

WORK SESSION

APRIL 2, 2013

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

WORK SESSION – April 2, 2013

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:02 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson and P. M. Nigh; Finance Director Michelle Burkner, City Attorney William Nairn, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

Proclamation: Recognition of Jazz and Poetry Month

Mayor Gysberts read a proclamation recognizing April as Jazz and Poetry Month. Performers from the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts will be present at future Work Sessions in April.

Dog Park Task Force Report and Recommendation

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated Dog Parks have been proposed in the City of Hagerstown for many years. Several years ago, one was proposed in Mills Park and last summer one was proposed in Hager Park. Neither one materialized for various reasons.

It is clear there is a strong desire in the community for a dog park so last October, the Mayor and Council decided to appoint a Task Force to study the issue in a comprehensive manner and report their findings to the Mayor and Council. The report was presented at this meeting.

Mr. Tissue stated working with this group on this project has been a great experience. Their positive energy, commitment and desire to study this issue was wonderful to be part of. In a way, they represent what a dog park could do ... six strangers who met and developed relationships all starting with one thing in common – their love for their dogs.

Regarding the neighbor(s) of the proposed park at Fairgrounds Park, staff met with them in February and offered a variety of methods to screen their properties. Staff continue to offer anything possible to mitigate their concerns.

Maria Mestre, Dog Park Task Force Chairperson, presented the report to the Mayor and City Council. Members of the Task Force include: Heather Holman, Nate Mackley, Renee Burgan, Stacey Webster and Tony Bittner. Michael Lawson (Director), Katherine Cooker and Evelyn Garrett of the Humane Society of Washington County also provided information for this study.

There were four main goals the Task Force focused on achieving:

1. Location – a matrix of criteria was used to assess each site
2. Operations – various aspects of how the park would operate were addressed
3. Fundraising – what could be accomplished, beyond the City's funding

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4. Public Interaction – The Task Force understood the importance of obtaining community support.

A total of 11 meetings took place from November, 2012 through March, 2013.

There are seven dog parks within a 30-mile radius of Hagerstown. It is estimated that 40% of the population in Hagerstown own pets. There are an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 dogs living within the City limits of Hagerstown. People spent \$ 53.33 billion on pets in the United States in 2012.

Dog Parks build a sense of community, provide a setting for dogs and dog owners to socialize, promote health and safety for dogs in addition to responsible dog ownership, training tips, good manners and owner responsibilities can be communicated and reinforced amongst dog owners within this setting. The mere presence of people and dogs can reduce the rate of crime in the surrounding area. Dog parks can encourage adoptions. They can also increase the appeal of the City to existing and potential residents.

A Dog Park Petition was created as a means for the community to show their support. This petition was available online for electronic signatures, and in 18 local businesses in the Hagerstown area. To date, the total number of signatures obtained is 1,494.

An unknown percentage of these signatures are from people that live outside the City limits. However, it is important to note that these signatures represent people coming to Hagerstown. The support they showed for a dog park suggests a potential to increase visitors and tourists to the city, thus increasing revenue for local businesses.

Twelve sites were reviewed that are City-owned or could be acquired inexpensively. Twelve criteria were considered to rank these sites. The top three ranked sites based on the criteria were: City Park, Fairgrounds Park South and Hager Park.

Although City Park was ranked #1 based on the calculation of the criteria alone, Fairgrounds Park South superseded it mainly due to cost. Per the initial cost estimates, City Park exceeds the cost of Fairgrounds Park South by approximately \$ 34,000. Features such as the 6' fence, asphalt trails and lighting made City Park a more costly recommendation.

After careful review and discussion, the Task Force unanimously agreed that Fairgrounds Park South was the most logical recommendation for a dog park. Cost was the main factor for selecting this location. Some of the existing features that lowered the overall cost were utilizing existing fences, parking, walking trails and lighting.

To maintain community involvement and support, the Task Force believed it was critical to meet with the residents who lived directly adjacent to the proposed dog park. A total of 36 letters were sent to these residents. During the meeting, the Task Force provided a drawing to show the specific section of Fairgrounds Park South, the planned

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layout of the dog park, the benefits of a dog park for both dogs, dog owners and the community, and an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns and opinions. The result of the meeting was generally positive. Concerns from the residents were discussed and suggestions were proposed by staff to address those concerns. One of the modifications to the proposed dog park plan included adding vegetative screens along the fence-line to screen the adjacent residential properties from the park and vice versa.

