

Prior to the start of the Executive Session, the Mayor and Council were provided with an overview of the new audio/visual system in the Council Chamber.

WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – January 20, 2015

EXECUTIVE SESSION – January 20, 2015

Councilmember D. F. Munson made a motion to meet in closed session to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, #3, (Section 10-508(a)), 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 10-508(a)) at 3:30 p.m. in Room 407, 4th Floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember L. C. Metzner seconded the motion.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he is opposed to meeting in closed session to discuss property acquisition.

Motion carried, 4-1 with Councilmember K. B. Aleshire voting No.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor D. S. Gysberts, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, Councilmember L. C. Metzner, Councilmember D. F. Munson, Councilmember P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, City Attorney Mark Boyer, John Lestitian, Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, Andrew Sargent, Downtown Manager, Karen Paulson, Director of Human Resources, and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk. The meeting was held to discuss possible acquisition of a downtown property, and to discuss the recruitment of a City Administrator. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the executive session was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

WORK SESSION – January 20, 2015

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:49 p.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 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; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

Presentation of Award to Dennis Miller, Hagerstown Planning Commission

Mayor Gysberts presented a plaque to Dennis Miller recognizing his 40 years of service as a member of the Planning Commission. An annual award has been named in honor of Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller stated he has been appointed by six mayors, worked on four or five Comprehensive Plan updates, and attended between 900 and 1,000 meetings. He noted the Planning Staff have been easy to work with.

Councilmember Brubaker has worked with Mr. Miller for 10 years and he thanked him for his experience, judgment and wisdom.

Pop-Up Shop Update

Andrew Sargent, Downtown Manager, was present to provide an update on the efforts to engage with and retain on a permanent basis the participants of the Downtown Movement's Pop-Up Shop Events.

The Pop-Up Shop Events that occurred in August and November last year brought more than 35 unique businesses to downtown Hagerstown. Leading up to the Pop-Up Shop Events, City Staff played a large role in the logistical aspects of placing the merchants in their locations. During the events, City staff and elected officials visited each merchant and left information on how to contact Economic Development staff for more information about opening their business in the downtown. Some merchants were openly interested and staff immediately scheduled meetings with them.

James and Jess' House of Goods signed a lease at 101 N. Potomac Street. Previously, they sold their hand-picked antiques and collectibles in antique malls and through the internet. They are very excited to have their own physical location in the downtown and report that things are going well.

Steampunk Sourdough was the first merchant to show an eagerness to locate in a permanent location. Their bread was being baked in a sanctioned home kitchen and then wholesale orders started coming in. After researching several locations, they found a potential new home within City limits. Soon they hope to be fulfilling those wholesale orders.

Pretzel and Pizza Creations has been a staple of downtown Frederick since 1991. They participated in the November Pop-Up Shop Event to test the market; they were interested in opening their second location in Hagerstown but they were not sure if they would be successful. After the Pop-Up Shop Event, they were convinced and signed a lease in the restaurant space in the Grand Building at 20 West Washington Street. This building is being renovated by Mike Fitzgerald and is both a First-Third Grant and Partners in Economic Progress-incentivized commercial project. After serious renovations to their space, they hope to be open for business in May of this year.

Staff are currently working with other Pop-Up Shop merchants to find them permanent locations in City Center.

Parallel to these individual outreach efforts, staff are working to formalize follow-up activities with a marketing effort to be delivered to all past and future Pop-Up Shop participants. Called Pop-Up to Permanent, this package will be delivered as a reminder of programs and incentives. It will also outline the various requirements to becoming a permanent business and offer contact information to the services in the community that can assist. For instance, if a merchant begins as a vendor at crafts markets and wants to open a permanent location, there are services like SCORE and SBDC that can assist in business plan creation. And the City's Revolving Loan Fund might be able to assist with startup capital. This package will also serve as a marketing tool to those considering future Pop-Up participation.

The next Pop-Up Event is scheduled to occur during the Blues Fest.

Councilmember Munson asked how a connection will be made between the shops and the people who attend the Blues Fest.

Karen Giffin, Community Affairs Manager, stated there will be information available at the Blues Fest event, similar to what was provided during Augustoberfest.

