

EXECUTIVE SESSION – September 22, 2020

On a motion duly made by Councilmember A. Heffernan and seconded by Councilmember S. McIntire, the City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to meet in closed session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; #4 (Section 3-305(b)), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, #7 (Section 3-305(b)), to consider the investment of public funds, #5 (Section 3-305(b)), and to consider the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, #1 (Section 3-305(b)), on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember A. Heffernan, Councilmember E. Keller, Councilmember S. McIntire, City Administrator Scott Nicewarner, Jennifer Keefer, City Attorney, Michelle Hepburn, Director of Finance, Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development, Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, Jonathan Kerns, Community Development Manager, Doug Reaser, Business Development Specialist, Kaitlin Bell, Economic Development Specialist, Stephen Bockmiller, Zoning Administrator, Nancy Hausrath, Director of Utilities, William Luhn, Water Operations Manager, Michael Fitzgerald, Gideon Properties, and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk. Councilmember L. C. Metzner was not present.

The meeting was held to discuss four business proposals, conditions of an agreement, and membership of the Board of Traffic and Parking and the City Ethics Commission. The consideration of investment of public funds was removed from the agenda. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

WORK SESSION – September 22, 2020

Mayor R. E. Bruchey, II called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:40 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 2020 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Participating with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, A. Heffernan, E. Keller, and S. McIntire, City Administrator Scott A. Nicewarner, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember L. C. Metzner was not present.

Preliminary Agenda Review

Mayor Bruchey announced that Citizen Comments for the September 29, 2020 Regular Session will be welcome either in person, or by submitting comments by email to [councilcomments@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:councilcomments@hagerstownmd.org). If by email, the submitters name, address, and a summary of the comments will be announced by the City Clerk. The email will not be

read in its entirety but it will be included in the public record for the meeting and may be viewed by the public at any time.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Department of Parks and Engineering:
  - 1. Improvements to Wall at Jamison Door and adjacent Alley 1-114 – Advantage Landscape & Construction, Inc. (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 297,688.00
  - 2. Phase 1 Tree Planting – Advantage Landscape & Construction, Inc. (Hagerstown, MD) Not to Exceed \$ 190,000.00
  - 3. Lighting Improvements at BMX Track – ALC Weaver Electric (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 160,441.05
  - 4. Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program – Concrete Central (Hagerstown, MD) \$ 225,000.00
  - 5. 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Pickup Truck – Criswell Chevrolet, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD) \$ 40,847.69
  
- B. Department of Planning and Code Administration:
  - 1. Demolition Contract for 216 S. Prospect Street – Allegany Wrecking and Salvage, LLC (Maugansville, MD ) \$ 28,200.00
  
- C. Department of Public Works:
  - 1. Traffic Cameras for Pavement Preservation Program – Econolite (Glen Burnie, MD) \$ 29,640.00
  
- D. Utilities:
  - 1. Wastewater – SCADA Upgrades – Micro-Tech Designs, Inc. (Hampstead, MD) \$ 62,334.00
  - 2. Wastewater – Maintenance Agreement for Cummings ENR Generator Set – Cummings Power Systems, LLC (Glen Burnie, MD) \$ 20,043.80

This completed the Preliminary Agenda Review. There were no questions about any items. All items, unless noted, are scheduled for approval on September 29, 2020.

### Recreation Update

Amy Riley, Recreation Coordinator, was present to provide an update on the City of Hagerstown's Recreation Programs.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge people in the community, the City's commitment to offering safe, innovative, and quality programming has not changed. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it has challenged us to think outside the box and to adopt a new virtual recreation mindset. Programming has been enhanced to include virtual options from the comfort and safety of home. Annual modified events are continuing and new events are being added, with careful, creative planning in mind. The hard-working Parks staff continues to improve all of the parks so programs can be offered in all of the City's well-maintained parks.

The 2020/2021 Fall and Winter Parks and Recreation Guide has gone digital this season to save on printing and distribution costs. With the recent success of virtual programs in spring/summer, the new guide features twenty new virtual programs that will bring in new revenue. New events this season include Fall Outdoor Movies and a Drive Through Trick-or-Treat at Fairgrounds Park. The Harvest Hoedown will not be held this year due to the draw of large crowds and the opportunity to save costs. The Dog Parade and City Park Lighting will go virtual. Ms. Riley noted a COVID cleaning fee has been added to rentals for the Fit Room.

With a \$ 10,000 grant received from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, a new Founders Trail Footpath is planned that involves the development and installation of outdoor interpretive plaques along existing walking trails surrounding the Hager House. With seasonal hours of operation, public access to tour the inside of this pre-revolutionary colonial home is limited to two days per week from April through October. However, public access to visit the outside of the house and explore the surrounding grounds is available every day of the year. These interpretive plaques offer a self-paced visually-guided tour experience and will serve to get the visitor excited about the stories that await them when they come back to further explore this one-of-a-kind home in City Park. Development is underway and the new plaques should be installed in Spring, 2021.

