

JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND REGULAR SESSION (23RD VOTING SESSION) – October 26, 2021

JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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The Mayor and City Council met jointly with Washington County Commissioners on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the County Office Building, 100 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, Maryland. Present with Mayor E. Keller were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, R. E. Bruchey, II, T. Burnett, and T. Martinez, City Administrator Scott A. Nicewarner, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Also present were Washington County Commissioners Jeffrey Cline, President, Terry Baker, Vice President, Wayne Keefer, Randy Wagner, and Charles Burkett, John Martirano, County Administrator, County Clerk Krista Hart, and County Attorney Kirk Downey.

Commissioner Cline called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Dave Hays, Director of Emergency Services, Brian Albert, Assistant Director, 911 Communications, and Sheriff Doug Mullendore, provided a presentation on the 911 Communications Center.

Since the 2009 consolidation of City and County dispatch, the 911 Center has provided dispatch for the Hagerstown Police Department. At that time, 11 City employees were transferred to the County. The City agreed at that time to provide funding for the increased costs for the transfer of these employees. The amount established was \$ 403,000.00. The City has paid this amount annually since 2009.

The current costs for the Communications Center is \$ 6.3 million, with wages and benefits being \$ 5.5 million.

Based on the costs for dispatch services for the City of Hagerstown, Director Hays estimated the County provides an annual cost savings of \$ 987,856 to the City. He pointed out this amount is over and above the \$ 403,000.

Director Hays stated the current center is near capacity and staff is discussing future locations for the 911 Center. There is a back up center at 100 W. Washington Street, but it is not a permanent solution. It is estimated a new center would cost between \$ 8 and \$ 11 million.

Councilmember Bruchey asked what portion of the Center is funded using General Fund dollars. Mr. Albert indicated 83% is funded by the County's General Fund. Councilmember Bruchey noted 23% of that amount is from City taxpayers.

Mayor Keller stated, based on the costs noted, it appears the City costs are already covered from taxpayers.

Councilmember Bruchey pointed out 23% of every County operation is covered by Hagerstown taxpayers. Combining the communications center in 2009 benefited both the County and the City. The City brought trained people and radio upgrades to the 911 Center. He stated the 911 service is a County service and should be provided by the County. He asked if dispatch is provided for other municipalities and if there are charges for that.

Commissioner Wagner reviewed minutes from 2009 and pointed out the City thought it was a good deal then. He wondered why that has changed.

Councilmember Aleshire was a Councilmember and later a Commissioner during the opening of the combined communications center. No agreement was signed at that time, even though the City agreed to cover some of the costs for the transferred employees. He thought an agreement was to be reviewed following a recent joint meeting.

Mr. Nicewarner stated two agreements were sent to the City, one for \$ 400,000 and one for \$ 1,000,000. Staff has been attempting to schedule meetings to discuss both agreements with no success. It is important for all the elected officials to understand the costs.

Mayor Keller stated Hagerstown is being treated differently. Other municipalities receive dispatching services. The City's \$ 12 million in fire services is not considered in the tax differential calculations.

Commissioner Burkett stated the City uses more of the communications center services. He asked if the City would stop asking about the tax differential if the payment is waived. Neither side is moving.

Councilmember Aleshire stated the City chose to provide fire services. Municipalities are not obligated by the State to provide emergency services. At some point, this will not be affordable and the services will likely be turned over to the County.

Commissioner Burkett suggested the City lower taxes to citizens and provide funding to the County to cover the costs for emergency services. The two parties are drawing lines in the sand and not budging.

Mayor Keller indicated there was not a line drawn until last week. The City has been asking to have conversations about the 911 center, tax differential, and fair fire funding but that has not happened. They have asked for discussions for 6 months.

Commissioner Wagner stated the County has not turned down any City requests. They have supported the Skate Park.

Mr. Martirano stated the presentation today is in response to the requests for more information.

Commissioner Burkett stated it seems one topic discussed at a time would be more productive.

