

60<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION AND WORK SESSION – February 10, 2015

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this 60<sup>th</sup> Special Session and Work Session to order at 4:08 p.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2015, in the Council Chamber at City Hall of the Mayor and City Council. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson, and P. M. Nigh; City Engineer Rodney Tissue, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman was not present.

60<sup>TH</sup> Special Session – February 10, 2015

On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember D. F. Munson, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in Special Session at 4:08 p.m.

**Approval of an Ordinance: City of Hagerstown 2015 General Obligation Bonds**

**Action:** On a motion duly by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an enabling ordinance as introduced authorizing the City of Hagerstown to issue and sell, upon its full faith and credit, general obligation bonds in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$ 9,874,343. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used to pay costs of the projects identified in detail in the ordinance. Proceeds are allocated by fund as follows:

General Fund	\$ 3,923,743
Electric Fund	650,000
Water Fund	3,260,600
Wastewater Fund	1,940,000
Property Management Fund	<u>100,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,874,343</u>

That portion of principal, interest, and costs of issuance allocated to projects associated with the Electric Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund and Property Management Fund shall be payable in the first instance from revenues accounted for in those respective funds. Staff is hereby directed to proceed in working with the City's Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel to determine the best financing options for the City, and to develop the necessary detailed resolutions and other documents required to prepare for the sale of the bonds as directed by this ordinance. As specified in the ordinance details and authorizations regarding the amount, timing, method of sale or sales, and other sale details will be outlined in a detailed resolution to be presented to this body for approval at a future date prior to the issuance of the bonds. The ordinance also authorizes the issuance of bond anticipation notes to fund project costs on an interim

basis and refunding bonds in the event either is determined to be necessary by the Mayor and Council.

Discussion: Councilmember Brubaker noted the motion includes language that is required by the City's Bond Counsel.

**Approval of an Ordinance: Acquisition of 806-808 West Washington Street**

**Action:** On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve an ordinance for the acquisition of 806-808 W. Washington Street for the creation of a public park or open space. Property is being donated to the City by the owner in "as is" condition and the City has a 120 day "feasibility period" to study any encumbrances on the property prior to the actual closing.

**Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Washington County Soil Conservation District for Kiwanis Park**

**Action:** On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Hagerstown and the Washington County Soil Conservation District (WCSCD). WCSCD is constructing a water raft launch/stream restoration project in the City's Kiwanis Park. This MOU assists the WCSCD by the City front-funding the construction costs until the completion of the work this Spring and the WCSD can reimburse the City with the Federal/State grants they have secured.

Discussion: Councilmember Munson stated this project will be good for the citizens of Hagerstown and Washington County.

Mayor Gysberts noted this is a good example of partnerships.

Councilmember Brubaker stated the site of the park is a donation of land from the Light Business Park.

The Special Session was closed at 4:14 p.m.

Proclamation – Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup> Month

Mayor Gysberts read a proclamation recognizing Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup> Month. Representatives from the individual Neighborhoods 1<sup>st</sup> groups were present to accept the proclamation.

Proclamation – Black History Month

Mayor Gysberts presented a proclamation to Reggie Turner, President of the Doleman Black Heritage Museum, recognizing February, 2015 as Black History Month.

Mayor Gysberts congratulated Just Lookin' Gallery on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An open house will be held at the Gallery, which specializes in African American art on February 22, 2015 from noon to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is located at 40 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Chamber of Commerce Presentation

Paul Frey, President and CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce, provided a copy of the Community Coalition's Legislator's Packet to the Mayor and City Council. The packet includes the Coalition's agenda and descriptions of each item on the agenda.

Councilmember Munson thanked Mr. Frey and the Chamber for organizing the Day in Annapolis that was held on February 4, 2015.

Mr. Frey thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Washington County Community Coalition. He mentioned that many people in Annapolis are familiar with Hagerstown and Washington County because of Councilmember Munson's promotion of the region while he served as Senator. The Chamber will continue to support the City and will determine ways to be a part of the events sponsored by the City.

Response to the Impact of the Emerald Ash Borer

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, discussed a recommended response to dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). As discussed with the Mayor and Council in October, the EAB is an invasive insect that kills ash trees. The EAB entered America from southeast Asia in 2002 and has killed over 100,000,000 ash trees. The EAB cannot be eradicated nor contained, but it can be managed. Junior Mason, Parks and Recreation Manager, and Tyler Wakefield, DNR, were also present.

