

79th REGULAR SESSION – September 25, 2012

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this 79th Regular Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 6:05 p.m., Tuesday, September 25, 2012, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers W. M. Breichner, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney Mark Boyer and D. K. Spickler, City Clerk. Councilmember F. W. Easton and Councilmember A. C. Haywood were not present.

The invocation was offered by Councilmember W. M. Breichner. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mayor Bruchey announced the Rules of Procedure for this meeting will be followed as adopted June 23, 2009. It was announced that the use of cell phones and electronic devices 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 beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, October 9, 2012, and October 16, 2012, a Public Information meeting regarding the MUSEC on October 9, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., and the Regular Session on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. No meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

The order of the agenda was revised to complete the voting items prior to citizen comments so that Councilmember Metzner was able to participate.

MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Councilmember W. M. Breichner 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 Council meetings held on August 7, 2012, August 14, 2012, August 21, 2012 and August 28, 2012.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Councilmember W. M. Breichner and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Department of Utilities:
 - 1. Water: Upgrade/Replace Filter Valve Network – JC Controls, Inc. (Warminster, PA) \$ 98,428.00
 - 2. Wastewater: Upgrade of Lachat System – HACH (Loveland, CO) \$ 42,833.22
- B. Public Works: Bulk Road Salt – Cargill Incorporated (North Olmstead, OH) \$ 65.87 per ton
- C. Department of Parks and Engineering:
 - 1. 2012 Street Tree Planting – Poole Landscaping, Inc. (Frederick, MD) Not

to Exceed \$ 37,000.00

2. Pavement Condition Survey – Enterprise Information Solutions (Columbia, MD) Not to Exceed \$ 35,000.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of an Ordinance: Amending the City Code, Chapter 140, Land Management Code, Comprehensive Update

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Hagerstown, by deleting and repealing Chapter 140, Land Management Code, and replacing said chapter with a new Chapter 140, Land Management Code, which comprehensively updates the code.

B. Approval of an Ordinance: Amending the City Code, Chapter 38, City of Hagerstown Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an ordinance to amend the City of Hagerstown Police and Fire Employees' Retirement Plan in order to reflect changes in the laws of the United States governing retirement plans and update section 38-19. This amendment addresses credit for pre-employment military service.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending Chapter 64 of the City Code to Update the Building Code for 2012

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 adopt the 2012 Building Code as amended. This Code will become effective for building permit applications received on or after November 22, 2012.

B. Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending Chapter 64 of the City Code to Update the Electrical Code for 2012

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 adopt the 2012 Electrical Code as amended. This Code will become effective for building permit applications received on or after November 22, 2012.

C. Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending Chapter 64 of the City Code to Update the Mechanical Code for 2012

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded

by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance to adopt the 2012 Mechanical Code as amended. This Code will become effective for building permit applications received on or after November 22, 2012

D. Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending Chapter 64 of the City Code to Update the Plumbing Code for 2012

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 adopt the 2012 Plumbing Code as amended. This Code will become effective for building permit applications received on or after November 22, 2012.

E. Introduction of an Ordinance: Land Transfer, Memorandum of Understanding with Kiwanis Club and Naming of Park

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember W. M. Breichner and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to introduce an ordinance authorizing:

- a. Transfer of Lot 20 in Hagerstown Business Park to the City from JBD, LLC
- b. Easement and Maintenance Agreement and Deed of Easement with JBD, LLC
- c. Memorandum of Understanding with the Kiwanis Club of Hagerstown

This action provides for the creation and long-term maintenance of a new City park with access to Antietam Creek. It was further moved to adopt the Concept Plan dated March 21, 2012 as the overall improvement plan for the park. The Mayor and City Council further authorize staff to execute these documents and construct improvements funded by Excise Tax revenue per the approved FY 12/13 budget.

F. Approval of a Resolution: Naming the Park Area at East Avenue and North Locust Street “Greenawalt Park”

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember L. C. Metzner and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution designating the park area being developed at the corner of East Avenue and North Locust Street as “Greenawalt Park”, in honor and tribute to Margaret Greenawalt, a resident during the Civil War, who is recognized for her acts of bravery and patriotism.

G. Approval of a Resolution: Naming the Park Area at the Corner of West Memorial Boulevard and South Potomac Street “Memorial Park”

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember W. M. Breichner and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a resolution designating the

park area being developed at the corner of West Memorial Boulevard and South Potomac Street as “Memorial Park”, in honor and tribute to veterans and/or worthy citizens who have contributed to the City.