Commissioner Cline asked the County Attorney to explain the County's tax differential responsibility. Mr. Downey stated the County may offer a differential based on input from municipalities. The Commissioners make the final determination of a potential differential.

Mayor Keller stated the City's expenses for fire service should be taken into consideration.

Councilmember Aleshire stated City taxpayers pay \$ 10 million for fire service and should not have to pay additional costs. He agreed the main topic for today's meeting is the 911 Center but it is difficult to pose questions when the presentation material is provided during the meeting, and not prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Keefer stated both groups have been poor negotiators. In order to move forward, he asked what the City's acceptable number for costs would be. Councilmember Aleshire stated he believes it should be \$ 213,000.

Commissioner Cline stated today's costs are more than \$ 900,000. At the last joint meeting, the Commissioners were handed a governance model sheet that they weren't aware was on the agenda. He asked if the City wants to raise the tax rate to cover the lower County rate so there is more revenue to the City. Other municipalities did this.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out the City's taxable base has declined since 2009.

Commissioner Cline suggested staff meet and discuss a fair number for the expenses incurred for the City. Mayor Keller stated this has been suggested repeatedly.

Councilmember Martinez stated it is not true when the County says they have been collaborative. These conversations could have been held in a 2 x 2 type setting.

Commissioner Cline disagreed with the statement that the County isn't collaborative.

Commissioner stated the elected officials should be included in 2 x 2 meeting settings and they should be briefed. Mayor Keller indicated Hagerstown's Mayor and City Council are provided updates each week from Mr. Nicewarner.

Mr. Martirano stated he communicates with the Commissioners every day. He and Mr. Nicewarner have a good working relationship.

Mayor Keller asked if the group wants Councilmember Aleshire to develop a justification of his number of \$ 213,000 and use that as a starting point.

Commissioner Keefer stated the 2 x 2 committee should be elected officials, not staff.

Councilmember Bruchey stated the County and City public safety service providers met two years ago and developed a list of services they provide. He used the list to review each budget and determined that taxpayers provide 23% of funding for County services. He wants to focus on a fair tax differential, including permits, inspections, etc.

It was agreed that two elected officials from each entity will meet to discuss the issues that have been mentioned, beginning with the 911 Center costs.

Mayor Keller asked the Commissioners to reconsider the decision to not pay an approved stipend to Hagerstown Fire Department employees who also work for the County's Department of Emergency Services. Mr. Martirano indicated there will be further information presented next week.

Mayor Keller respectfully asked the Commissioners to reconsider their response to Senator Corderman's request for a letter of support from them for the Hagerstown burn center.

Commissioner Cline stated they asked staff to combine the Senator's request and the City's request in the County's legislative request on November 9, 2021.

Commissioner Keefer asked if there is City support for the Doleman Black Heritage Museum (DBHM). Request for funding is included in the lobbying coalition's request. Mayor Keller indicated the City has and continues to support the DBHM.

Commissioner Wagner stated he supports the placement of a Huey helicopter at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Mayor Keller thanked the group for meeting today. Elected officials are charged with protecting taxpayers and sometimes difficult conversations are needed. She thanked everyone for the political will to start these discussions.

The joint session was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION (23RD VOTING SESSION) – October 26, 2021

Mayor E. Keller called this Regular Session (23rd voting session) of the Mayor and City Council to order at 7:04 p.m., Tuesday, October 26, 2021, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Participating with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, R. E. Bruchey, II, T. Burnett, and T. Martinez, City Administrator Scott A. Nicewarner, City Attorney Jason Morton, Attorney Ann Rotz, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember S. McIntire was not present.

The invocation was offered by Councilmember T. Martinez. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Mayor E. Keller.

Mayor Keller announced the Rules of Procedure for this meeting will be followed as adopted December 15, 2020. It was announced that the use of cell phones during meetings is restricted and that all correspondence for distribution to elected officials should be provided to the City Clerk and should include a copy for the City Clerk for inclusion in the official record.