Although The Greens at Hamilton Run Golf Course was closed for six weeks in March/April, the course is seeing a 19.5% increase in revenue this season. The greens are in the best condition they have ever been due to the outstanding work of the two greenskeepers. Staff has purchased additional golf club sets to support an increase in new golfers trying out the sport. The annual fall Par Fore Pink Tournament on October 2, 2020 has sold out and a second tournament is being added. The course will remain open year-round, weather permitting.

Councilmember McIntire encouraged people to check out these activities. She noted there is not a shortage of things to do in Hagerstown.

Mr. Nicewarner thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts to adjust programming to make it safe for people to participate in when they were looking for things to do during the pandemic shut down.

Waste Management, Contract 17-RR-12: Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste Collection Services and Electronics Recycling

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, and Pat Harrity, Waste Management, were present to discuss the collection contract.

On January 1, 2018, the City entered into contract #17-RR-12 with Waste Management for collection of single-stream recycling, yard waste, and trash. In addition, trash is hauled to Waste Management's landfill in Upton, Pennsylvania and the City pays \$ 40.00/ton for the disposal. The original contract was awarded on a 36-month basis from January 1, 2018 and will expire at the end of this calendar year.

The contract was written that the City may grant the contractor the right and privilege of renewing the contract for another 36-month period, extending the contract from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023 on the same terms and conditions as stipulated in the original contract documents. The contractor has notified the City of their request to extend the contract. Waste Management has indicated that with only a 2% inflating adjustment, they will continue to hold their collection prices.

Staff feels that the collection contract is going well. Daily there are missed collections that have to be addressed with City staff contacting Waste Management, but in general the service is very good. Based on this, staff recommends extending the contract an additional three years as provided for in the original contract bid documents. The contract was also written that price adjustments are made annually based on the Consumer Price Index inflationary adjustment. Their requested 2% adjustment is in-line with that and is exactly the increase that was anticipated in the FY21 budget.

At this time, staff is evaluating whether or not the electronics recycling and document shredding event for City residents at Municipal Stadium should be held. The City hosted successful events in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The cost last year was \$ 13,412 and two trailer loads of electronics and one of paper were collected.

The cost of the event this year will be higher due to the pandemic. Waste Management requires using their own staff (in lieu of “rented” labor) and there is a potential for higher volumes since people had time to clean out their homes. The fee could range from \$ 16,146 (if volumes are the same as 2019) or up to \$ 22,000 (if the volumes double.). The question is whether the Mayor and City Council wishes to proceed at this higher rate or simply take a year hiatus from the program. Staff can shift other budgeted funds in the Trash fund to cover additional costs if the Council desires to move forward. The event would be on November 7, 2020 at Municipal Stadium if it does occur.

It was the general consensus to continue the contract as stated and to hold the recycling event as planned. Formal approval of the contract will be scheduled for September 29, 2020 during the Regular Session.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS**

*Scott A. Nicewarner, City Administrator*, reported the police department completed a special crime task force operation recently and took drugs and guns off the streets. Members of the Hagerstown Police Department always handle themselves with extreme professionalism with their work and with citizens. He recognizes they are underpaid and underrecognized, yet they continue to go out and do their jobs every day.

The Hagerstown Fire Department responded to a large fire outside the City’s jurisdiction today and they were instrumental in saving multiple buildings. The members of the fire department also do an excellent job.

During the last two days, there have been two major water line breaks. Water Division staff were able to complete repairs prior to the stated times.

He thanked all City staff. They haven't missed a beat over the last 8 months to keep services available to citizens during the pandemic. He thanked everyone for their dedication.

The next dining on the street closure will be Sunday, September 27, 2020.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Councilmember S. McIntire* commended the police department employees for their efforts to keep Hagerstown safe. She agrees they are underpaid. Officers responded to a complaint about a group of skateboarders in the square creating a commotion. A skatepark is needed in Hagerstown. She hopes dining in the street can be expanded to both Saturdays and Sundays in the near future.

*Councilmember E. Keller* had no additional comments.

*Councilmember A. Heffernan* had no additional comments.

*Councilmember K. Aleshire* reiterated that the City of Hagerstown fire department responded to a large apartment fire call earlier today, using paid firefighters, paid apparatus and City equipment, outside the City's call area. They provided a resource from the City's taxpayers that they are not reimbursed for. He expressed his concern about an individual speeding down the street and passing cars on a four wheeler.

*Mayor R. E. Bruchey* understands skateboarders like to use the steps and rails in the square but that is not the appropriate area. Damage done to the steps is costly to repair. He suggested confiscating the skateboards and only release them to parents. He agreed with Mr. Nicewarner's comments regarding the Hagerstown Police Department, Hagerstown Fire Department, and all City departments. He thanked all City employees for doing a great job during the pandemic. He hopes more businesses can fully reopen soon and capacity restrictions are lifted.

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 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Original signed by D. K. Spickler*

Donna K. Spickler  
City Clerk

Approved: October 27, 2020