H. Approval of a Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding with Maryland State Police for International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets) Database for Speed Monitoring

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 a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Hagerstown and the Maryland State Police to permit access to vehicle owner and operator license information by the speed camera vendor in connection with speed monitoring systems in school zones. Either party may terminate this MOU with 30 days written notification. There is no cost to the City for this MOU.

I. Approval of Contract for R. C. Willson Water Treatment Plant Lagoon Cleaning and Maintenance – Synagro Central, LLC (Baltimore, MD) \$ 159,200.00

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember W. M. Breichner and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve the bid from Synagro Central, LLC to provide residual removal services for \$0.0398 per gallon with an estimated annual expenditure of \$ 159,200.00 of Water Division operating funds. This contract shall be in effect for three years with the option to renew for two additional 1-year periods under mutually agreeable terms.

J. Acceptance of Maryland Bikeways Program Grant

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 of a Maryland Bikeways Program Grant Agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation in the amount of \$ 60,000 to improve bicycle access to schools, parks, employment and businesses in Hagerstown. There is no financial match required of the City. The Mayor and City Council further authorize staff to execute the agreement and implement the improvements adjacent Park Circle and Summit Avenue.

Discussion: Councilmember Metzner congratulated staff and the Bicycle Advisory Committee for this accomplishment.

K. Approval to Extend Yard Waste Program

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember W. M. Breichner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve revising Contract 11-11-M-11 to extend the Yard Waste collection for the City of Hagerstown. This

extension includes collections ending the last full week of December, and beginning collections the first full week in March of each year. This is approximately seven weeks of additional service. Funding for the project will be from rebate funds received from Waste Management due to the high volume of recycled materials collected.

L. Approval of Traffic Calming on Summit Avenue

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 of the traffic calming plan for the 400, 500 and 600 blocks of Summit Avenue, consistent with the City's Traffic Calming Policy. This project is intended to slow vehicular speeds and support neighborhood initiatives. The Mayor and City Council hereby direct staff to proceed with bidding and construction of said traffic calming measures. Funding for the project is \$ 20,000 from CIP 760 in the FY 12/13 budget.

M. Approval of Amendment to the Retainer Agreement for City Legal Services

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 an amendment to the existing Retainer Agreement with the law firms of Nairn & Boyer and John H. Urner, which is dated November 24, 2010. The amendment adjusts the legal fees for the final year of the Retainer Agreement, which will begin January 1, 2013 and end December 31, 2013, as outlined in an attached amendment.

N. Approval of Changes to City Investment Policy

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 adopt the changes, as outlined in an attached document, to the City's Investment Policy as recommended by staff and reviewed and modified by the Mayor and Council at the September 4, 2012 work session.

O. Approval of Application Permit: University System of Maryland Fundraiser – October 5, 2012

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 authorize the application/permit agreement with the University System of Maryland. Also, according to the City of Hagerstown's Open Containers Law, the Mayor and City Council may permit the possession of alcoholic beverages in open containers on the streets, lanes, alleys, sidewalks, parking lots or public ways of the City during special events upon application or upon its own

initiative. Therefore, Mayor and City Council formally approve the possession of alcoholic beverages (beer and wine) in the University Plaza for October 5, 2012 for the fundraiser for the University System of Maryland. Hours of the event are to be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jill Estavillo, Economic Development Manager, presented information regarding the Multi-Use Sports and Event Center. Ms. Estavillo is the project manager for the MUSEC project. The project team has reviewed and researched the proposed downtown site. A presentation to the Mayor and City Council in October, 2011 expressed concern about the deterioration of downtown. At that time, it was noted a plan was developed to help downtown. That plan is continuing and the MUSEC will help accomplish the goals of the plan. The City needs to be in partnership with others to make significant improvements to downtown. A call of action was made to all sectors of the community to take action and initiative to improve downtown. This project is part of the answer to that call. First and foremost, the MUSEC is a downtown redevelopment project and an economic development project. The MUSEC is not just about baseball in Hagerstown. It will provide jobs and support for businesses, both existing and new. It will provide hope where hope is lacking. It is challenging, but important work. A video titled "Why Downtown" was shown.

Sandy Gilmer, 405 W. Howard Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is concerned about traffic at Bester Elementary School. An adult was hit by a car last week and she is very concerned that a child will be hit. She asked that a police officer be at Bester at the beginning and ending of school.

Mayor Bruchey will meet with Acting Chief Holtzman to discuss Ms. Gilmer's concern.