The next scheduled meetings are: Work Sessions beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, Tuesday, November 9, 2021, and Tuesday, November 16, 2021, and the Regular Session on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. There is no meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Keller read a proclamation naming November, 2021 as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Awareness Month. Shannon Leidig accepted the proclamation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizen Comments were accepted by email at councilcomments@hagerstownmd.org prior to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Citizen Comments were also accepted during the meeting.

Jim Devine, P. O. Box 2217, Hagerstown, Maryland, stated it is difficult to see traffic because of a sign at Frederick Street and Commonwealth Avenue. He asked that the trees at the post office be trimmed. The grates in the bicycle lanes are hazardous and should be corrected. He suggested that the Hagerstown Police Department use drones to view more areas. There was a time when the delegation members met on a Saturday so people could attend. The City should look at the benefits of electric vehicles. He stated the water should be changed often at the pool. Pool employees should be trained to look for predators and perverts. There should be a speed camera behind South Hagerstown High School. This would be safer for students.

Penny Nigh, 634 N. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is concerned about Hagerstown. There has been an increase in the number of shootings and shots fired. There are people sleeping on other people's porches and cars are being vandalized. More cameras are needed. Dirt bikes are another major issue, especially at Fairgrounds Park. She is concerned about the number of homeless shelters and group homes. There are many vacant buildings that need to be addressed with stronger City codes. More police officers are needed. Homeownership rates are declining.

Michael Staup, 18 S. Mulberry Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, has noticed a change in his neighborhood since the City started the take back program. Police officers are in the neighborhood often. There are still problems but it has improved. He has picked up many syringes and caps. He asked if the traffic changes on the agenda for later this evening will have all traffic travel by Mulberry Lofts.

Senator Paul Corderman, 1312 Hamilton Boulevard, Hagerstown, Maryland, informed the group that citizens are invited to attend the public portion of the Washington County Delegation meeting on November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p .m. at Hagerstown Community College. He asked that the Mayor and City Council schedule time on a Work Session to discuss the request they received recently from the Downtown Baseball group to discuss the future of Municipal Stadium and the City’s plans for demolition of the structure. He congratulated the City on their work for an indoor sports plex.

MINUTES

On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve the minutes, as presented, from September 14, 2021, September 21, 2021, and September 28, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, the Mayor and City Council unanimously, by all members present, approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

A. Fire Department:

1. 2023 Aerial Ladder Truck (Replacement of 1994 Aerial Ladder Truck)
Atlantic Emergency Solutions (Manassas, VA) \$ 1,458,672.00

B. Information Technology:

1. Annual Support and Maintenance Contract Renewals – Glessner Technologies
(Hagerstown, MD) \$ 23,543.00

C. Public Works:

1. Bulk Road Salt – Cargill, Inc. (North Olmstead, OH) \$ 76.38 per ton

D. Utilities:

1. Light: Conduit and Associated Materials for Northpoint Development – Wesel Blvd. – Scott Electric (Greensburg, PA) \$ 79,357.60
2. Water: 2022 Ford Escape AWD – Keystone Ford (Chambersburg, PA)
\$ 24,700.00
3. Water: 2021 F-550 Chasis and Utility Body – Keystone Ford (Chambersburg, PA) \$ 95,392.00
4. Water: 2022 F-750 Diesel Regular Cab with Dump Bed – Keystone Ford (Chambersburg, PA) \$ 94,646.00
5. Water: Installation of Fiber Optic Transmission Line – RC Willson WTP – Antietam Cable Television (Hagerstown ,MD) \$ 56,188.00
6. Wastewater: Truck/Van RCA Camera Unit – Atlantic Machinery (Silver Spring, MD) \$ 425,936.75

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Approval of an Ordinance: Amending the City Code, Chapter 140, Land Management Code (LMC) – Small-Scale Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 140, Land Management Code, of the City Code. These amendments modify the definition of Small-Scale Breweries, Distilleries, and Wineries and increase the square footage permitted by Special Exception in specific zoning districts. The complete details are outlined in the ordinance.