The Task Force discussed the City's role and liability with City Attorney William Nairn. They also discussed enforcement of rules at the dog park with Lt. Paul Kifer.

The Task Force is proposing to establish a Dog Park Advisory Committee to assist in communicating issues to the City after the dog park is opened. This committee would consist of residents (possibly neighboring the dog park) that would meet with the City staff to ensure the park is running smoothly.

Staffing the dog park is not foreseeable. However, it is recommended to have as much presence in the park as possible during the first month of operation. Staff would be required to perform a general cleanup of the dog park once per week. Rules and regulations for the dog park have been created and reviewed by Mr. Nairn.

Some of the amenities anticipated for a City of Hagerstown dog park include security cameras, fabric screen, dual pavilion, benches, waste receptacles, trees and double secure entry way. The park would be divided into two sections, one for dogs less than 25 pounds and one for dogs more than 25 pounds. It is requested that \$ 40,000 of Excise Tax funds be used for the essential features to establish the dog park. A portion of the Excise Tax funds are earmarked for park development.

It is anticipated that the remaining funds needed to complete the balance of the dog park features are to be raised by a fundraising campaign with companies and residents within Hagerstown. The funds provided by the City would be sufficient for the park to begin construction. Fundraising would continue while the park is being built.

If the Council approves the proposed dog park at the next regular session on April 23, 2013, the Task Force is setting a tentative opening date for Saturday, June 29, 2013.

Councilmember Aleshire asked why proposals at Mills Park and Hager Park failed. Mr. Tissue stated he believes it was primarily opposition from residents for the Mills Park site, but not necessarily adjacent residents. At Hager Park, the little league indicated they use the park for practice on a regular basis.

Councilmember Aleshire wondered if there are covenants restricting uses in Hager Park. Mr. Tissue stated the use is restricted to a park, without further specification.

Councilmember Aleshire asked how close the nearest resident's backyard is to the Fairgrounds Park site and whether or not that resident attended the neighborhood meeting. Mr. Tissue stated most in attendance live on Cannon Avenue.

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Councilmember Aleshire asked whose owns the fence. Mr. Tissue stated the City owns the fence.

Councilmember Nigh stated she is surprised that the railroad (CSX) wasn't interested in selling property to the City. Mr. Tissue stated a CSX representative indicated they were not interested in selling the land.

Councilmember Nigh stated the area at Fairgrounds Park is one of the few places that children can play sports without having to pay to be part of a league. She is not against a dog park but doesn't think it should be at Fairgrounds Park.

The volley ball courts on this site could be relocated within Fairgrounds Park.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if schematics were completed for the second and third ranked sites.

Councilmember Metzner would like a dog park to be built at the best location, where it is least problematic for residents. Because the review indicated City Park was the best location, but more costly, he would prefer the City Park site because there would be lower impact on the neighbors.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out the City Park site is sloped and located between two streams. This area may be prone to flooding.

Councilmember Brubaker also wants to choose the best location for residents. He thinks it should be located in a central location for City residents.

Councilmember Munson asked who would be cleaning up the park. Mr. Tissue stated this issue was discussed at length. Responsible dog owners will clean up after their dogs and encourage other owners to do the same. The City will have to clean up some of the park.

Councilmember Munson is concerned about excessive barking. Members of the Task Force reported they visited several sites and observed that dogs were not barking when they were playing.

Councilmember Munson asked what happens with aggressive dogs. It was reported that aggressive dog issues and reports are to be handled by the Humane Society.

Councilmember Aleshire stated there will be opposition to a dog park, no matter where it is located. The Task Force analyzed several sites. He stated the Fairgrounds Park site appears to be publicly supported.

Councilmember Brubaker wants time to review the information in depth before coming to a conclusion.

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Councilmember Munson supports a dog park but not at Fairgrounds Park.

Councilmember Nigh will contact CSX officials in attempt to gain ownership of the property near City Park.

Councilmember Metzner agreed with the Fairgrounds Park location.

Councilmember Munson asked for ranking information from the other sites reviewed by the Task Force.

Mr. Tissue will contact CSX again and provide information as requested on the other sites reviewed by the Task Force.