Tom Riford, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Executive Director, stated there was an article about events in Frederick and it mentioned the decay of Hagerstown. Hagerstown has the second lowest unemployment rate in Maryland. Baseball and events at the MUSEC will bring a lot of people to Hagerstown. Baseball has been in Hagerstown since the early 1800's. Baseball has remained after other activities have ceased. There will be a great impact on restaurants, hotels and employment. This facility can keep things moving forward in Hagerstown. The design of the MUSEC includes promenades, a club house and meeting rooms. It can be used year round for fundraisers and conventions. He was pleased to learn taxes will not increase because property values will increase. He believes in this project. The CVB board voted to support the idea of a stadium downtown.

Chick Meehan, 17641 College Road, St. James School, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated the Suns bring many things to Hagerstown. A game is a nice place to take a family for a reasonable price. He thanked the Mayor and Council and all those involved for the courage and insight to revitalize downtown. Experts have said this will be an excellent opportunity for the City and the County. The impact new stadiums have had in Lancaster and York can be realized in Hagerstown. If there is no change, there will be no progress. Progress is needed to protect the community's families.

Francine Donachi, Bulls and Bears Manager, works downtown at 28 S. Potomac Street. She is active with the Downtown Alliance and supports growth, revitalization and community outreach in Hagerstown. She viewed the condition of Municipal Stadium. She is concerned about the comments from others that say downtown is dead. Downtown is not an “it” but is residents and business owners who want to stay downtown. This is an opportunity to breathe new life into Hagerstown. She applauded leaders who stand up for growth. To those who oppose the project, she asked them to remember that everyone together has to find solutions to revitalize downtown.

Kelly Colbert, 13529 Pulaski Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated another component of the downtown and this project is quality of life, especially for children. She is an avid baseball fan, especially Little League baseball. She sees the impact the Suns team has on young players.

Dan Poyner, 7907 Mapleville Road, Boonsboro, Maryland, supports the MUSEC project. It can be debated whether or not to revitalize Municipal Stadium or build a new one. What is not debatable is that Hagerstown needs revitalization. If nothing is done, bad things will happen and decay continues. He felt safe at the Camden Yards stadium because there were a large number of people around. This stadium will bring a sense of safety to downtown and more patrons for the businesses. The MUSEC is more than a baseball stadium. It can be used for the good of the community.

Todd Bolton, Smithsburg, Maryland, stated the video made many of the points he wanted to make. He stated this is the single best opportunity to do something positive and make something of Hagerstown. He thanked everyone involved for their efforts in the development of this plan.

Dan Spedden, 41 Mealy Parkway, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated the City can choose fear and pessimism or choose hope and optimism. Fear and pessimism drives things down. This project represents hope and optimism. He has attended many games and always made it home without incident. He believes this project will reach a critical mass and private investors will lead the way. Until this happens, the City must lead the way. He encouraged the City to keep moving forward and bring it to fruition as soon as possible.

Justin Mayhew, 13726 Paradise Church Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, applauded the Mayor and City Council and staff for their work. He stated this is the vision the City needs at a critical time in history. He has attended games for 31 years and he hopes to continue to be able to attend games. He enjoys following the players as they move up the ranks to the major league.

Janet Bartels, 139 S. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, expressed her concern that no one asked the neighborhood around the proposed site for their input. The neighborhood was not represented for any discussion about the stadium or the dog park at Hager Park. The community garden was going to be used by the Girls and Boys Club. She stated these neighborhoods have a high number of resident who are below poverty level. She is concerned that the little league teams will be pushed out of Hager Park by a dog park. The City of Cleveland is revitalizing its downtown by purchasing vacant lots and locating art activities and a community center there. She does not understand why revitalization will occur around a new stadium in Hagerstown. She is not sure all

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downtown merchants are convinced this will happen.

Councilmember Metzner left the meeting at this time.

Paul Deputy, 41-45 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is a business owner (The Gourmet Goat) and has seen the decline of downtown. He hopes the stadium is the key for more activity downtown.

Regina Swope, 5 Dartmouth Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated minor league baseball is a gift to the community. Many communities don't have minor league baseball. The community should not take a chance of losing this amenity. There is a source of pride in watching players as they move through the league rankings. Hagerstown needs a vision.

Charles Sekula, 58 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is the owner of the Schmankerl Stube. His restaurant has been downtown for 25 years. He served on the first task force for revitalization. A multi-use facility will provide an opportunity to attract people to downtown. Tourism can have an enormous economic impact.

