

EXECUTIVE SESSION – September 13, 2022

Mayor Keller called the Executive Session to order at 3:01 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember S. McIntire and seconded by Councilmember T. Burnett, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; (#1) (Section 3-305(b)), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; (#7); and 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)), on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 3:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd 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, Councilmember S. McIntire, Don Francis, Director of Human Resources, City Attorney Jason Morton, City Attorney Ann Rotz, Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development, Doug Reaser, Business Development Specialist, Christopher Siemerling, Community Development Specialist, and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk. City Administrator Scott Nicewarner was not present.

The meeting was held to discuss membership of the Hagerstown Youth Council Partner Group, to consult with legal counsel, and to discuss two business proposals. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Executive Session was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – September 13, 2022

Mayor E. Keller called this Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:02 p.m., Tuesday, September 13, 2022 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Participating with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, R. E. Bruchey, II, T. Burnett, Councilmember T. Martinez, and S. McIntire, Don Francis, Director of Human Resources, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. City Administrator Scott Nicewarner was not present.

Discussion with Dr. David Sovine, Superintendent of Washington County Public Schools

Mayor Keller welcomed Dr. Sovine to the meeting and to Washington County. She congratulated him on his new role as School Superintendent.

Dr. Sovine is excited to be in Washington County and he appreciates the strong partnership between the schools and the local governments. He also appreciates the commitment to support students and staff.

He has visited all schools and he hopes this shows his strong support of all students and staff. Like most localities, mental health services is a great need in the extended community. He will target grant funds for partnerships with non-profits that can help provide some of the wrap around services for students during and after school.

He believes Washington County is well positioned with pre-school initiatives as well as with resources that are available for after school programs. Many families are struggling and he wants the school system to address both academic and family needs. This is critical to the success for students. The City's support in building these partnerships is appreciated.

Dr. Sovine will be looking for meaningful ways to engage with high school students and provide a skill set for future employment. He will be proactive and work with law enforcement to put greater focus on being more proactive. This type of support will allow the Board to work with students before challenging situations arise. He visited South Hagerstown High School and met with the leadership team there. He appreciates what they have been able to accomplish by meeting with families over the summer to create good relationships with families.

Proclamation: Washington Goes Purple

Mayor Keller read a proclamation naming September, 2022 as Washington Goes Purple month in Hagerstown, Maryland. Vicki Sterling, Program Director of Washington County Health Department Behavioral Health, Maliyah Wells, and Madisen Kinney accepted the proclamation.

Maliyah and Madisen recently started a Washington Goes Purple Youth Group. Malia stated kids in the community think drugs are not real life and the Youth Group wants to change that thinking. The Youth Group will be a safe place for kids to come to release their fears, cry with someone, or just yell with someone.

Event Sponsorship Request – Black Economic Empowerment Summit

Brittany Arizmendi, Community Engagement Officer, and Senna Hardy and Christina Frazier, representatives of the Black Economic Empowerment Summit, were present to review an event sponsorship request.

The 2023 Black Economic Empowerment Summit will be held in March, 2023. Last year, the Mayor and City Council supported this event with a sponsorship of \$ 2,000.00. The ask for this year is \$ 4,900.00. Ms. Arizmendi provided an updated FY23 Event Sponsorship budget spreadsheet.

If the \$ 4,900.00 event sponsorship is approved for the Black Economic Empowerment Summit, that leaves the City with \$ 3,645.00 for event sponsorships through the end of FY23.

The following events have not submitted sponsorship forms for FY23:

1. Antietam Velo Club Bike Tour of Washington County (FY22 \$ 3,000.00)
2. BISFA Art Walk (FY22 \$ 1,000.00)
3. Collegium Santorum Angelorum (FY22 \$ 1,000.00)
4. Doleman Black Heritage Museum Juneteenth (FY22 \$ 10,000.00)

Ms. Hardy and Ms. Frazier stated part of their request is for the deposit to rent the Maryland Theatre. They hope to have 1,000 participants next year.

Councilmember McIntire asked if there are other contributors and sponsors. She is concerned the request is so much higher than last year.

Ms. Arizmendi recommends providing a sponsorship of \$ 2,500.00. Providing the full amount requested would be over the approved budget.

Councilmember Martinez stated they are anticipating increasing attendance from 250 to 1,000, which would be significant for downtown. This could have the same positive impact for downtown restaurants as the Lyfe Jennings concert did.

It was the general consensus to approve the requested sponsorship of \$ 4,900.00.

Safe Streets and Roads for ALL Grant Application

Jim Bender, Assistant City Engineer, was present to discuss the Safe Streets and Roads for ALL grant opportunity.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by President Biden in November 2021, included \$ 5 billion of funding to the Department of Transportation to develop programs to decrease fatal roadway accidents and improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. This grant program, known as the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), will make funding available to municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations, and tribal governments to develop action plans to improve safety, and to implement projects identified in those plans. The purpose of this discussion is to describe the program, and to identify how the City could use this funding to address current and future transportation-related problems. Given the size of the City's potential grant request, the City's Purchasing Policy requires the Council to approve the submission of the grant application.

Decreasing the number of vehicular and pedestrian fatalities and injuries on the roadways has been an ongoing goal of Federal, State, and Local transportation officials. Maryland, like many other states, has a "Vision Zero" program that strives to reduce or eliminate fatalities and injuries through both driver education and infrastructure improvements. The SS4A program is intended to support and extend those efforts at a local and regional level.