Staff from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed a study of the City of Hagerstown and found that the Emerald Ash Borer is present in the City limits as well as state wide.

**Fairgrounds Park** – According to the DNR, over 90 trees need to be replaced. Since the trees average only 8.5" in diameter and since they are less than 10 years old, the most cost-effective response is simply removing them. Since October, staff removed about 10 trees affected by EAB and installed approximately 137 new trees in Fairgrounds Park as part of the current tree contract.

**City Park** – The DNR mapped every ash tree in the park and there are 236 mature ash trees. This comprises over 20% of the canopy and is the most common tree in City Park. Many are over 100’ tall and the average size is 20” in diameter. The DNR has indicated that approximately 90% of those trees are savable. While staff would like to save all 236 trees, that is not feasible for the City. Therefore staff and the DNR determined that 108 of the ash trees are “high priority” and the City should take measures to save these trees. Staff recommends the following:

FY 14/15: Staff recommends removing 7 trees already impacted by EAB at a cost of approximately \$ 3,400.00, which can be absorbed into the operating budget. Staff further recommends hiring a tree service to treat half (54) of the “high priority” trees. The DNR indicates the only tree service that currently provides the EAB treatment service is Bartlett Tree Experts of Chambersburg and their cost for treating 54 trees is approximately \$ 15,000.00.

The DNR has indicated they will provide a \$ 4,000 grant so staff request that \$ 11,000 in additional City funds be added to the Parks operating account to contract with Bartlett or another firm. By the end of April, staff will also plant 97 new non-ash trees in City Park.

FY 15/16: In the early winter/spring of 2016, staff recommends removing about 50 more “lower priority” trees at a cost of approximately \$ 15,000.00. Staff further recommend treating the second half (54) of the “high priority” trees for an additional \$ 15,000.00. Staff’s recommended EAB-response budget for FY16 is \$ 26,000.00. It is the hope that by the spring of 2016, the City can either 1) partner with other governments to get an “economy of scale” to decrease the “per tree” treatment service price and anticipate there is more competition to lower costs or 2) the City can be licensed to do its own treatments and lower the previously stated budget estimate.

Pesticide needs to be placed into the tree every two years to prevent EAB. This will be an ongoing effort to treat the 108 “high priority” trees. Approximately 71 “lower priority” ash trees will also have to be removed in the next 2-6 years.

**Public Street Trees** – The DNR sampled approximately 30% of the 2,241 street trees in the City and found only 37 to be designated as ash trees. Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, manages the street tree program and will monitor these trees for removal whenever the ash borer impact is realized for these street trees.

A public information campaign will need to be conducted in March, 2015. Staff recommends that the ash trees be tagged in the parks and state that the tree is being treated for the Emerald Ash Borer or that it is scheduled to be removed because of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. To raise public awareness, staff hopes to utilize a volunteer group such as Boy Scouts or others to assist with the tagging.

Councilmember Brubaker will mention this issue at the next MML meeting. There may be cost savings available with combined contracts.

It was the general consensus to authorize staff to move forward as proposed during this discussion.

#### Annual Police & Fire Pension Review with CBIZ and PNC

Karen Paulson, Director of Human Resources, Alvin Winters, Consulting Actuary with CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services, and Lisa Locher, Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager of PNC Institutional Investment Group, were present to provide an annual review of the Police & Fire Pension Retirement plan.

CBIZ serves as the City's Police and Fire Plan actuary and has worked with the City since the plan's inception in 1998. John Ketzner has previously provided this annual update. Mr. Ketzner has recently retired from CBIZ and Al Winters has been handling the City's actuary service during the transition.

Lisa Locher meets regularly with the City's Police and Fire Retirement Committee to review investment performance, identify trends, project future performance, and monitor the investment policy compliance. She also discusses any pertinent issues involving the plan and its investments.

A defined benefit pension is a major component of an employee's overall compensation package. The Police and Fire Retirement Plan offers a very generous benefit that provides a maximum lifetime benefit of 60% of an employee's 3 highest years' salary after 30 years of service. Police and Fire are eligible to retire after 25 years of service and their benefit is calculated at 2% of their salary for each year they work.