B. Approval of an Ordinance: Authorizing the Purchase of Property Located at 32 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve an ordinance authorizing the purchase of property located at 32 N. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland. The acquisition of the property is consistent with the Mayor and City Council’s goals for long-term investments to benefit the citizens of Hagerstown. The purchase price of \$ 825,000 is expected to be funded by the City’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of an Ordinance: For the Sale of a Portion of the Property and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Purchase Agreement between the City and GB&J’s LLC

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember T. Burnett and seconded by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to introduce an ordinance for the sale of a portion of property known as Lot 1 and located on Eastern Boulevard South, Hagerstown, Maryland authorizing the execution and delivery of the Purchase Agreement between the City and GB&J’s LLC.

B. Approval of a Resolution: Acceptance of Railway Occupancy Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. – Sanitary Sewer Lining along West Washington Street

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve a resolution to enter into a right of way encroachment agreement for the lining of a 20” sanitary sewer across a CSX Transportation, Inc. right of way along West Washington Street for the continued rehabilitation of the City of Hagerstown Sanitary Sewer System.

C. Approval of a Resolution: Closing Portions of Alley 3-39 and 3-45 to Thru Traffic

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve a resolution authorizing the closure of portions of Alleys 3-39 and 3-45 to all thru vehicular and pedestrian traffic as part of the City Administrator’s Take Back project. Staff are further authorized to implement the plan as attached with the resolution.

D. Approval of a Resolution: First Amendment to Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement for a Portion of 441 South Potomac Street with Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve a resolution approving the first amendment to the Real Estate purchase and Sale Agreement for a portion of 441 South Potomac Street with Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. This amendment extends the settlement date to January 21, 2022.

The Mayor is further authorized to execute and deliver the agreement.

E. Approval of a License Agreement with New Alexander House LLC

Action: 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 approve and execute a license agreement between the City of Hagerstown and new Alexander House, LLC, permitting them to install a concrete access ramp as part of their building renovation in the southeast quadrant of Public Square. The ramp will also require Historic District Commission approval and coordination with the Cannon Coffee café.

F. Approval of a Landowner Project Agreement with Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council (WMRC & DC) for Tree Planting

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve a Landowner Project Agreement with Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council (WMRC & DC). The Agreement grants permission to install trees to create forest on 24.4 acres of City-owned land at the Willson Water Treatment Plant; Breichner Water Treatment Plant; Edgemont Reservoir; Edgemont Reservoir residence; and Rock Willow properties. The City will receive the applicable MS-4 Stormwater credits.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire clarified that the City will receive credits for this project, even though the plantings are outside the City limits. Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, confirmed this is correct and the City received a grant to do the project.

G. Approval of Invest Hagerstown: City Center Redevelopment Grant for 53 W. Washington Street – Blackthorn Capital Partners LP

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve an Invest Hagerstown City Center Redevelopment Grant application for the renovation project at 53 W. Washington Street with estimated total projects costs of \$ 4,091,587. Staff are authorized to issue a Letter of Commitment to Blackthorn Capital Partners LP for a grant in the amount of \$ 250,000 with a project completion deadline of May 1, 2023.

No funds will be dispersed until staff have verified that all work in the development plan is completed to the City’s satisfaction and the total project cost expenditure requirements have been met. Funding for this grant will come from the Invest Hagerstown line item in the Economic Redevelopment Fund.

H. Approval of Open Container Exemption for Augustoferfest Charitable Foundation at Christkindl Markt

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve an exemption from the City of Hagerstown’s Open Containers regulation under section 173-6 of the Code of the City of Hagerstown for the Augustoferfest Charitable Foundation at the Christkindl Markt event on December 10 and December 11, 2021 at University Plaza.