Permanent Seating at the Bandshell in City Park

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated for several years, City staff has considered the replacement of the mobile benches at the bandshell in City Park. The reason for these permanent improvements are as follows:

1. Annually the City dedicates significant staff time on bench refurbishment and replacement.
2. Weekly, city staff must move roughly 150 benches so the area can be properly mowed.
3. Benches are prone to vandalism; about 25 per year are stolen.

Staff believes that the construction of permanent amphitheatre seating is desirable to maintaining the benches. The work could be constructed with in-house labor and all the work can be completed within the estimated budget of \$ 50,000 in the FY 2012/2013 CIP budget.

Council approved a concept in October, but staff feels this detailed plan will be less maintenance and is a better design. The concept plan shows the construction of permanent seating in an amphitheater effect and provides seating for about 160 patrons.

Staff has reviewed the plan with the Municipal Band and they have no objection. Staff will coordinate the final design with them and other users.

Councilmember Aleshire is not a fan of this proposal. He feels there is too much concrete.

Councilmember Munson asked if the rows can be accessed from the end and middle. Mr. Tissue stated it will be amphitheater style. The space between the bandshell and the first row of benches would remain the same, or slightly larger.

It was the general consensus to allow staff to move forward with the purchase of the permanent benches in front of the bandshell. Formal approval will be scheduled for April 23, 2013. The benches will be purchased immediately so the work is complete by mid-

Next Steps on Downtown Master Planning Process

Jill Estavillo, Economic Development Manager, and Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning, were present to discuss the next steps on a Downtown Master Planning Process. As a means for preparing the City for a Downtown Master Planning Process and entering into a Master Developer Agreement, staff recommend that the City engage the International Economic Development Council or the International Downtown Association for a technical assistance, advisory panel visit. Both organizations are experienced in advising local governments on such matters and would bring the City invaluable expertise and impartiality as the City assesses the appropriate next steps for Hagerstown.

The purpose of the advisory panel visit would include the following:

1. Document Review – Analysis of existing downtown plans that have been completed to date and review of the City’s draft RFP for a Downtown Master Plan. Questions include: Are we starting from scratch? Or can existing plans be utilized and how that affects the scope of work for the Downtown Master Plan?
2. Technical Assistance and Advisory Services – provide information and recommendations for the following:
 - a. Real Estate Development Sequencing – Understanding of real estate development sequencing from the Downtown Master Plan, to land assembly/site control, to the designation of a master developer, etc.
 - b. Master Development Agreements – Understanding of key points of consideration for the City in the designation of a Master Developer and the formation of a public-private partnership for a Downtown Master Development Agreement:
 - 1) When and why a City government should do this?
 - 2) What are key elements of a RFP for selection of a Master Developer? And what selection criteria are best?
 - 3) What protections should a City Government put into place? What legal expertise is needed through the process?
 - 4) What are pitfalls faced by other communities, lessons learned and successful strategies?
 - c. Timeframe – Recommendations for a realistic timeframe for undertaking a downtown master plan and the implementation of a master development agreement through a public-private partnership.

The structure of the advisory panel would include a team of a staff manager and two or three economic development practitioners from other communities. The panel would conduct a 2-day site visit, concluding with a presentation. A final written report of recommendations would be provided.

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Such an advisory service would be beneficial to the City of Hagerstown by providing an unbiased perspective from practitioners and economic development professionals with expertise in Real Estate Development, Downtown Master Plans, Master Development Agreements, and who would have no direct or indirect financial interest in future projects of the City of Hagerstown. This would be an advisory service provided by a non-profit, industry association with professional staff and whose mission is to advance the field of downtown revitalization and economic development. This is an activity that represents important due diligence and education on the part of the City of Hagerstown prior to undertaking complex real estate development work, entering into a complex public-private partnership with a master developer, and expending tax payer dollars and other public resources. The service would also provide recognition that other communities have gone through the same process that the city is seeking and a desire to be well-informed of common pitfalls, lessons learned and successful strategies.

Mayor Gysberts stated using these services would assist the City in reviewing the anticipated report from Dane Bauer and Bruce Poole and understanding what elements should be included in an agreement. The cost would be less than \$ 10,000.00.

Ms. Estavillo stated the review would be concentrated on a small, very specific target area.

Councilmember Brubaker stated the review should not stress traditional planning concerns but focus on finding a way to attract investment. He has mentioned some ideas and it would be good to have an outside review. If a plan is developed, the Sora team would be entitled to participate in whatever process is recommended. He does not want to layer another study on top of all others. He wondered how quickly this report can be completed.