As a comparison, the City participates in the Maryland State Retirement Plan for eligible non-sworn personnel. The Reformed Maryland State plan offers a benefit of approximately 40-50% of an employee's 5 highest years' salary. Normal retirement is age 65 with ten years of service or based on the Rule of 90 (age and service must equal). The Reformed Maryland Plan also has a ten year vesting requirement.

Since the Police and Fire Plan's inception, the City has funded 100% of the actuary's recommended employer contribution amount. Since the plan's inception, the employee contribution rate has remained at 7%, with Mayor and Council approving increasing City contribution rates to make up the difference. This absorption of contributions by the City was taken to ensure a securely funded retirement plan. In tough economic conditions, other municipalities have not done the same. In light of the plan's performance and the increasing employer contribution rates, Mayor and Council may wish to consider establishing a pension funding policy to provide more stability and predictability to the budgetary and funding process.

Chapter 38 of the City's Code details the authority and administration of the plan. Mayor and Council have ultimate authority over the Police and Fire Retirement Plan and the Committee.

The Police and Fire Retirement Committee reviews plan performance and discusses matters that could have an impact on the plan. The establishment and authority of the committee are also defined by Chapter 38 of the City's Code.

No action is required of the Mayor and Council at this time. If the Mayor and Council are favorable to establishing a funding policy for the Police and Fire Retirement Plan, staff can return in a future work session with a draft policy for further discussion.

Mr. Winters stated new governmental accounting standards will dictate that the sponsors' annual expense and balance sheet recognition be included in the FY 2015 financial statements. The regulation covers only pension recognition issues and doesn't apply to post-retirement medial. The principal concept is to separate accounting from funding. Mr. Winters suggested that the funding plan be updated during this transition time.

Councilmember Brubaker stated the City had been attempting to have the funded percentage trend up. Mr. Winters stated as long as the assumptions are met, the City is on track for the proposed funding. The City's plan ranks in the mid-range of all plans.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out, based on the numbers, it appears the plan continues to lose ground. He wondered at what point the City of Hagerstown says the plan is not affordable. He noted that increased costs in one area impacts the amount budgeted for other endeavors. He wondered what the expectation is for future funding.

Councilmember Munson asked what happens with contributions if the stock market is successful in the next few years.

Mr. Winters noted the following recommendations:

1. No improvement in benefit structure
2. Continue to work with auditors on changes to the financial statements caused by GASB 68 beginning with FY 2015 CAFR
3. Continue to monitor investment of fund
4. Consider implementing a plan funding policy
5. Maintain other assumptions including mortality at this time for both accounting and cash funding policy purposes

Ms. Locher then discussed how PNC makes investments for the plan. Portfolio management decisions are guided by the Plan's Investment Policy Guidelines, which are reviewed and reaffirmed at least annually. PNC works closely with the Plan's Investment/Finance Committee, as well as the City's Human Resources and Finance Departments, to ensure investment objectives and goals are aligned. Plan market value as

of the end of fiscal year 6/30/14 was \$ 18.7 million versus a year earlier market value of \$ 16.7 million. Market value as of 12/31/14 was \$ 18.9 million. The current targeted asset allocation of the Plan is 65% equity, 32% fixed income, and 3% cash. PNC believes the US economy will continue its expansion trajectory in 2015, leading global growth and diverging from major developed economies. They estimate 2015 GDP growth at 3.3% and remain committed to a disciplined and diversified investment approach.

She indicated the City committee members are dedicated and should be commended for their efforts. She noted the City of Hagerstown plan outperformed the Baltimore Police Department and the City of Baltimore.

Councilmember Brubaker stated he believes the coming budget will be challenging. The City cannot afford a continual increase in plan costs. He stated he is angry because during the City campaign he said he would support increases for employees but it would not be affordable. The employee groups spread lies and now there is litigation pending against the City/and or Mayor and Council. If a binding arbitration question is on the ballot during the next election, there will be more lies. He is a friend of the firemen and the policemen and he supports them more than they realize. He appreciates the employees and he is not sure what may happen if reorganization occurs.

#### Request to Support Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment

Kathleen Maher, Planning Director, and Liz Shatto, Executive Director of Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc., were present to discuss the request for a letter of support for submittal of an amendment to the Management Plan for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. This amendment outlines the change to the management structure for the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area management entity. The City's support will make the City continue to be eligible for State heritage grants.