**I. Approval of Open Container Exemption for Downtown Hagerstown
Halloween Block Party – October 30, 2021**

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember T. Burnett and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve an exemption from the City of Hagerstown’s Open Container regulation under section 173-6 of the Code of the City of Hagerstown for the downtown Hagerstown Halloween Bock Party event taking place on the unit block of South Potomac Street, on Saturday, October 30, 2021. This allows restaurants on that block to obtain permits from the Washington County Liquor Board to serve and sell alcohol in fenced-in areas in front of their places of business.

J. Approval of FY22 Axon Body Camera Payment (5 year contract)

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember K. B. Aleshire and seconded by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve payment of the FY22 potion of the Axon Body Camera contact that was renewed by Mayor and Council in FY21. This is a multi-year contract that will run through FY25 and will cover new body cameras, their maintenance, the associated video storage and management software, hardware, licensing fees, and warranties.

This is a sole source project as the goods and services required ae only manufactured and available from Axon. Furthermore, allied law enforcement agencies in the county, along with the Washington County State’s Attorney’s Office, utilize the same platform for joint investigations and prosecutions.

K. Approval of FY22 Part-Time and Seasonal Employee COVID Compensation for Calendar 2020

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to approve the payment of stipends to be made to part-time and seasonal employees based upon all of the following conditions:

Part-time Staff (35 employees; cost \$ 72,000):

1. Coverage period of this compensation is January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020
2. Must be employed as of October 18, 2021
3. Paid at the rate of \$ 2.40 for each hour worked on-site

Seasonal Staff (21 employees; cost \$ 23,000)

1. Coverage period of this compensation is January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and worked for the entire term period in 2020
2. Must have returned to work at the City during Calendar 2021
3. Paid lump sum rate of \$ 1,000

Full-time Staff (1 employee; cost \$ 5,400)

1. Paid lump sum rate of \$ 5,000 for one employee that was excluded in the June distribution

The payment will be distributed to qualified employees on Friday, November 5, 2021. Funding for this payment will be through each fund's FY22 approved budget and from General Fund Budget Contingency account.

L. Approval of an Agreement with Eastern Sports Management, LLC

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Eastern Sports Management, LLC for Phase I of the development of an indoor recreation facility at the Municipal Stadium property. Deliverables of this phase will include public involvement, concept plans and cost estimates that will be used for procuring capital for construction. Funding of the \$ 70,000 contract will be from FY21 GF surplus.

The Mayor and City Council further authorized staff to prepare a demolition contract for Municipal Stadium and solicit bids for future consideration by the City Council.

Discussion: Councilmember Aleshire confirmed the Mayor and City Council received a letter from the Downtown Baseball, LLC group asking for time for a discussion of the future of Municipal Stadium. He understands the potential dilemma the group may be in. He reiterated he is concerned that the team would actually consider using an outdated facility. He would take a penalty instead of having a new team play their first games in a facility that has not been used for professional baseball in four years. His understanding of the future of Municipal Stadium is that when the bids are received, this body will move forward with the demolition and not compromise a contract with another entity for the property. The Indoor Sports Plex timeline has the opening in the fall of 2024. He would oppose delaying demolition of Municipal Stadium if it would jeopardize the other project, which has been identified as a benefit for a public purpose.

Councilmember Bruchey asked what the General Fund surplus for FY2020-21 is. A delay to construction is not a foregone conclusion. He believes the economy and supply chain issues will be better by 2024. He understands the indoor sports plex is a desired amenity that citizens want. Having a new team in an old facility may be an exciting concept. The Mayor and City Council should hear the thoughts of the group before making any future demolition consideration. The new baseball facility is a \$ 70 million investment and the City should do all it can to try to accommodate both these projects.