Jason Bozicevich, 1525 Iris Court, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated he teaches his children about vision. He supports the stadium and revitalization. Vision without action is daydreaming.

Michael Gehr, 1210 Oak Hill Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, has attended games at Municipal Stadium for 25 years. He stated the facility is worn out. A new, multi-use facility would be something Hagerstown could be proud of. Locating this facility downtown will enhance development. He is aware of a number of developers exploring opportunities now. Hagerstown needs to invest in itself. The project needs to move forward to show people want revitalization downtown. He suggested that BluesFest and Augustoberfest could be held in the planned concourse.

Zach Spedden, 41 Mealy Parkway, Hagerstown, Maryland, has been a city resident since 1998. He isn't sure how much longer he can live here. He feels the community is being minimalistic. The multi-use facility is an opportunity to re-write the story of Hagerstown and to rejuvenate Hagerstown.

Garry Laing, 13917 Eden Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated the multi-use facility is an opportunity to replace a worn out facility. It will be good for the community. He hopes the Mayor and Council vote yes for the facility and make it happen.

Bob Savvitt, 4341 Coxe Brown Road, Myersville, Maryland, stated baseball introduced his family and friends to Hagerstown. They visited here for baseball and soon learned there were other things to see in Hagerstown and Washington County. If the stadium had been downtown, they would have discovered the historic sites and restaurants sooner. A stadium downtown will bring visitors to Hagerstown and they will see what Hagerstown has to offer.

Richard Hays, 8907 Lums Avenue, Boonsboro, Maryland, is concerned about the financial burden this project will put on taxpayers. There should be a workable plan to allow this project to stand on its own. He believes visitors would be uneasy downtown.

He has not observed a police presence downtown. There should be a plan of action to remove drug dealers and others from downtown. He believes the city of Aberdeen is experiencing financial difficulties, even with a new stadium.

Stephanie Badoud, 152 Southern Oak Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland, has collected more than 275 signatures against the stadium. The number of police officers will have to be increased to deal with drugs, prostitution, shootings, stabbings, etc. When these things are removed, the City can start to attract businesses. She stated most people want the facility located on the outskirts of Hagerstown. She stated it is not feasible to build a new stadium if average attendance at games is 400. She stated she heard Harrisburg built a stadium and someone said it doesn't exist. She is concerned the chosen site is a former railroad yard. Removal of hazardous material may increase the costs significantly. She stated building a new stadium at this site, at this time, is not good.

Chris Smith, 10335 Lantern Lane, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated his family came to Hagerstown for economic opportunities. His father owned the Dagmar Hotel and maintains a presence in Washington County. He has been running the family business for the last three years. Downtown Hagerstown had been viewed as a toxic business environment. Discussion of the stadium project has revived interest in downtown and changed the outlook on the environment. He has made some offers on properties near the proposed site.

Paul Barr, 15833 Lockwood Road, Williamsport, Maryland, has fond memories of baseball at Municipal Stadium. He is a season ticket holder for the Suns. It was good to see 7,000 people attend a game to see Steven Strasburg play at Municipal Stadium. He supports the multi-use facility and location.

Magnus Dahlgren, 13232 Fountain Head Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated downtown Hagerstown needs something to spark people's interest. He stated small thinking is holding the community back. People have to stop being afraid to invest in themselves and the community.

Vinnie DiCola, 36 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, owns Rocky's Pizza. He lives and works in the City and has for many years. He is concerned about the comments about there being a lot of crime in Hagerstown. He sees police officers on the street a lot. If the Suns leave Hagerstown, another city will get the money Hagerstown loses. He urged the Mayor and Council to move forward with the project.

Julie Rivett, 141 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, wants to save historic Municipal Stadium. She thinks it can be renovated for less money than a new facility. She is worried about lights, noise, traffic and construction and how this will affect her family. She stated residents have asked for a public hearing on this issue. She understands a public meeting has been tentatively scheduled for October. In the meantime, funding was included in the budget approved in May, 2012. She doesn't understand why a viable business would be relocated to a blighted area. She stated there are graves from early churches in this area. If the current stadium is demolished, that history will be gone. She stated this project will mortgage the community's children's future. She hopes there will be public input for this project.