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) is a three-county, State certified heritage area in Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties. The City's heritage area was certified by the State of Maryland in 2006. The mission of the organization is to promote stewardship of the historic, cultural, and natural Civil War resources, encourage superior visitor experiences, and stimulate tourism, economic prosperity, and educational development. Steve Bockmiller is the City representative on the HCWHA Advisory Board. The executive director of the HCWHA is Liz Shatto. Up until last year, Ms. Shatto worked for the Tourism Council of Frederick County and the majority of the local funding for management of the HCWHA was by Frederick County. Additional support was provided by Washington and Carroll counties to help match the annual \$ 100,000 management grant from the state for the heritage area.

Last year, a new 501 (c) 3 entity, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Inc., was established to take over management of the HCWHA and at that time the expectation became that local funding support for the management of the HCWHA would be shared

equally between the three counties. The local match is required to be at least 75% in cash and the rest can be in-kind. This means that each tourism entity must provide at least \$ 25,000 in cash and in-kind support equal to the balance. If a county does not provide its share of the local match, that county will be removed from the heritage area and no entity within that county would be eligible for future heritage grants. To assist the CVB with the unbudgeted funding obligation for this change last year, the City of Hagerstown and Washington County each contributed \$ 5,000 to match the CVB's \$ 15,000 contribution. At that time, the Mayor and City Council made it clear the City contribution was expected to be a one-time contribution as funding for tourism operations is a County obligation.

Over the years, \$ 769,343 in Maryland Heritage Area Program funding has been awarded for tourism-support projects and activities in Washington County. Of those funds, the City of Hagerstown has been the recipient of \$ 193,200 in grant funds for various projects, including the sidewalk enhancements on North and South Potomac Street, approximately 50 heritage plaques, the Hagerstown in the Civil War book, the downtown pedestrian directory signs and prior light pole banners, and the feasibility study for the Doleman Black Heritage Museum. Additionally, Hagerstown is promoted on the Heart of the Civil War Heritage area web site, the HCWHA newsletter, and at the HCWHA Visitors Center at Antietam Battlefield.

In order for the City's heritage area to continue to be eligible for State heritage area funding (both the management grant and the project grants), an amendment to the Management Plan for the HCWHA regarding the change to the management structure of the City's heritage area is being submitted for approval by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. This amendment application must include letters of support from every local government entity within the heritage area in order for that entity to continue to be eligible for project grants.

Staff is seeking authorization to prepare a letter under the Mayor's signature indicating the City's support for submittal of the Management Plan amendment outlining the change to the management structure for the HCWHA. The City's letter of support and a planned future Comprehensive Plan amendment (also requested by the HCWHA) would acknowledge the change to the management structure and that it would be finally supported by the three counties.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if the County Commissioners will be providing a letter of support. Ms. Shatto indicated she does not anticipate there would be any issues with any of the jurisdictions across the three states. The funding that the State of Maryland provides for the HCWHA is from Program Open Space.

Mayor Gysberts pointed out the ability to attract visitors to Hagerstown is positive. He thanked Dan Spedden, Convention and Visitors Bureau, for being a strong advocate for Hagerstown.

Ms. Shatto stated they are promoting making Hagerstown the heart of a visitors stay because of its proximity to other important sites, such as Antietam and Gettysburg.

It was the general consensus to authorize a letter of support for the plan.

Police Athletic League Country Music Festival – 2015

Karen Giffin, Community Affairs Manager, Officer Nick Varner, PAL, and Officer Brian Burke, PAL, were present to discuss the planned Country Music Festival.

The Police Athletic League was given approval in December to hold a country music festival at Fairgrounds Park on September 26, 2015. The event will be held from noon until 10:00 p.m. The festival will showcase national and regional country music artists and will include some children's activities. They will be selling beer and wine during the event.

As discussed at the December Work Session, the Police Athletic League is also asking the City to assist with some City services such as electric, trash removal, police, and park services.

City staff has quantified the costs for the requested services and developed the following estimates:

Parks	\$ 4,000
Police	\$ 3,100 to \$ 5,000
Electric	\$ 8,175 (temporary service installation and usage)

PAL will be paying a fee to rent the park of \$ 1,000.

