

The Mayor and City Council met with the Washington County Delegation at Hagerstown Community College, 11400 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland, on Tuesday, December 7, 2022. The meeting started at 3:10 p.m.

The following people were present: Mayor Emily Keller, Councilmember Kristin B. Aleshire, Councilmember Shelley McIntire, Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator, Police Chief Joey Kifer, Jill Thompson, Director of Community and Economic Development, Kathleen Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration, Don Francis, Director of Human Resources, Brittany Arizmendi, Community Engagement Officer, Senator Paul Corderman, Delegate William Wivell, Delegate-elect Brooke Grossman, Delegate-elect Terry Baker, Delegate-elect William Valentine, and City Clerk Donna K. Spickler.

Mayor Keller provided a letter to the members of the Washington County Delegation listing the City of Hagerstown's legislative priorities. Mayor Keller thanked the Delegation for their continued service to Hagerstown and Washington County and congratulated the new delegation members. In advance of the 2023 legislative session, she provided the City's requested legislative priorities as follows:

1. Support existing and additional funding for the Hagerstown Fieldhouse. The City of Hagerstown is in Phase 3 (construction bid) to create an indoor turf and hardcourt facility to drive tourism and provide additional opportunities for youth.
2. Support the MML Legislative Priority to ensure municipalities have the option of creating their own Police Accountability Boards and Charging Committees.
3. Support an updated "Dirt Bike Bill" – 3 or more riding together (a gang) in an aggressive way, antagonizing, and acting tighter to commit a crime – can lead to criminal charges/fines.
4. Tax sale priorities and/or abandoned properties – support legislation to help the city acquire, rehab, and remove blight from the community.
5. Submit legislation that would require a person who is court ordered to a treatment center to have a "home plan" before being released similar to a person leaving prison.
6. Support increase in pay for Health Department employees to attract and retain qualified staff to help fight the substance abuse and mental health crisis.
7. Support licensing of "Property Management" companies.
8. Do not support, if introduced, any legislation related to the increased regulation of water operations provided by Maryland municipalities as it will significantly impact the ability of all Maryland municipalities to provide clean and affordable water to residents. The information related to this potential legislation was provided to the Delegation.
9. Support an initiative to support semi-permanent and permanent housing solutions for homeless.

Councilmember McIntire has been working on a youth, anti-violence initiative. There are 30 to 40 community partners participating already.

WORK SESSION
2022

DECEMBER 7,

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Councilmember Aleshire stated the expected return on investment for the field house is 15 years. It is a for-profit entity and they will pay taxes with an anticipated revenue stream of \$ 90 million.

Water operations need autonomy to operate how they need to. They can't exist with additional regulations that would only create more arrearages.

Councilmember Aleshire noted 87% of rentals in the City are owned by people who live outside the City limits, while 50% are outside the County limits. Most of these rentals utilize the services of property management companies and regulation is needed.

Senator Corderman stated it will be helpful to have a listing of the details for the field house, including the tax information Councilmember Aleshire mentioned.

Senator Corderman stated there is a good working relationship with lobbyists and the Delegation. He stated lobbyists working on different projects are intended to be complimentary and circumvent each other.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: January 31, 2023