

66TH SPECIAL SESSION, WORK SESSION, AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – March
5, 2019

STATE OF THE CITY – March 5, 2019

The State of the City was held on March 5, 2019 at Hager Hall Conference and Event Center, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Maryland. All members of the Mayor and City Council attended the event, which was held at 7:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – March 5, 2019

On a motion duly made by Councilmember A. Heffernan and seconded by Councilmember S. McIntire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present at the time of the vote 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, March 5, 2019 at 3:02 p.m. in Room 407, 4th floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember Aleshire was not present for the vote.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember A. Heffernan, Councilmember E. Keller, Councilmember S. McIntire, Councilmember L. C. Metzner, Interim City Administrator Michael Spiker, City Attorney Jason Morton, Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development, Jonathan Kerns, Community Development Manager, and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk.

The meeting was held to discuss an agreement and recruitment for a City Administrator. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

WORK SESSION – March 5, 2019

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 66th Special Session and Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:02 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2019 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, A. Heffernan, E. Keller, S. McIntire, and L. C. Metzner, Interim City Administrator Michael Spiker, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

66th Special Session – March 5, 2019

On a motion duly made by Councilmember E. Keller and seconded by Councilmember S. McIntire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in Special Session at 4:02 p.m.

**Approval of Ammunition Purchase for Patrol – The Gun Shop (Vincentown, NJ)
\$ 26,667.82**

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember S. McIntire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the purchase of police ammunition. This ammunition will be purchased from The Gun Shop in Vincentown, NJ for a total of \$ 26,667.82. The Gun Shop was awarded the competitively bid State of Maryland Contract #001B8400227 in January, 2018.

Funding will be from HPD's Ammunition and Explosives account and Police Academy Account.

The Special Session was closed at 4:04 p.m.

2020 Census – City/County Joint Effort on Complete Count Committee

Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration, and Jill Baker, Deputy Director of Washington County Department of Planning and Zoning, were present to discuss the promotion of the 2020 Census.

The purpose of the Complete Count Committee is to promote the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census to everyone in Washington County, but especially those segments of the population that are traditionally difficult to reach and have been under-counted.

The penalty of not being counted, which resonates the most with citizens, is the impact under-counting can have on federal dollars passed down for community programs and infrastructure projects critical for citizens.

Many programs, such as libraries, education, housing, food assistance, emergency services, child support, public transportation and grants for community programs and infrastructure, are directly affected by the counts in the decennial census. If people are missed, it could mean fewer dollars for these programs in the Hagerstown/Washington County community. Approximately \$ 675 billion in annual funding is distributed. If people are missed, it could mean fewer dollars for these programs in the community.

The data is also important to people who are looking to move into the community. Data from community surveys help planners and elected officials plan for growth and infrastructure needs.

Ms. Baker announced April 1, 2020 is Census Day. Preparation for the census count has already begun. The local census office will open this month. The Complete Count Committee will hold their initial meeting soon. The 2020 Census will be conducted predominately on-line. The Census is currently hiring people for contractual positions.

The Complete Count Committee is established to provide the trusted voice to the hard to count.

The first step to a successful census count is the educational process. It would be best for Washington County and Hagerstown to work together and combine their resources to reach the hard to count.

Government entities can help by encouraging Census participation. Providing locations with computer access that citizens without internet service can use to fill out forms would also be helpful.

The role of the Complete Count Committee is to promote public awareness and participate in the Census Campaign. They will use local knowledge, influence and resources to educate and inform citizens about the 2020 Census and motivate citizens to proactively respond. They will help the Census Bureau reach out to groups who are hard to count or aren't motivated to respond to the national campaign. They will also participate in the development of plans to ensure that all local communities are aware and supportive of Census2020. Members of the CCC should plan media and community events to notify the general public that the Census is coming and how to participate.

The same presentation is scheduled to be provided to the Washington County Commissioners.

The Mayor and City Council were asked to hold a joint press conference with the Washington County Commissioners on April 1, 2019 as an official kick-off to promote the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census.

Ms. Maher asked the Mayor and City Council to let staff know if they would like to participate in the CCC or have recommendations for community members to invite to serve on the committee.

Mayor Bruchey stated he would coordinate with Commissioner President Jeff Cline for a joint press conference.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Michael Spiker, Interim City Administrator, thanked Paul Frey and the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the State of the City this morning. The presentation can be viewed on the City's website. He believes the Mayor and Council's message of collaboration was well received. City staff will continue with this approach. He thanked Wes Decker, Communications Manager, and Eric Hastings, TV Production/Web Coordinator, for creating the video that was shown. He thanked Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, and the Public Works staff for their snow removal efforts during the last three day events.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember E. Keller had no additional comments.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire agreed with Mr. Spiker's comments. He and his family attended a maple syrup making demonstration at the Fairview Outdoor School. There are fun and interesting activities to do in Hagerstown and Washington County every weekend.

Councilmember A. Heffernan thanked staff for the excellent video at the State of the City. He was pleased to see residents, developers, and business owners represented in the video. The City of Hagerstown is business friendly.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner agreed the State of the City video was well done.

Councilmember S. McIntire also agreed the State of the City was an excellent presentation. She announced applications for the Youth Advisory Committee are available on the City's website. One student has already applied.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II was pleased with how the video turned out. He especially likes the list of accomplishments. He believes next year will be even better.

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 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: April 23, 2019