

EXECUTIVE SESSION – October 5, 2021

On a motion duly made by Councilmember T. Martinez and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to meet in closed session to discuss (1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance of evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction (#1), to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State (#4), and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice (#7), on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 3:05 p.m. in Room 407, 4th floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor E. Keller, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember T. Burnett, Councilmember T. Martinez, City Administrator Scott Nicewarner, City Attorney Jason Morton, Jeff Snyder, Robert Daveler, and Him Sprecher, Antietam Fire Company, and Wes Decker, Communications Manager. Councilmember S. McIntire and City Clerk D. K. Spickler were not present.

The meeting was held to discuss various personnel issues, two business proposals and to obtain legal advice. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION – October 5, 2021

Mayor E. Keller called this Work Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 5, 2021 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Participating with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, R. E. Bruchey, II, T. Burnett, T. Martinez, and City Administrator Scott A. Nicewarner. Councilmember S. McIntire and City Clerk D. K. Spickler were not present.

Proclamation: Fire Prevention Month

Mayor Keller read a proclamation naming October, 2021 as Fire Prevention Month in Hagerstown, Maryland. This year's theme is Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety. This theme focuses on recognizing the different sounds smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make, and what to do when an alarm sounds. Fire Chief Steven Lohr, Fire Marshall Dale Fishack, and members of the Hagerstown Fire Department accepted the proclamation.

High Impact Performance (HIP) Award Presentation

Mayor Keller presented George Parrish, Electrical Inspector, with the High Impact Performance (HIP) for his life saving efforts recently at a medical emergency incident in the Central Parking Lot.

Paul Frey, President of Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and Jim Kercheval, Executive Director of Greater Hagerstown Committee, were present to discuss the Coalition's 2022 Draft Legislative Priorities. The City of Hagerstown is a founding member of the Washington County Community Coalition. Since 2005, a number of dedicated community stakeholders have joined together to advance Washington County's interests at the state level, including the CVB, the Washington County Free Library, Washington County Government, the City of Hagerstown, the Greater Hagerstown Committee, the Community Foundation, Hagerstown Community College, CHIEF, the Town of Williamsport, and the Chamber of Commerce.

As the community continues to change and grow, the Coalition partners see the need to supplement the work of the Delegation and help promote Washington County in Annapolis. Over the last 17 years, they've seen the value of a concerted effort to speak with one voice and be heard alongside larger, more urban areas. As a result, the Coalition's efforts have elevated our stature and held build State support for the issues each stakeholder brings to the table. The program also keeps partners posted on issues of concern throughout the year, serving as an early warning system for anything in Annapolis that may affect Hagerstown or Washington County.

As is in the past, the Coalition will hire a lobbyist to help advocate for the community's state-level agenda during the 2022 General Assembly session. In addition, the Day in Annapolis is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

The lobbying process starts in the summer when the Coalition partners decide on the list of community priorities.

The Coalition is also inviting the City of Hagerstown to participate in their lobbying efforts again this year, and asking the City to contribute \$ 5,000.00, as was done last year.

Possible Agenda Items include the following:

1. Transportation:
 - a. I-81
 - b. I-70/Rt. 65 Interchange Improvements
2. Community Revitalization:
 - a. Economic Development – Support Economic Future of Western MD (EFWM) Task Force Legislation
 - b. Health and Public Safety – Medicaid Reimbursement
 - c. Boonsboro Water Reservoir Improvements
3. Tourism:
 - a. NPS Headquarters and Visitor Center (Town of Williamsport)
 - b. Indoor Turf Facility

Items on the draft watch list include gaming revenue protection, shifting of liabilities from state to localities, USMH operational funding, increase library per capita funding,

police reform legislation, Highway User Revenue restoration, Enterprise Zone Legislation, Route 11 Potomac River Bridge Deterioration, and State funding of K-12.

The Town of Boonsboro has now joined the Coalition. They are experiencing significant water reservoir issues and are looking for assistance to upgrade the facility over the next few years.

Other potential agenda items include Online Sales of Cottage Food, Land Banking and Acquisition of blighted properties, Clara Barton Memorial Sculpture, Police Retention and Attraction, new Visitor's Welcome Center along I-81, South County/Roxbury Rail Trail, Williamsport Tannery Cleanup, and the Doleman Black Heritage Museum.