Preliminary Agenda Review

A mid-year Budget Work Session will be added to the meeting schedule for February 24, 2015. The tentative time for the Work Session is 5:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda

A. Department of Community and Economic Development:

1. Street Closures for Various Events in 2015
2. Open Containers Law Exemption – Western Maryland Blues Fest (May 28, May 29 and May 30, 2015, Wind Downs (May 8, June 5, July 17, August 21, September 25 and October 16, 2015) and Augustoberfest Event (August 22 and August 23, 2015)
3. Trick or Treat Date – October 30, 2015

B. Department of Parks and Engineering:

1. Parks Division – Dump Truck – Criswell Auto Fleet Sales (Gaithersburg, MD) \$ 59,716.00

C. Department of Utilities:

1. Class Transformer Remediation – ABB, Inc. (South Boston, VA)
\$ 35,500.00

D. Hagerstown Police Department:

- Books and Tuition for Hagerstown Community College Police Academy - \$ 35,641.00

There were no questions regarding the Consent Agenda items.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Contract for Acquisition of 806-808 W. Washington Street

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated the owner of the property at 806-808 W. Washington Street wants to donate the property, as is, to the City of Hagerstown. A draft contract will be available for the Mayor and Council's review later this week.

Approval of Potterfield Pool Management Contract

Mr. Tissue reported that in December, staff issued a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) for management of the Potterfield Pool. Six proposals were submitted, and after reviewing them, the committee shortlisted four. All the firms were interviewed in a face to face interview. After reviewing the proposals, conducting interviews, and checking references, the committee is recommending Community Pool Services, Inc. (CPSI) of Rockville, Maryland to manage the Potterfield Pool.

CPSI is not the lowest price of the few short listed firms. However, for a number of reasons as outlined, staff recommends CPSI because the City is buying a service and it is important to note that they have the best opportunity to hire qualified, local staff; they have the best plan for cleaning the pool house, and will offer new (but realistic) programs at the pool (lessons, aerobics, fitness swims). In addition, they made a generous assumption on the number of man-hours they will need (309 man-ours per week) so they will have ample coverage. They were the only firm to be willing to credit back any unused staff time to the City on a weekly basis. In other words, the City will only pay for guard time actually used. This will likely be the best value for the City.

Approval of the contract will be included on the January 27, 2015 Regular Session agenda.

This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Customized Energy Solutions/Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Proposal

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, Nathan Fridinger, Electric Operations Manager, and Bill Stowfield, Customized Energy Solutions, were present to discuss a business proposal and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries through Customized Energy Solutions, the City's Generation/Transmission/PJM consulting firm. The MOU details the responsibilities of each entity in the development of a proposed Energy Storage System.

The Hagerstown Light Department (HLD) has a long standing relationship dating back to 2002 with Customized Energy Solutions (CES) through the Public Power Coalition (PPC), as the liaison with all PJM activities. CES documents and reviews all

PJM related information that is crucial to the decision making process related to generation/transmission issues. CES votes approximately 50 times per year on the City's behalf in all of the PJM committees that the City is a member of. Bill Schofield has been the principal point of contact since the inception of the PPC and is one of three original employees out of the more than 100 currently employed by CES.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) is a major player in numerous worldwide industries employing 80,000 and receiving \$ 34 billion of global orders in FY14. HLD staff has spoken with MHI staff through conference calls and met on location with MHI Project Controller Ryosuke Sakai and members of their ESS team.

MHI proposes to install an Energy Storage System (ESS) that will connect through the HLD system and perform PJM system grid reliability services, specifically voltage and frequency support.

Voltage and frequency support are known as ancillary services under the "Regulation" provisions of PJM and will support the intermittent operations of wind and solar renewable sources by instantaneously correcting electric instabilities in the system grid.

The proposed 2MW ESS is composed of lithium ion batteries and is housed in a self-contained unit approximately 10' x 40'. If market conditions are favorable, more than one unit could be installed if mutually agreed upon.

The preferred site is adjacent to the HLD Plant substation, on a portion of the soon to be reclaimed MELP, due to the proximity of equipment and lines required to operate the ESS. Other sites could be considered if the equipment requirements are in place.

An ESS operates by storing electricity that was generated on the system grid and discharging it when system requirements demand it. It is considered a sustainable/renewable resource due to the fact it does not create emissions when called upon to operate.

The parties have discussed utilizing the HLD owned 9 acres south of the MELP as a solar farm. Current market conditions are not favorable unless a Purchase Power Agreement is reached with a third party for the output of the solar array (the cost would be greater than the current wholesale power supply pricing and the City is not interested in increasing the customer's costs).