If the Mayor and City Council wish to provide the services as outlined, the amount would be placed in a specific budget line item in the Public Functions Budget for FY16, and it would be a new expense for FY16.

Councilmember Metzner asked what revenue is anticipated for the event. Officer Varner stated they are estimating revenue of \$ 70,000 to \$ 100,000. If PAL receives that amount, they will donate money to the City.

Mayor Gysberts suggested looking at the costs for permanent electric service at the location.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out this event ties in with the Community City Center Plan, Catalyst Project # 6 – Increasing Events.

Councilmember Munson stated there was an incident in his neighborhood over the past weekend and he appreciates the way the problem was handled by the Hagerstown Police Officers.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to include a line item in the FY16 budget for the Country Music Festival.

Liquor Law Change to Support the Designated Downtown Festival Area

Karen Giffin, Community Affairs Manager, Andrew Sargent, Downtown Manager, and Jim Kercheval, Executive Director of The Greater Hagerstown Committee, were present to discuss a change in the State liquor law.

The Community's City Center Plan Catalyst Project #6 calls for the community to leverage resources to produce events and build upon the atmosphere created by popular downtown events. The community continues to find ways to expand and create street festival events in the A & district that attract families and diverse age groups to the City's core.

With this in mind and while planning last year's revamped Wind Downs, it was shown that a change was needed in the current liquor law so that patrons at these special events and festivals can carry open containers freely between local businesses and a blocked-off street during an approved street festival.

The current state law does not allow a patron to carry an open container from an area under one liquor license to another. Therefore, festival attendees are confined within the street or within an individual establishment.

In order for events to no longer have this confinement, the Washington County Community Coalition will be lobbying for a liquor law change. This would be helping Hagerstown to create an atmosphere where patrons could roam freely between the small businesses along the block in the street festival area. Creating this unique atmosphere supports Catalyst Project #6 and establishes the A & E District as a destination center for community activities and events. It also offers much-needed support to small businesses in the area. A similar exception was approved for the City of Westminster in Carroll County.

The Washington County Community Coalition Lobbyist and their bill drafters are currently crafting the wording for the law.

Mr. Kercheval noted there are similar festivals in Fells Point and Baltimore. He stated there is a question of whether a change in the law is needed or if the local liquor board would be authorized to grant the approval.

Councilmember Brubaker suggested working with the Washington County Delegation to determine whether this requires a change in the law.

Mr. Kercheval stated the local liquor board does support allowing patrons to carry open containers from the festival area to local businesses.

Mr. Sargent stated this is an attempt to encourage a festival atmosphere downtown in a responsible manner. Limits could be established for time and number of permits during an event.

Councilmember Munson stated the Washington County Delegation has the option to ask for an opinion from the Attorney General to determine if this practice conforms with the law. An opinion can be provided rapidly if the request is made.

Updates will be provided as the proposed legislation moves through the process.

### ShamRock Block Party

Karen Giffin, Community Affairs Manager, Robin Roberson, Community Free Clinic, and Robert Immer, Mountain Maryland Events, were present to discuss a block party for the St. Patrick's Day Run Fest.

The committee feels this celebration would help enhance the atmosphere and to keep individuals in the City Center longer. The Run Fest is March 14, 2015.

Mountain Maryland Events would like to host the block party. The event would be called the ShamRock Block Party and would be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It would have a similar layout and be run like Wind Down Fridays. It would be free to enter the area, and Mountain Maryland Events would work with local restaurants, local breweries and other vendors.

Mr. Immer stated Mountain Maryland Events incorporated 13 months ago and has produced the Leistersburg BBQ Festival, the Taste of the Valley Food & Wine Festival, and the Quad State Beer Fest. The proposed event would be a smaller version of the beer festival.

Ms. Roberson stated the race could draw about 2,000 people to downtown. The committee thinks people would appreciate having something to do after the run. This event would help downtown restaurants by keeping people in the area.

Councilmember Nigh stated she is not in favor of having an event with alcohol at 10:00 a.m. This event is a family friendly event. She is concerned that alcohol is served at so many events.

Ms. Roberson pointed out the children's event is at 9:30 a.m. and when they are finished, they typically go home. After the other events, people may stay in the area for a beer or two and then go home.

Councilmember Aleshire stated he is not in favor of having alcohol served with this event.