Proposal for Placement of Helicopter at Vietnam Monument, South Walnut Street

Jim Kline, President of the Joint Veterans Council, and Ron Moats, Commander - Boonsboro American Legion Post 10, were present to discuss a proposal for placement of a helicopter at the Vietnam Monument on S. Walnut Street.

The helicopter was one of the most iconic images of the Vietnam War. Mr. Kline doubts the troops could have been in Vietnam for the length of time they were without the helicopter to transport troops, deliver supplies, and evacuate the wounded. If a soldier was there, laying on the ground, injured and feeling like this might their last moments on earth, you can bet that the familiar sounds of those helicopter blades were the sweetest sound they ever heard.

The group does not intend to change the appearance of the Monument as it now stands. They believe that the Monument is beautiful, and honors the military men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country (there are seventeen from Washington County). The monument also recognizes ALL veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War, regardless of where they were stationed.

The group proposes placing a Huey helicopter on a pylon, high off the ground and situated to the left rear of the monument. They are proposing it be off the ground so no one can attempt to get into the helicopter.

The existing monument will still be the central focus of the site. The helicopter would blend in with the landscaping already at the park and will definitely heighten the theme of the monument. No additional lighting is anticipated.

The Vietnam Monument and helicopter could serve as useful educational tools that teachers could incorporate in their teaching plans for students who are not familiar with Vietnam.

While there may not currently be any other military equipment in City Park, the helicopter would complement the existing Vietnam War Veterans Monument. This addition could cause an increase in tourism for Washington County. Those who have visited the memorials located in Washington, D.C. may decide to make the short trip to

Hagerstown to see the Vietnam Monument, proudly displayed in one of the prettiest parks in the county.

The helicopter is 58 feet long, 12 feet tall, and 16 feet wide. There is no equipment inside the helicopter.

Mr. Kline reported the group circulated a petition in support of the location of the helicopter at this location and have received more than 500 signatures so far.

The group is asking the Mayor and City Council to authorize them to place a UH-1 Huey at this site to enhance the already existing monument. The Vietnam veterans waited a long, long time to hear the words welcome home when they returned from their duty stations. They asked the Mayor and City Council to please continue to honor the Vietnam Veteran and their memories of Vietnam by allowing this addition to the monument.

Richard Hembrook, Former Army Chaplain, served in Vietnam at the beginning and closing of the Vietnam War. There was no way they could complete their work without the Huey helicopter. The taxi of Vietnam was the Huey helicopter. This would be a meaningful addition to the memorial on Walnut Street.

Councilmember Aleshire noted some of the folks who are opposed to the placement live in that neighborhood. Some of their opposition may be in part because of the unknowns with the visual impact of a large helicopter there. The visual provided is not in a realistic scale per the dimensions of the helicopter. He asked where the helicopter would be located specifically at the memorial. He would like to see a temporary, on-site visual of what it would look like in the specific location.

Mr. Kline stated in the proposed located there is a lot of tree cover. In fact, most of the people visiting the memorial will be focused on the memorial rather than the helicopter in the trees.

Councilmember Aleshire is also concerned about the visual from the Hager House. He does not have an inclination to combine these two things, or to approve an apparatus that is overly imposing to the existing streetscape.

Mr. Kline stated it would be on pylons, 30 feet in the air, and only the front would be immediately visible. They do not want to take away from what is already there.

Councilmember Bruchey stated seeing some example would be helpful.

Mayor Keller stated it is definitely a beautiful monument but she doesn't believe a 60' helicopter adds value to that in a City park. The character of an entire helicopter does not match the current landscape or the rest of the park.

Councilmember Burnett stated a different location may be more suitable but she does respect the thought process of having a helicopter as it is an important part of history.

Mr. Kline asked where the Mayor and Council would suggest locating a helicopter. Mayor Keller mentioned Halfway Park. Mr. Kline stated he won't dedicate time and effort to find a helicopter for any location other than this one. He asked what the theme of City Park really is.

Councilmember Aleshire stated users and visitors of City Park define what the theme is for them and it will be different for everyone.

Councilmember Bruchey asked for a better visual for the proposed placement. Mayor Keller stated they could go to the site with Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, and Rodney Tissue, City Engineer. Councilmember Aleshire suggested someone hold up something like balloons showing the dimensions and the location.

Mayor Keller stated this will be scheduled.