MHI/CES/City have developed a MOU detailing the requirements of each entity as they move forward with the pre-engineering process. The engineering process is expensive and will be borne by MHI/CES. The proposed MOU is a non-legally binding document of intent which allows either party to withdraw from the process. The MOU includes details related to good faith efforts of all parties regarding the initial project information gathering and a proposed ten year leasing/partnership agreement with the City. If the project is feasible and all parties agree to all terms and provisions within a

Lease Agreement, no RFP will be required.

MHI/CES would engineer, design, deliver, install, own and operate the ESS.

The HLD would supply the location, equipment requirements, and internal system engineering.

The project would place the City at the forefront of emerging technology and increase the City's exposure in the field of sustainable/renewable resources. The project would also increase the revenue of the HLD.

Mayor Gysberts asked where the trailer sized lithium batteries are made. Mr. Stowfield stated they would be made in Japan.

Mayor Gysberts stated he does not see any downside with this proposal.

Mr. Spiker stated the national average per electric kWh is 13.4 cents and the City rate is 7.7 cents per kWh. If the next contract with Allegany Power is higher, there is a possibility of lowering the rate by using the stored energy.

Mr. Stowfield stated what is driving the need for storage of energy is intermittent resources, primarily solar and wind energy. The Hagerstown system is part of a larger system. Even though the batteries would be located in Hagerstown that does not necessarily mean the stored energy will stay in Hagerstown. It is not necessarily site specific.

Councilmember Brubaker asked how the facility would be screened if it is located at the MELP site. Mr. Spiker reported there would be plantings and green screening around the site.

It was the general consensus to move forward with the project and include approval of the MOU on the January 27, 2015 Mayor and Council agenda.

Councilmember Aleshire believes it is safe to say this type of project would not happen if the MELP building was not being demolished. This is an example of removing old technology to make way for new technology.

Mr. Zimmerman left the meeting.

Body-Worn Police Camera Discussion

Chief Mark Holtzman and Captain Thomas Langston provided information about body-worn police cameras.

Chief Holtzman reported there is currently no proposed legislation requiring police officers to wear a body camera. Mayor Gysberts stated Delegate Brett Wilson informed him legislation will likely be brought before the General Assembly soon.

Chief Holtzman stated the cameras would improve police and community relations. They would highlight the good things that the officers are doing, provide transparency, and enhancing public confidence in police officers. Information from the cameras can facilitate resolution of citizen complaints, and provide support for prosecution. Cameras can change the behavior of the people police officers encounter on the street.

A camera system is complicated and costs reflect this. There are privacy issues to be addressed, i.e. when a camera can be used and when it can't. Training is a key component of a camera system. Public Information Act requests would likely increase if body-worn cameras are in place. Cameras can have a negative impact on morale with officers feeling as though someone is looking over their shoulder. Cameras often cause people to not share information when they know they are being recorded.

Captain Langston reported the city of Rialto, California, completed a study of body-worn cameras and found that the use of force was reduced by 59%. Rialto has a similar demographic as Hagerstown.

Councilmember Metzner stated he believes the reduction in the use of force is likely because of the people officers are dealing with act differently and the officers would not have to resort to the use of force.

Chief Holtzman stated the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) developed a model policy that requires the cameras to be activated to record all contact with citizens in the performance of official duties. Whenever possible, the officers should inform individuals that they are being recorded. Where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as a residence, they may decline to be recorded unless the recording is being made pursuant to an arrest.

Captain Langston reported available technology includes video buffering, optional mounting positions, automated downloading, officer review available, and cloud storage.

Chief Holtzman estimates the cost for this program would be approximately \$ 140,000, which includes one staff person to manage the data and equipment costs.

The potential mandated use of body-worn cameras has been discussed with the AFSCME 3373 union and supervisors. Chief Holtzman reported most officers are supportive of the cameras.

Councilmember Metzner stated he believes there would be fewer hearings because there would be proof of what occurred. Cameras can be a downside to prosecution in some cases.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out social media continues to shape and form public perception outside of the court room. This issue is one of public safety trying to keep up with technology. It is necessary that the technology used be kept up-to-date.

Councilmember Metzner pointed out this discussion was not driven by complaints from citizens about police actions.

Councilmember Nigh supports public safety and supports being proactive with this initiative.

Councilmember Munson would like more information. He needs to understand if the cameras create a disadvantage for police officers. He does not have an interest in raising taxes to fund the cameras. He wants police officers have the advantage over criminals. Police officers need to be able to do their jobs without any impediments.