Ms. Estavillo indicated the study may be completed within three weeks and the final report submitted three to four weeks after that. Mayor Gysberts asked if that time frame could be accelerated. Ms. Estavillo stated it may be possible. A panel of people who have completed this process would come to Hagerstown and provide direction for components of a master development agreement, i.e. complex real estate agreements.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he thought this is what the Sora development group is going to do. Ms. Maher indicated this panel would provide direction on how to enter into an agreement with Sora, but without the advice of doing so from Sora.

Mayor Gysberts stated this agreement would include assistance in developing a request for proposal (RFP) for downtown master planning. Ms. Estavillo stated points to consider in negotiations would also be included in the agreement, such as preventing providing a developer a level of exclusivity in designating development areas.

Councilmember Aleshire asked how this process compares to a study completed many years ago by Cy Palmere. Ms. Estavillo stated she understands that study was different from real estate development.

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Mayor Gysberts stated this is an attempt to determine what to include in an RFP to make a master developer agreement successful.

Councilmember Munson stated this seems like a good idea. It will allow staff and the Mayor and Council to be more knowledgeable and intuitive about master development agreements. Ms. Estavillo stated this proposal will assist the Mayor and Council and staff in making educated decisions for the future. The City needs to have unbiased advice from someone not connected with the project.

Mayor Gysberts stated working with an independent group provides transparency. It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to move forward with engaging either the International Economic Development Council or the International Downtown Association for technical assistance.

Business Assistance – Flying Pie Company

John Lestitian, Director of Community and Economic Development, and Andrew Sargent, Downtown Manager, were present to seek Mayor and Council approval to offer economic development assistance in the form of a loan to grant to the owners of Flying Pie Company, Greg and Marjorie Kane. Flying Pie Company, a destination wood-fired oven restaurant, is a tenant at 43 South Potomac Street and plan to open their restaurant by the end of May, 2013. They have made substantial improvements to the interior of the building to meet the needs of their unique restaurant and will continue to make improvements.

The owners believe that a new façade for their restaurant will improve the streetscape on their side of the South Potomac Street block and appropriately announce the change of circumstances for this address due to the new tenant. Staff concur that a new façade will enhance and complement the existing streetscape.

The recommended business assistance package is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Loan Amount: | \$ 15,000 |
| Terms: | 36 months, principal forgiven over time if conditions are met. |
| Source: | Economic Re-Development Funds |
| Conditions: | |
1. Create no less than 4 full time and 8 part time new jobs at their location.
 2. Maintain for no less than 36 months these 4 full time and 8 part time jobs at their location.
 3. Maintaining the business in this location for no less than 36 months.

Councilmember Nigh is concerned the property owner will increase the rent after this tenant is established. She asked that something be included in the agreement to prevent this. Mr. Lestitian stated staff designed this assistance to help the tenant in this case. The tenants, not the property owner, will be working with the contractor.

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Councilmember Munson stated the Kanes will be bringing something good to downtown Hagerstown.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and Council to approve the business incentive for the façade.

A recess was taken at this time.

Presentation of Budget

Michelle Burkner, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the proposed FY 13/14 Budget. As required by the City Code, the proposed budget was delivered to the Mayor and City Council by March 31, 2013.

Ms. Burkner acknowledged the following staff members for their contributions: Michelle Hepburn, Budget Officer, Rana Rose, Senior Accountant, Kristine Cline, Staff Accountant and Dani Frye, Executive Assistant.

The budget is balanced, with no property tax rate increase proposed. The General Fund totals \$ 37,834,776 in revenue, a 2.5% increase over the current year revenue revised budget of \$ 36,923,088. This budget maintains the service and operating levels and continues Hagerstown's successful efforts to operate with less. Through cost containment and expenditure reductions, the City has been able to manage its operations despite a 6.7% or \$ 2,701,703 decrease in revenues in the proposed FY13/14 budget when compared to the FY09/10 General Fund Budget of \$ 40,536,479. City departments continue to operate with 27 unfunded positions, 16 in the General Fund and an additional 11 in other City operations.