Councilmember Metzner stated he is not in favor of the block party either. The Krumpes Donut run has a band and serves donuts after the race. A large crowd stays for the events after that race and no alcohol is served. There are many restaurants people can patronize if they want to have a beer after the race. He does not think the timing of the event is good idea.

Mayor Gysberts asked if a time frame from noon to 4:00 p.m. would be more acceptable. Councilmember Brubaker stated it would make a difference to him. Councilmember Nigh and Councilmember Aleshire are not comfortable with the combination of alcohol and the event.

Councilmember Metzner indicated he is open to discussing the idea further. He asked how much money would be raised for the clinic with the block party. Ms. Giffin stated the block party is a private entity that would retain the proceeds.

It was the general consensus to deny the request for the block party as stated.

Councilmember Metzner would like to have a future discussion scheduled to talk about a private, for-profit organization requesting the use of downtown events for profit. He is very concerned when the request is partnered with a non-profit event.

### Hagerstown BMX

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated the volunteer leaders of the Hagerstown BMX were present to provide an update of their programs.

Brian Caron, Hagerstown BMX, reported the Hagerstown BMX is affiliated with USMA BMX. BMX racing is a combination of strength, skill and perseverance. It provides a platform that promotes character building, confidence, sportsmanship, athleticism and respectful competition. The Hagerstown BMX was established in 1999. The track was built from fundraising efforts, donations, and volunteer commitment. The facility provides a place where kids of all ages can come and enjoy the sport of BMX.

The Hagerstown BMX benefits the City through increased lodging and dining by participants and spectators. There is an average of 35 races held each year. Racers and spectators are from as far away as Canada and Florida. Overall, the Hagerstown BMX has consistently strong representation at all State and Regional races.

Mr. Caron stated they are looking for possible funding and support from the City to move to the next level with the facility. Future needs include asphalt, Solitac, fencing, and a new sound system. Total estimated costs for the needs are \$ 25,000. Annual operating expenses are \$ 10,000 to \$ 12,000 per year.

Councilmember Aleshire left the meeting at this time.

Mayor Gysberts thanked the group for operating this amenity for Hagerstown. He would like to solve the run-off issue, which would improve the whole park.

Councilmember Metzner suggested Mr. Caron request additional funding from the Convention and Visitors Bureau as well. He supports some City funding for this amenity.

Councilmember Nigh asked if a loan is possible, similar to what the softball team did.

Program Open Space (POS) funding may also be available. Another source may be funding through the Gaming Commission.

The request for funding will be considered for the FY16 budget.

#### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

*Rodney Tissue, City Engineer*, had no additional comments.

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Councilmember L. C. Metzner* pointed out this is the first meeting using the new audio/visual equipment.

*Councilmember P. M. Nigh* expressed her condolences to the family of Kyle McKoy who passed away recently. She is concerned there may be an increase in the number of requests for Bottle Club Licenses.

*Councilmember D. F. Munson* thanked the Governor and Economic Development staff in West Virginia for their efforts to have Proctor and Gamble locate in West Virginia. This will help the entire tri-state region. He was pleased to see the Herald-Mail had several positive stories about Hagerstown recently.

*Councilmember M. E. Brubaker* reported the State address on February 4, 2015 included information that Highway User Revenue is anticipated to be slightly above the current amount for the City of Hagerstown. He will continue to discuss Hagerstown's concerns with State representatives.

*Mayor D. S. Gysberts* announced the State of the City will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at Hager Hall and at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. He stated it is

important to offer a free event to the public that can be rebroadcast. He attended a good show at Western Heights Middle School. The Coalition's Day in Annapolis was held on February 4, 2015. He attended a Mayor's meeting and the topic was safety. He mentioned to the new governor there is interest in Hagerstown to retain professional baseball. He also mentioned that ideas include rebuilding or rehabilitating the existing facility and some other economic development activities in that area. There is a local group of investors that may purchase the Hagerstown Suns. This group is serious and is interested in being involved in the community. He will continue to work with the current owners of the Suns as well, if they want to work with the City. He attended the recent event hosted by the Wesel Sister City group. He reminded everyone that Monday, February 16, 2015 is President's Day.

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 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by D. K. Spickler*

Donna K. Spickler  
City Clerk

Approved: March 31, 2015