Councilmember Brubaker agrees that more information would be helpful. A new funding source would have to be identified if this is included in the FY16 budget.

Mayor Gysberts mentioned speed camera revenue may be an option.

Councilmember Metzner encouraged staff to look for grant funding for this program.

It was the general consensus to continue gathering information for body-worn cameras for police officers.

Proposed Abandonment of Rail Line by CSX Transportation

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, was present to follow up the December 10, 2013 discussion with the Mayor and Council regarding CSX's "Abandonment Filing" with the Surface Transportation Board in November, 2013. With this filing, CSX is planning to abandon the rail corridor that crosses Wilson Boulevard and Frederick Street. In December, 2013, the majority of Council directed staff to file a "Public Use Condition and Notice of Interim Trail Use" letter with the Surface Transportation Board in Washington, DC. That letter was submitted to them in December, 2013, and gives the City the opportunity to evaluate the corridor and determine if a trail is viable for "Railbanking" and if the City wishes to preserve the corridor, and create a trail.

In subsequent discussions with CSX Transportation, the City was asked to complete a boundary survey of the corridor in question. That survey was completed by Jeff Swan, City surveyor. The results of the survey revealed two important facts:

1. That in October, 1994, CSX sold a portion of the corridor to Neil and Debra Kirkpatrick
2. That a revertible easement was granted back to the Grove parcel. CSX is indicating that they may never have owned that strip in fee simple, and it was actually an easement that could revert back to the fee simple owner.

Whether or not CSX followed the appropriate methodology and protocol to transfer these lands is debatable, but the transfers have further degraded an already marginal future bike trail. In the end, CSX can sell the City what they have, but it won't be a contiguous corridor and the City would need to acquire these two parcels separately, which staff does not recommend.

Mr. Tissue stated he understands the City does not have to submit anything to the Surface Transportation Board to terminate the railbanking procedure and will advise CSX the City is no longer interested if that is the Mayor and Council's concurrence. The City's opportunity to review the corridor expires April 1, 2015, and with no further action by the City, will expire. The railroad corridor will likely revert back to the adjacent property owners when the land was originally acquired and the rail corridor will forever be eliminated.

CSX contacted staff this week and indicated they will remove the rails and ties as soon as possible at the various street crossings at Kuhn Avenue, Wilson Boulevard, Oak Street, and First Street. Staff will be meeting with CSX soon to coordinate the removal of these facilities. According to CSX records, the ownership ends at the south side of Frederick Street and any facilities in Frederick Street are not owned by CSX and they will not remove them. Therefore, it is likely that the City will need to remove those tracks and overhead mast arms. It is very unlikely that CSX will do anything to remove the rails and ties between the street crossings.

Mayor Gysberts Dave stated he is concerned about the improper abandonment of the properties, giving away the rail credits, and the crime that occurred last weekend at the tracks. He noted the crime was reported as being near City Park. He clarified that it happened on CSX property and not on City property.

Action Report: Update on Implementation of the Community's City Center Plan

Jill Frick, Economic Development Manager, and Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, were present to provide an update on the progress in implementing the Community's City Center Plan. This update builds upon the 4th Quarter 2014 Action Report. Work has been progressing on several of the catalyst projects identified in the Community's City Center Plan, and the following shows actions completed and key next steps.

1. Catalyst Project #1 – Office Development and Recruitment

Goals: To position downtown to compete for new office development using portions of Central Parking Lot to build 154,000 sf across three buildings.

Actions completed: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Developer/Partner was posted on various internet sites with a March 2, 2015 deadline for submissions. A news announcement of the RFQ was sent by broadcast email to a wide list of stakeholders and contacts.

Herald Mail article on 01/04/15 and WHAG story on 01/07/15 provided good promotion of this project. Next steps include continued marketing and promotion of City Center investment opportunities to developers and the real estate industry. Staff presentation to Mayor and City Council of recommended candidate(s) in mid to late April.

2. Catalyst Project #2 – Maryland Theatre Expansion Project

Goals: Expand and improve the facility, and grow from 150 to 225 performance days per year, increasing the audience by 60,000 annually.