Hagerstown is still working through the negative impacts of the economic recession and the budget decisions for both FY13/14 and FY14/15 will be critical to the future operations and service to the community. A year ago it appeared the City was perhaps reaching a more stabilized financial position as small increases were noted in General Fund revenue. However, the December 2012 assessments for areas of Washington County outside of Hagerstown resulted in a further decline in the property values and staff anticipates the same will occur for Hagerstown this coming December. Based on this information, staff has projected an 8% decrease in the FY14/15 Assessable Base. This means that in FY14/15, the first fiscal year following the December 2013 triennial reassessment, the City will likely experience a loss of revenue that will require the City to prepare for this by carefully considering the FY 13/14 budget decisions. It is important to maintain a two year focus on the budget.

Five year projections for the General Fund begin on Page 2 of Section 7 of the budget book. In addition to the December 2013 Triennial Reassessment, FY 14/15 General Fund wages and benefits show a \$ 940,000 increase, reflecting a full year cost of living adjustment for employees along with some continued growth in the fringe benefit expenditures for employees and retirees. These projections for FY 14/15 also include

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large growth in the debt service and capital expenditures as explained in further detail in Section 7. This combination of a revenue decrease and growth in expenditures creates a large projected shortfall in excess of \$ 3 million for the General Fund in FY 14/15 based on currently available information and assumptions.

The critical priority reflected in this Proposed Budget is the need to strengthen General Fund revenues. This becomes especially apparent in FY 14/15. The City needs to strengthen its revenues and its financial condition to create sustainable operations. Because of the expenditure reductions and unfunded positions already in place it is not realistic to anticipate additional large reductions in expenditures without service reductions or significant restructuring of the City's public safety operations, which represent 53% of General Fund expenditures. Based on currently available revenues, there is not sufficient funding to move forward with all of the capital improvement projects priorities of the Mayor and Council such as the minor league baseball stadium, the construction of a third parking deck, a major downtown revitalization project, or the demolition of the former Municipal Electric Light Plant and subsequent site improvements.

All four of the City's collective bargaining contracts will expire in June, 2013. Negotiations began in March and will have significant impact on the City's budget in the coming year and beyond.

The Hagerstown Light Division's wholesale power service agreement provides a megawatt hour charge of \$ 54.36 effective June 1, 2013 and \$ 53.90 effective June 1, 2014. These are the lowest electric rates in the County. In accordance with the Mayor and Council's 2009 approval of five year rate schedules, the water rates will increase 5% on July 1, 2013 for inside City customers and 6.5% for those outside the City. For Wastewater, the rate increase on July 1, 2013 will be 5% for inside the City and 3% for outside customers.

The FY 13/14 Budget does not include any change in the schedule for the City's parking rates for the two decks, street meters, or lot parking. Recommendations for rate changes were included in the Parking Management Plan prepared by Rich & Associates in 2012. While these rate recommendations may receive further consideration in the future, the FY 13/14 parking rates remain unchanged.

The Proposed Budget maintains the current fees for the City's curbside refuse and recycling services. Governor O'Malley's proposed FY 14 budget, as presented in January, restored statewide Highway User Revenue distributions to local governments. The City's Proposed Budget includes \$ 722,882 of the coming year in Highway User Revenue, which has been allocated toward capital infrastructure projects in the Capital Improvements Program Fund, primarily for pavement preservation. The Governors' proposed budget restores State Aid for Police Protection grants for Maryland municipalities to full funding. For Hagerstown, the restoration of the State funding will increase the General Fund revenue for Police Protection from \$ 516,752 to \$ 750,000.

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Hagerstown's annual Federal entitlement grant for the Community Development Block Grant continues to decline as the US Government scales back funding. In FY 13/14, staff anticipates an entitlement of \$ 600,000, a 9% decrease.

The General Fund Budget for the coming year does not include the stormwater management fee that was anticipated in the FY 13/14 financial projections prepared a year ago. Several Maryland communities have adopted such a fee to address costs associated with stormwater management; and, staff believes Hagerstown should consider the implementation of this fee for FY 14/15.

A bond issue is scheduled toward the end of the current fiscal year in the amount of \$ 4,275,000 to fund a combination of vehicles for General Fund operations and capital improvement upgrades in the Water and Wastewater systems.

The city continues to manage its finances to maintain a healthy fund balance in the General Fund. For FY 13/14, a year-end unassigned fund balance of \$ 8,479,073 (23.0%) of total General Fund expenditures is indicated.