The SS4A program has two tracks: development of an "Action Plan", or implementation of projects previously identified in an approved Action Plan. While the City has already developed certain components of an Action Plan, there has not been a comprehensive effort to develop a plan that looks at all aspects of transportation safety

that would allow the City to seek funding for project implementation. Therefore, staff feels that the City would be best served by submitting an application on the Action Plan track. If such a plan were developed and approved, it would then allow the City to request funding to implement projects. Under the SS4A program, development of an action plan would involve the formation of a task force (possibly the City's Board of Traffic and Parking) to oversee and manage the plan, the collection and analysis of crash data, engagement with stakeholders and the general public, and the identification of projects and policies that would reduce fatalities and injuries.

The City has a number of current and future challenges related to the transportation system. While the number of fatal vehicular accidents in the City is relatively low, there are higher rates of vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/bicycle accidents and injuries. While the City has tried to address this issue with the installation of bike lanes, handicap-accessible curb ramps at intersections, and warning lights/beacons, the majority of these intersections do not have pedestrian crossing lights or audible warnings. Many sidewalks, while being structurally adequate, do not meet ADA accessibility requirements. The City also has aging infrastructure that will begin to fail in the coming years and decades. For example, a majority of the traffic signal poles and equipment at the intersections are more than 40 years old, and are likely approaching the end of their service life; the estimated cost to modernize a single signalized intersection is approximately \$ 400,000. Development of an approved Action Plan would put the City in a position to then request implementation funding to address some of these issues.

The SS4A documentation indicates that it expects that the minimum grant award under this program to be \$ 200,000, although smaller awards would be considered. The program requires a 20 % local match for any federal funding. Because the City has already collected a great deal of data, and has developed certain policies such as the "Complete Streets" program, staff feels that a funding request of \$ 200,000 would be excessive; staff would recommend applying for \$ 160,000 in grant funds, with a local match of \$ 40,000. In the application, staff would allocate approximately \$ 80,000 to complete the Action Plan, and propose to use the remaining \$ 100,000 to design Improvements. By having the designs in-hand, these projects would be "shovel-ready" if a future implementation grant were awarded to the City.

It was the general consensus to move forward with the grant application as presented. The application will be submitted by the September 15, 2022 deadline.

CDBG Homeownership Program – 261-263 S. Prospect Street Renovation

Margi Joe, Community Development Manager, and Sue Kyler, Program and Project Manager, were present to review a recommended change order contract between the City of Hagerstown and Colossal Contractors, Inc., to finalize renovations to the property at 261-263 S. Prospect Street.

Ms. Joe stated this project is near the end of the renovation. Staff is requesting that the Mayor and City Council approve a budget increase of \$ 36,944.67 to accommodate Change Order No. 009, for a total revised project cost of \$ 425,123.47.

The renovations are fully funded with Community Development Block Grant funds and State Community Legacy Grant funds. After the dwellings are renovated and resold to homeowners, a portion of the sale proceeds will return to Hagerstown's CDBG program for future CDBG projects. The Change Order contract has a targeted completion date of November 15, 2022.

It was the general consensus of the Mayor and City Council to schedule approval of the change order during a Special Session on September 20, 2022.

Request to Purchase Competitive Negotiated Sale (CNS) Property: 11850 Indian Lane

Christopher Siemerling, Economic Development Specialist, and Doug Reaser, Business Development Specialist, were present to request the consideration of a purchase offer of the City-owned property at 11850 Indian Lane. This property has been advertised for sale as part of the City's Competitive Negotiated Sale (CNS) program.

17 Mile Real Estate has submitted an application and purchase price of \$ 575,000.00 for the property. The property is an 11.93 acre farmette with 2,653 square feet of residential structures. The property is managed and maintained within the City's Economic Redevelopment Fund. There have been no active residential tenants for the property since October 2021.

17 Mile Real Estate LLC is a real estate investment firm that specializes in purchasing properties with existing wireless assets. They plan to utilize the property as part of the investment portfolio at this time.

It was the general consensus to accept the offer. Introduction of an Ordinance to sell the property will be scheduled for a Special Session on September 20, 2022. Approval of the Ordinance will be scheduled for the Regular Session on September 27, 2022.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Don Francis, Director of Human Resources, announced Fall Fest will be taking place on Saturday, September 17, 2022. People can visit the various museums, attend a Monarch Butterfly walk, and enjoy fireworks over the lake.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember T. Martinez stated the skatepark opening was amazing. She watches the skateboarders on the cameras often. She started teaching at the museum recently and was happy to talk with a couple who chose Hagerstown to celebrate their 39th anniversary. She urged people to take a little more time when traveling and watch for school students. The safety of kids is a priority.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire had no additional comments.

Councilmember T. Burnett stated last Sunday was the last day of the Ruth Monroe Basketball League tournament. It was a good season overall. She thanked the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and the City of Hagerstown for helping find places for them to play when it was raining. She noted this is a great collaboration with the City. This event is put together by 12 black women who work behind the scenes to make it a success. She thanked the 140 kids and their parents for participating. She thanked the coaches, the sponsors for the uniforms, the food vendors, and others for the continued support of the tournament.

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

Councilmember S. McIntire gave a giant thank you for the skate park. People were everywhere at the grand opening. The positivity on social media was tremendous.

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated the project was a huge success, even during COVID. People are watching all 6 cameras all the time. He noted the camera system was donated.

Mayor Keller stated Hagerstown hasn't had something this incredible in a long time. Projects like this let her know Hagerstown will be great.

Mayor E. Keller thanked Congressman David Trone and Congressman Anthony Brown for visiting Hagerstown today and participating in the roundtable for opioid recovery. There are a number of events this weekend for Washington Goes Purple including a Recovery Walk and a guest speaker. Bester Community of Hope is holding the 7th Annual South End Community Block Party.

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 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: October 25, 2022