Actions: (as provided by Maryland Theatre staff): fundraising achieved \$ 452,000, and the Maryland Theatre is approximately \$ 13,000 short plus any extras that may come up during construction. The total funds raised includes \$ 100,000 matching funds contribution from the Mayor and City Council. The building permit was issued for the seat replacement project. The HVAC units are installed and function and the old HVAC units have been removed. Next steps include transitioning to Ticketmaster to offer a more technically-advanced and patron-friendly ticketing system. Currently refinishing the flooring in preparation for the seats to arrive within a week.

3. Catalyst Project #3 – USMH Expansion Support

Goals: Support USMH growth from 500 to 750 students through the addition of new program offerings, and capture student housing opportunities with three upper-floor renovation projects. The three upper-floor renovation projects are planned to be implemented separately, in sequence to each other and throughout the 10 year plan.

Actions completed: Request for Statement of Interest (RFSI) for Developer/Partner on the Student Housing project posted with January 16, 2015 deadline for submittals. The City has been awarded \$ 100,000 in Community Legacy grant funds for the Student Housing projects. Herald Mail article on 01/04/15 provided good promotion of this project. Next Steps and tentative schedule are update the Mayor and City Council on the submittals received at the January 20, 2015 Mayor and City Council meeting.

4. Catalyst Project #5 – Linking City Park/The Washington County Museum Fine Arts and A&E District with Trail and New Housing

Goals: Construct multi-use trail linking City Park/WCMFA with the Arts & Entertainment District, and add 31 new townhomes along trail and rehab buildings to create 85 loft apartments (in 10 years).

Actions completed: Park Plan rendering, for Trail Park at Baltimore Street, has been further developed. Presentation on design

recommendations to the Planning Commission took place on January 14, 2015. The Art Committee was formed to identify opportunities for art along the trail. The plats are 30% complete and HPD has identified camera locations. Next steps include the City Attorney beginning work on the easement deeds. Drawings will be sent to residents on Summit Avenue whose properties front the trail. A request will be submitted to modify the existing CSX crossing.

5. Catalyst Project #6 – Expanded Downtown Arts/Events Programming
Goals: Leverage resources to produce more frequent events and build upon atmosphere created by popular downtown events.

Actions: Events recently include: new Little Free Library opening, second pop-up shop event, Donut Drop, Reindeer Run and Storybook Holiday. City Center Dollars was transitioned from a paper certificate program to a credit card program to accommodate the program's growth. The Washington County Playhouse opened under new management and is now offering both traditional and children's theater. Next steps include a Main Street Hagerstown launch, an expanded St. Patrick's Day Run and the State Arts & Entertainment District Annual Meeting (which will take place in Hagerstown on April 20, 2015).

6. Catalyst Project #7 – Expanded Operations of the City Farmers Market
Goals: Expand operations from 7 to 35 hours per week. Implement private management approach. Make necessary capital improvements. Re-brand. Recruit additional tenants.

Actions: Staff contracted with Urban Partners to provide advice on development of the Request for Proposals for a market manager for the City Farmers Market. Unexpended DBED grant funds were used to pay for the additional services of Urban Partners. Next steps include finalizing and issuing the RFP.

7. Catalyst Project #8 – Expanded and Targeted Home Ownership Support
Goals: Market home ownership incentives and support Neighborhood 1st programs. Establish annual rental licensing inspections, and continue excessive nuisance enforcement programs.

Actions: The State announced in mid-December that Hagerstown has been awarded \$ 100,000 in Community Legacy funding to assist with the Home Ownership Program. One neighborhood services inspector and one administrative support staff have been hired. Next steps include identifying properties to acquire, renovate, and resale for the Single Family Home Ownership program. Staff are in the process of hiring for the authorized new Code Administration positions intended to help

improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Aleshire stated some property owners feel they are disqualified from submitting a proposal for the Office Development and Recruitment because their property is not located at the Central Parking Lot.

Mayor Gysberts stated the Central Parking Lot is owned by the City and is being offered for this project in order to reduce the costs. The M & T Bank property is not being considered specifically for this project. It is adjacent to the Central Parking Lot. Any developer is welcome to apply the same plan to their property.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if a developer would have to acquire the M & T Bank property to complete this project. Ms. Frick pointed out the proposal does not specifically include the M & T Bank property; however because of its proximity to the City owned property, that is an option.

John Lestitian, Director of Community and Economic Development, indicated the RFQ is specific for this site; however, it does not discourage any building owner from approaching the City with a potential project and seeking participation in the established incentive programs.