This budget includes funding in the Capital Improvement Program to construct a new 500 space downtown parking deck in FY 14/15. Based on current projections, Parking Fund operating revenues are not sufficient to fund the debt service for the deck, creating the need for a General Fund transfer to subsidize the deck or revenues from another non-City source.

A Capital Improvement Project for the demolition of the former MELP is included in the proposed budget. Hagerstown has offered \$ 1,000,000 to the property owner to assist with the cost of demolition, cleanup, and environmental remediation.

The Proposed Budget includes \$ 1,450,000 in FY 13/14 and \$ 1,075,000 in FY 14/15 for Fire Department Vehicle Replacement. Acquisition of vehicles in Public Works and the Police Department is included in the CIP budget.

There is \$ 1,500,000 in CIP funding for downtown revitalization, which has been established as a priority of this Mayor and Council. This money would be available to provide City support for the relocation of the BOE Administrative Offices or another downtown revitalization project to be determined in the future.

This Mayor and Council have expressed initial interest in moving forward with the construction of a new minor league baseball stadium for the Hagerstown Suns. Presently, Ripken Design is evaluating the economic impact and market feasibility of locating the stadium on the former site of the Washington County Hospital and on property in and around the current stadium site. The funding plan has not been determined for the project, which could total \$ 30,000,000 or more depending on the Mayor and Council's decisions related to location, the scope of the project, parking infrastructure, and other costs associated with site development. The amount of State, County, and private funding allocated toward the project will also determine the amount of City funding

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required to build the stadium.

The city continues to provide program, staff, and financial support for Neighborhoods First by including \$ 59,183 in funding for this program. In coming months the City will be initiating a new marketing effort “Live Hagerstown, We Love City Life” to promote City neighborhoods, highlight the advantages of City living, and encourage homeownership in City neighborhoods.

No questions were asked at this point. Mayor Gysberts thanked staff for their hard work in completing the proposed budget, especially dealing with difficult economic times. Budget review will be included on future Work Session agendas.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Michelle Burkner, Director of Finance, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember D. F. Munson had no additional comments.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire attended the State of the Library meeting today. The construction project is behind schedule. He suggested the City help expedite the project, if possible. He reviewed the Phase 2 Environmental Assessment Report for the previous Multi-Use Stadium and Event Center project and was concerned one of the sites tested extremely high. He pointed out Washington County has reduced the excise tax and this will directly impact the City’s budget obligations to ensure new growth continues. There needs to be a serious discussion about this revenue stream, which was intended to be stable. The Economic Development Commission will be meeting next week to hear from stakeholders. He stated there should not be a rate increase for utility customers if there are a large amount of delinquent accounts. He does not support imposing higher rates for customers who pay on time to cover those who are delinquent. There needs to be a clear process for collecting outstanding loans with the City. He wants this discussion to be held during a Work Session. A way to increase revenue may be to combine services and processes with other government agencies. He mentioned a synergy report complete by Frederick recently. He believes the City could realize savings by completing a similar study. He attended the Greater Hagerstown meeting last week. It was clear the Board of Education had multiple decisions to make regarding the relocation of the central offices. The analysis by the Board of Education had been going on for much longer than two months. The City has put forward a plan for the Board of Education to locate downtown. He encouraged the Board of Education to take the step that is best for them. He would prefer to focus on things the City can collaborate with the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, library and the University System.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker reported Governor O’Malley attended a recent MML Legislative Committee meeting. He thanked him for restoring the Highway User Revenue to municipalities. Full funding has not been restored to this program that began

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70 years ago. A task force is being created to study permanent restoration of the funding.

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh stated there needs to be someone overseeing the amount of trash around the City. (This position will be filled within three weeks). She expressed concern about the number of adults who are loitering in certain areas. Hagerstown seems to be a destination for social service type of services. If someone sees something happening they should contact the police department. She asked what is being planned for the Barnwood Books building. Mr. Lestitian indicated it has not been clearly defined with staff at this point.

Mayor D. S. Gysberts recognized that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Safe Place and the Child Advocacy Center placed blue ribbons around Hagerstown yesterday. Individuals can make a difference in a child's life. He is looking forward to the grand re-opening of the Washington County Free Library. The Maryland International Film Festival will be held downtown beginning on April 11, 2013. The movie *Argo* will be shown and there will an opportunity to meet the author, who is a Hagerstown resident.

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 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: May 21, 2013