He suggested looking at ways to duplicate what is done at the County. There may be a way to streamline the process with the City and County.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Valerie Means, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember E. Keller expressed her concern that there have been more pedestrian fatalities in the County. She is especially concerned about pedestrian safety on the Dual Highway. Councilmember Metzner pointed out the State Highway Administration (SHA) maintains the Dual Highway. The SHA completed a study within the last 18 months. No recommendations have been made yet.

Mayor Bruchey indicated there are intersections where pedestrians can safely cross the Dual Highway. Other areas are dark. The answer is not to spend significant amounts on lighting and sidewalks.

Councilmember Metzner pointed out Frederick installed a fence on the Golden Mile (U. S. Route 40) to prevent pedestrians from crossing at locations other than the designated crosswalks. This situation is being reviewed.

Councilmember Keller stated School Zone signs are needed at the Jonathan Hager Elementary School. Ms. Means indicated a speed camera is being planned for this area as well.

Councilmember Keller stated the two murders that occurred in Hagerstown last week are most likely a result of the opioid crisis. Something needs to be done to address this crisis.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire agreed that the crime issue is not going to decrease or decline. There were recent articles noting significant crimes in Martinsburg, West Virginia, Great Cove, Pennsylvania, and Frederick, Maryland. When a community is designed around the social services that are available, serious crimes will proliferate. He noted that a letter was submitted by former Mayor Gysberts supporting the Hagerstown Housing Authority's McCleary-Hill Project. Councilmember Aleshire sent a separate letter indicating that the support was not from the Council as a body. He does not think any further correspondence should be provided.

Councilmember P. D. Corderman expressed his concern that the City continues to enable the situation mentioned by Councilmember Aleshire by encouraging developments such as the McCleary-Hill project and the expansion of Cort Park. He ran for office to make a difference but he has heard with both these developments that the developers don't need approval from the Mayor and City Council. The City is continuing to enable a situation that attracts the individuals who commit violent acts like they did this weekend. He encouraged local judicial members to give these cases the same attention and bring back accountability to folks in Hagerstown.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner stated the City has not enabled these developments. There is no legal control over the developments. The Mayor and City Council do not have the capability to tell a developer that has a project that fits within the planning and

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zoning requirements that you don't like them being there. When the City had the opportunity to do something about the expansion of Cort Park, the Planning Commission did not agree. There are strict Federal regulations regarding prohibiting Section 8 housing. The Day Reporting center is a good thing for Washington County. He agreed there is a significant drug problem in Washington County. He does not think putting people in jail is the solution. Treatment of the addiction is the solution. Until the root causes are addressed, there will not be a change.

Councilmember D. F. Munson stated 2016 was a difficult year for Hagerstown citizens. He thanked the City employees who worked to remove the snow from one of the biggest snowfalls on record.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II thanked the Hagerstown Police Department for their excellent work in quickly solving two murders that occurred last week. It is difficult to deal with the drug epidemic that is out of control when there is no local treatment facility. He met with Chief Brito and Captain Langston to discuss some initiatives to help people feel safe on the streets in 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 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: February 28, 2017