Councilmember Aleshire attended a recent Economic Development Commission meeting, and it appeared the members viewed the project as being exclusive. Mayor Gysberts stated there are groups that believe the Mayor and Council have excluded all other development downtown. This is not true and he reiterated that the City will gladly discuss any private development proposal with anyone.

Ms. Frick stated she thinks the tenant recruitment component of this project will spur renovations.

Councilmember Brubaker encouraged developers to talk to staff about their ideas and the City's incentive programs.

Mayor Gysberts stated he hopes this project would encourage other development.

Councilmember Brubaker pointed out the hope is this project will stimulate other Class A office space, bringing good quality tenants to downtown.

Mr. Lestitian stated additional communications making it abundantly clear that the City is willing to discuss any proposals for downtown property can be sent out.

Ms. Maher stated part of the goal for this project is to show others how it could work for their property.

Councilmember Munson asked if the Student Housing project could be affected by possible budget cuts at the State level for higher education.

Ms. Frick indicated USMH is supportive of this project. She does not know if budget cuts would affect the project.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if the Student Housing locations are restricted to a limited area. Ms. Maher indicated a target area has been established.

Councilmember Aleshire stated properties just beyond the target area were discussed at the EDC meeting. There was an indication that students at Kaplan University may also be interested in the student housing.

Mayor Gysberts hopes this demonstrates there is a need for student housing. He encouraged other property owners to participate in student housing projects.

Councilmember Munson stated he believes it would be good for downtown if there were different areas for student housing.

Mayor Gysberts pointed out Catalyst Project #5 is more than just a trail. The proposed path is the most direct route from downtown to City Park. He noted that Jim Hartling, Urban Partners, stated if there is not a stadium in the Summit Avenue area, a neighborhood has to be built. This trail is the first step in making that happen.

Councilmember Aleshire thinks the car repair/service center near the circle at City Park is a physical impediment to linking the trail to City Park. Councilmember Munson agreed.

Councilmember Brubaker stated it is important to keep in mind how this trail links to adjoining properties as the project moves forward.

Councilmember Aleshire left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Frick stated staff is developing marketing materials to promote the Community's City Center plan to potential investors.

The Mayor and City Council thanked staff for this update.

Standards and Conditions for Sidewalk Business License

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, and Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, were present to review the proposed sidewalk standards.

The Mayor and City Council introduced an ordinance on December 16, 2014 to amend Chapter 216, Streets and Sidewalks, to add Article VIII, Private Use of Public

Sidewalks. One of the four provisions added in this article is Sec. 216-62, which provides a new provision for Sidewalk Business Licenses for display of merchandise in the City Center.

As discussed at the January 13, 2015 meeting, staff have drafted Standards and Conditions for Section 216-62 for the Mayor and City Council's consideration. This document spells out the City's expectations for insurance, clearances, size of the display, the manner of display, signage, maintenance of the display area, and hours of operation. Appeals of denials of license applications would be made to the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Gysberts asked how these Standards are different from yard sales. Ms. Maher indicated these Standards and Conditions are for a downtown business that wants to display merchandise on the sidewalk. Another area of the Code addresses yard sales.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to include approval of the ordinance on the January 27, 2015 Regular Session agenda.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember L. C. Metzner had no additional comments.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh is concerned about the accumulation of trash at the structure on W. Antietam Street that is owned by the City.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker attended the opening meeting and reception for the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Review Committee last week.

Councilmember D. F. Munson expressed condolences to the family of Virginia Strine, who passed away recently. Mrs. Strine was the widow of Judge Strine. She made many contributions to the community throughout her life. He thanked the Hagerstown Police Department for their efforts. He thanked Karen Hamilton and Dr. Scott Hamilton for their significant donation to the Maryland Theatre. They donated equipment for the hearing impaired.

Mayor D. S. Gysberts met with the Washington County Housing Authority and has proposed the idea of consolidating the Hagerstown Housing Authority and the Washington County Housing Authority. He believes a consolidation would benefit the entire community. He wants to make it clear the Mayor and Council are not talking about demolishing the Alms House. They are discussing what can be done at the Alms House. It can't continue as it is now. He wants to set up a tour in the spring and hold a community meeting. He attended a neighborhood community meeting recently at the Robert W. Johnson Center. He noted the relationship between the police and the community is making the neighborhood strong and safe. He attended the annual banquet of the Hagerstown Giants of the Washington County Football League. He thanked everyone involved with the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. basketball tournament.

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 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: March 31, 2015