Pump Station #33

Nancy Hausrath, Director of Utilities, and Kellan Douglas, Water and Wastewater Engineer, were present to discuss Pump Station 33 (relocation of Pump Station 9). Pump Station 9 is a pre-fabricated, sanitary sewer pump station located at the intersection of Day Road and Dual Highway. The pump station is configured as a dry pit pump station with the pumps and associated controls located below ground. The pump station is beyond its useful life with the buried steel enclosure showing signs of deterioration and electrical components becoming increasingly obsolete. The location of the pump controls and electrical components below ground makes access and maintenance very difficult. The potential to expand capacity of the pump station is very limited due to footprint limitations with the buried enclosure as well as usable space around the pump station. In addition, the location of the existing pump station is not conducive to providing sewer service to the adjacent undeveloped land without the need for additional pumping either by a pump station or low-pressure sewer systems. For this reason, relocating the pump station to an alternative site will allow for more cost-efficient sewer service to the surrounding area.

City staff would recommend relocation of the pump station to a point along Hebb Road, approximately 2,500 ft west of the existing pump station based on topography in the area. The project will also include the construction of a gravity sewer system from the existing pump station to the proposed pump station as well as force main piping from the proposed pump station. The proposed pump station will be designed to allow for future expansion as development progresses in the area. Major infrastructure items like the wet well and force main piping will be sized to account for these estimated future flows.

The cost of this project is estimated to be in the range of \$ 3,000,000 to \$ 3,400,000, which includes a 20% contingency. City staff continues to obtain prices on the larger materials (pumps and controls, generator, etc.) on this project. Funding options considered for this project include the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money as well as City Utilities Benefit Fees and MDE grant/bond funding.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if there would be a benefit to getting the flow to Pump Station 9 and then using the road bed to transfer it to a new Pump Station 33. Mr. Douglas stated the most cost effective option is to abandon Station 9 and build Station 33.

Ms. Hausrath indicated Station 9 is at capacity and benefit fees will cover much of the costs for additional capacity for new customers. This will not only add improvements to the utility system but will generate tax revenue as well.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if any property will be taken off a septic system with this new station. Ms. Hausrath stated she would like to see this happen. The City does not force connection, although it is permitted by the City Code. Councilmember Aleshire pointed out the City could gain credit toward MS4 requirements by transitioning properties from a septic system.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to move forward with the project.

2021 Trick-Or-Treat

Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator, requested the Mayor and Council to continue the date and responsibilities of Trick-or-Treat in the City of Hagerstown as requested in October, 2020.

As of today, the Alsatia Club Mummer's Parade is still on for Saturday, October 30, 2021. Regardless of whether the parade happens or not on that date, the City offers the following statement to City residents on Halloween 2021 and neighborhood participation Trick-or-Treat:

“It is suggested that families Trick-or-Treat this year on Sunday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in order to give your friends, motorists and police an idea when to expect pedestrians and visitors at their door. Participation and scheduling is entirely up to each family. Since Trick-or-Treat will not be scheduled by the City, the City would not re-schedule or suggest a rain date in the event of inclement weather or because of this year's health crisis. Moreover, it is perfectly acceptable for folks to opt-out and not participate. We ask that each family determine what is best for them.”

This statement places the desire to participate, or not participate, in this activity on October 31 entirely with the family. The understanding is the City departments will be more aware that the date/time may be used for neighborhood participation in Trick-or-Treat in the City. However, whether it rains, snows, sleets, or hails, the City will not be responsible for cancellation or rescheduling of the event.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Scott A. Nicewarner, City Administrator, announced that Fall Fest will be held at the Farmer's Market this Saturday. Harvest Hoedown and the last community yard sale will be at Fairgrounds Park on Saturday. The first 1,000 kids at Harvest Hoedown will receive a free pumpkin.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II had no additional comments.

Councilmember T. Burnett had no additional comments.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire had no additional comments.

Councilmember T. Martinez stated it was awesome to see firefighters helping with the Community Clean Up last weekend. The Unity Walk was a great event.

Mayor E. Keller thanked everyone who participated in the Clean Up. A recovery softball tournament was held at Fairgrounds Park last weekend and it was a great event. She congratulated Officer Spencer Nigh on his graduation from the Police Academy.

Mayor Keller thanked the Council for the proclamation in recognition of her being named Woman of the Year from the Business and Professional Women organization.

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 (from video)

Approved: November 23, 2021