Councilmember Aleshire noted the timeline for the sports plex does not include a 3-6 month time frame for demolition and clearing the land for construction. Through this process he has patiently and begrudgingly believed they couldn't look at other sites and now there is an abrupt change. He believes potential delays for the new stadium are acquisition related rather than pandemic related. This body has made it clear they are moving forward with an indoor sports plex. If he would even consider an additional 12 month delay for something people have said had to happen first, there would have to be funds provided to make Municipal Stadium usable and funds provided to the City for delaying the sports plex project.

Senator Corderman appreciates the concerns. The request is simple – before making a decision, they are asking for the opportunity to discuss the project with the Mayor and City Council, without making accusations and assumptions.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out Senator Corderman does not have a say in the Mayor and City Council's decision.

Councilmember Bruchey made a motion to table approval of the contract until after the Mayor and City Council meet with the Downtown Baseball, LLC group. There was no second for tabling the action.

Motion to approve the contract carried, 4-0.

J. Approval of Rent Relief for the Hagerstown Ice Amateur Athletic Association (HIAAA)

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember T. Burnett and seconded by Councilmember T. Martinez, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to grant the request of the Hagerstown Ice Amateur Athletic Association (HIAAA) for rent relief and waive rent fees in the amount of \$ 5,700.00 for calendar year 2020. The HIAAA experienced revenue losses due to closing the facility to public skating as mandated by the State of Maryland due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator, reminded everyone there will be a meeting at Wheaton Park on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. to review the results of the community meeting in August, 2021 for improvements to the park. Drive-thru Trick or Treat will be held at Fairgrounds Park on Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The annual Howl-O-Ween pet costume parade will be held Saturday, October 30, 2021 at Fairgrounds Park. A Halloween Block Party will be held on S. Potomac street on October 30, 2021. A lot of fun activities are planned for this party. This event was put together after the Mummer's Parade was cancelled. He thanked the Main Street group for putting together an event on such short notice.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire did not realize until this year how much bus traffic there is in the area of Downsville Pike that Mr. Devine spoke about. There is significant traffic in that location and it should be reviewed for safety.

Councilmember Bruchey asked if a traffic count could be conducted. Mr. Nicewarner stated there is also a traffic problem at Emma K. Doub school.

Councilmember Aleshire stated the joint meeting with the County Commissioners was somewhat successful. He is surprised there was not initial consideration for the cross entity employees of the public safety stipend for fire and rescue employees.

Councilmember Aleshire observed people playing basketball recently in an empty area of the Central Parking Lot. He asked if a hoop could be put up there.

Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II attended the joint meeting earlier today and the discussion didn't make sense to him. Mr. Nicewarner will be providing information to the County. If the Commissioners review the information logically, they will realize resolving the 911 Center and tax differential issues with the City will be beneficial to all citizens.

Councilmember T. Burnett attended the joint meeting as well. She found the tone of the meeting to be tense and it was disheartening to see so much bickering back and forth between elected bodies. Politics should not be this way. She hopes there is common decency and respect for one another in future meetings.

Councilmember T. Martinez agreed common decency and respect for each other is needed. She urged people to remember that many families are struggling – with illness, death, and other challenges and that we should all be kind to each other.

Mayor E. Keller agrees with the comments regarding the joint meeting this morning. It is unfortunate that Mayor and City Councilmembers were talked over repeatedly. This is the third joint meeting and no progress has been made. She hopes future meetings,

whether in a 2 x 2 format, legislative sessions, or some other form, are productive. She thanked Fire Chief Steven Lohr for his input. She appreciates the support of Councilmembers. The annual Gridiron Classic between North Hagerstown and South Hagerstown High Schools will be held on Friday, November 5, 2021.

She congratulated the Hagerstown Police Department for the work they did to identify and arrest the suspect in a murder on October 30, 2021. The drug epidemic is still raging. The notion that it is good to be homeless is not accurate. If someone thinks this, they should try it for a day. No one enjoys being homeless.

Mayor Keller stated she appreciates City staff who help the Mayor and City Council make Hagerstown better every 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 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: November 23, 2021