Barbara Hovermill, 16286 Spielman Road, Williamsport, Maryland, asked why they are here again, discussing the same thing. She attended the tour of Municipal Stadium

and was disappointed with the maintenance at the facility. There was peeling paint and dirt. She asked what administration stopped taking care of the stadium. She is concerned that season ticket prices have increased for senior citizens. Parking is currently free to attend a game. That would change with a new location. In the 1960's, everything was available downtown. Little by little, businesses left downtown. She wondered why baseball is still in Hagerstown. She is hearing it is difficult to get along with the City and there is no vision. She has ideas she would like to discuss. One of the problems at Municipal Stadium is flooding. This will occur at the proposed site. She is concerned that citizens have not had the opportunity to provide their opinions of the multi-use facility. She stated she knows the City owns land around Municipal Stadium and believes that facility could be expanded. She wants additional time for citizens who can't be at this meeting to provide input. She read a letter addressed to Councilmember Haywood. A copy of the letter was not provided.

Carol Smith, 45 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is head of the tenant association at the C. W. Brooks Building. She stated the tenants were not aware the Mayor was going to visit the building earlier this week until five minutes before he arrived. The residents feel like the Mayor did not want to talk to them. They are worried about drugs and increased crime. She indicated more than 60 people living at the C. W. Brooks building and Potomac Towers signed a petition against the multi-use facility.

Mayor Bruchey stated his visit was scheduled through the management office at least ten days ago. John Lestitian, Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, stated the Mayor's visit was to be with individuals and not in a group setting.

Ms. Smith stated she has a friend in Greenville, South Carolina, (where a new stadium was built) who indicated existing businesses were doing well. New businesses located there within two years. She stated there a number of people who would be in favor of a multi-use facility in another location.

Penny Nigh, 634 N. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is concerned that the State deficit is anticipated to be \$ 520 million by the year 2015. She presented a bag of letters with more signatures against the stadium. More than 1,000 signatures have been submitted. The signatures are from City, County and State residents. She stated the newspaper reported she was in favor of the stadium. She clarified her support is for the existing stadium, not a new stadium.

Leigh Zahm, 113 Sherri's Way, Smithsburg, Maryland, provided information about the 2013 Mason-Dixon Work Camp. Trinity Lutheran Church in Smithsburg, Maryland, is co-sponsoring the work camp that is being held June 15 – 22, 2013. Up to 400 youth and adults will be volunteering to work on 60-80 homes in the area. He asked for help in letting people know this event is occurring. He also asked for assistance with identifying homes that are in need of repair. Mr. Lestitian will work with Mr. Zahm on this.

Madonna Cline, Benjamin Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, doesn't want to see the seating changed at City Park. She is concerned older citizens would not be able to climb bleacher type seats. She does not like the proposed site for the stadium. She stated the Suns should put money into the project up-front.

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Councilmember Brubaker pointed out the seating at City Park will be single lines of seats, not bleacher style.

Jonathan Burrs, 950 Lanvale Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, does not support the proposal for a multi-use stadium but he does support the Hagerstown Suns. The current proposal will not be a catalyst for downtown revitalization. He stated studies show no evidence of this. There is modest economic impact for rookie leagues. The proposed project has to be evaluated and a plan developed that includes the Suns for a better approach and a plan for the overall City. The proposed location does not fit with the one way streets and cramped buildings.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

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Councilmember W. M. Breichner stated there was opposition for the Potomac Street deck and the University of Maryland. These projects turned out to be excellent projects. He believes the stadium project will be an excellent project as well. It will help revitalize downtown. He understands petitions have been presented. The emails he receives in opposition for the stadium are all the same, with no constructive thoughts. Constructive comments were presented during this meeting and he appreciates that.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker thanked everyone who spoke during the comment time. The stadium discussion has overshadowed other actions the Mayor and Council have taken. A lot of good things have been accomplished. The project can't move forward until a feasibility review is completed. Some information is confidential and the Mayor and Council have not been able to provide it to the public. Some of the criticisms of downtown presented during the meeting are unwarranted, such as the statements about excessive crime. The Mayor and Council have not committed to the project and they are working hard to review the information and make the best decisions for Hagerstown.

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II thanked everyone for their comments. This project has not been rushed into. The discussions about a new stadium started in December, 2011. He hopes all the information will be available by October 9, 2012, when a public information meeting is being held. This project is complex. This is a redevelopment project in the core that adds additional parking, removes derelict buildings and increases amenities downtown. By doing this project, Hagerstown will be unique. Two events are being held this weekend in Hagerstown – Thunder in the Square on September 28, 2012 and the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Hagerstown on September 29, 2012. He urged everyone to attend these events and visit downtown.

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 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND
Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk

Approved: November 20, 2012