

STATE OF THE CITY – March 7, 2023

The State of the City was held on March 7, 2023 at the Maryland Theatre, 21 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland. All members of the Mayor and City Council attended the event, which was held at 7:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WORK SESSION – March 7, 2023

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Mayor Martinez called the Executive Session to order at 3:04 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember T. Burnett and seconded by Councilmember S. McIntire, 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)), on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 3:04 p.m. p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor T. Martinez, Councilmember K. B. Aleshire, Councilmember R. E. Bruchey, II, Councilmember T. Burnett, Councilmember S. McIntire, City Administrator Scott Nicewarner, Don Francis, Direction of Human Resources, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

The meeting was held to review the City Administrator's contract and to review the applications submitted for the vacant Councilmember seat. 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 – March 7, 2023

Proclamation – Women's History Month

Mayor Martinez read a proclamation naming March, 2023 as Women's History Month in Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember Burnett and Councilmember McIntire accepted the proclamation.

BMX NorthEast Gold Cup Finals – October 13-15, 2023

Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, Dan Spedden and Tiffany Ahalt, Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Visit Hagerstown), and Amanda Warner, Hagerstown BMX, Inc., were present to review the details of the BMX NorthEast Gold Cup Finals event scheduled for October 13-15, 2023 at Fairgrounds Park. There are two primary exceptions to the Parks rules they wish to discuss and seek approval of.

Visit Hagerstown is excited to announce the official award of a sanctioned USA BMX Gold Cup Finals event. Recently, over \$ 250,000 in improvements and upgrades have been made at the BMX track. Since then, the facility has become a first-class track which has resulted in increased participation from the local community and the opportunity to host a national competition. In 2022, Visit Hagerstown received a \$ 19,000 grant from the Maryland Sport Commission to support expenses for the competition.

To provide the ideal setting for participants and spectators, Visit Hagerstown and Hagerstown BMX are requesting that the City of Hagerstown approve the following items as it pertains to the event in October:

1. Parking Fees (collected at gate(s), locations to be determined by Hagerstown Parks & Recreation)
2. Overnight Camping (limited number of spots, with rules and regulations as determined by the Fire Marshall)

Revenue generated from parking and campsite fees will be allocated for future track maintenance. Utilization of the entire Hagerstown Fairgrounds will be imperative to the success of the event. Visit Hagerstown and Hagerstown MBX will work closely with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation to establish alternative parking areas for staff and residents during the event dates. The Hagerstown Ice Rink and Skatepark will remain accessible throughout the duration of the event. Signage, volunteers, and consistent messaging through the local media will be used to create a win/win situation for the community and participants.

Visit Hagerstown looks forward to partnering with Hagerstown BMX, the City of Hagerstown, emergency services, and all the necessary partners that play a role in creating a first-class event, one that will set the stage for future competitions and other events that generate economic returns to the City and its residents.

Ms. Warner stated they are expecting 1,500 people during the three day event.

Mr. Deike indicated logistics meetings have not been held to discuss details for the event yet. He noted the camping the group is requesting is for the Recreational Vehicles. This is known as dry camping. He feels the details can be worked out to accommodate the requests.

Councilmember Bruchey asked if someone is going to the skatepark during this time would have to pay. Mr. Deike stated the parking fees would be for vehicles. People could walk into the park without paying the parking fees.

Councilmember McIntire asked if consideration could be given to the people using the dog park to waive the fees. Mr. Deike stated this and other questions, such as how many RVs would be allowed, will be discussed during logistics meetings. If the request for camping is approved, the Fire Marshall will likely require distance requirements between sites due to propane and charcoal grills. Councilmember Aleshire urged everyone to keep in mind this is not like a regular campground, where there are no residences nearby.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if there would be conflicts with other users. Mr. Deike stated staff has discussed the event with the YMCA and softball teams. They do not have events scheduled for the dates of the BMX finals.

Councilmember McIntire asked how far people travel to attend events like this. Ms. Warner stated there were people from New York at this event last year. Her family has traveled as far as California to participate in events. She indicated this will be the final regional event. Mr. Spedden stated they have been told to expect 800 competitors. Ms. Warner stated many families prefer to camp when they attend these events.

Councilmember McIntire supports making this event happen as close to the requests as possible.

Mr. Nicewarner suggested providing updates every other month to increase awareness and interest. He asked if the event will be streamed like Flow Sports. Ms. Warner indicated it will be broadcast on You Tube.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Scott A. Nicewarner, City Administrator, thanked everyone for a very successful State of the City. He especially thanked Wes Decker, Communications Manager, and Eric Hastings, TV Production/Web Coordinator, for the extra efforts they always put into the video.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember S. McIntire thought the State of the City was great. The Mayor and City Council were cohesive and spoke with unity.

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

Councilmember T. Burnett congratulated everyone on the great State of the City video and thanked everyone for all the work to make it happen. Phase I of the Wheaton Park improvements will begin this week. She pointed out meetings in the community made this improvement project happen.

Councilmember K. B. Aleshire was glad Councilmember Burnett mentioned the impact of community meetings during the State of the City video. The elected body tries to meet in communities and receive input. They take guidance from that input and try to make things happen. It is also good to engage with the people using the amenities, such as the BMX group, to discuss ideas and needs.

Mayor T. Martinez thanked the students at the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts who welcomed her to their school assembly. She thanked Mr. Decker and Mr. Hastings for getting everything together for the State of the City Video. She visited Paramount Elementary school today. The students had a lot of good questions, including about vacant buildings and fun places for kids to go.

Mayor Martinez informed the group Brother Andy Smith, Speak Up Community News, has requested a letter of support for funding for a building for the youth group. It was the consensus to send the requested letter.

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 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by D. K. Spickler

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: April 25, 2023