

16TH SPECIAL SESSION, WORK SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION – May 14, 2013

WORK SESSION – May 14, 2013

Mayor D. S. Gysberts called this 16th Special Session, Work Session and Executive Session of the Mayor and City Council to order at 4:07 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers K. B. Aleshire, M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson and P. M. Nigh; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler.

Mayor Gysberts recognized National Police Week. He thanked the members of the Hagerstown Police Department for their service and dedication. He congratulated those officers who received meritorious awards during the annual recognition.

Karen Giffin, Community Affairs Manager, announced that Brenna Mooney, Boonsboro Middle School, was chosen the winner of the children's t-shirt art contest for the annual Blues Fest. Ms. Mooney's artwork will be on display at the Washington County Arts Council during the month of May.

Ms. Giffin reminded everyone the Taste of the Arts is being held downtown on May 16, 2013. Passport holders have a choice of 12 venues to visit during the event. Blues Fest tickets are now on sale.

Preliminary Agenda Review

Consent Agenda

A. Department of Parks and Engineering:

1. Installation of Sidewalks and Alley Modifications for the Handicapped – Not to Exceed \$ 50,000.00
2. Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program Change Order – Huntzberry Brothers, Inc. (Smithsburg, MD) Not to Exceed \$ 25,000.00

B. Department of Utilities:

1. Brush Chipper – Vermeer Mid Atlantic, Inc. (Annapolis Junction, MD)
\$ 37,297.00
2. Electric: Transformers – WESCO Distribution Inc. (Richmond, VA)
\$ 33,023.54
3. Water Meter Transceiver Units – L/B Water Service, Inc. (Chambersburg, PA)
\$ 83,211.00

C. Department of Community and Economic Development

- 1.. Open Container Law Exemption and Application Permit for Maryland Theatre Wind Down
2. Open Container Law Exemption and Application Permit for Humane Society Howl to the Moon

Two items were removed from the Preliminary Agenda – Ordinance amending City Code Section 173-11, Firearms and Approval of Workers Compensation Broker Services.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Parking and Towing

Chief Mark Holtzman stated the police department proposes changes to the City Code relating to parking enforcement, towing authority, and booting management. The updated ordinance permits the enforcement of all parking violations, to include towing, by the civilian parking enforcement and Auxiliary Police members. Updates to the City's booting policy transfers primary management duties to the Public Works department supported by the Police Department for after-hours boot removal. These changes are intended to expand the role of the parking enforcement staff and Auxiliary Police in serving the non-emergency parking enforcement needs of the community while freeing up sworn police officers for other duties.

Councilmember Nigh asked if the police department still has vehicles towed. Chief Holtzman stated HPD still handles towing in residential areas.

Approval of Resolutions for Residential Leases

Lease renewals are scheduled to be approved for the following properties:

- 12727 Ritchie Road, Smithsburg, Maryland
- 23510 Warner Hollow Road, Smithsburg, Maryland
- 10831 Water Works Road, Williamsport, Maryland
- 12140 Crystal Falls Road, Smithsburg, Maryland
- 280 Mill Street, Hagerstown, Maryland
- 728 Frederick Street, Hagerstown, Maryland
- 570 Jefferson Street, Hagerstown, Maryland
- 124 Charles Street, Hagerstown, Maryland

Approval of a License Agreement for GTS Welco, 400 W. Memorial Boulevard

Rodney Tissue, City Engineer, stated the owners of GTS Welco have submitted preliminary plans for proposed improvements at their property located at 400 W. Memorial Boulevard. The driveway that serves this property from Summit Avenue is constructed within the right-of-way of Memorial Boulevard. The owners would like to reconfigure their site, including the removal of an exiting warehouse building, and the construction of a new paved storage yard at the eastern end of the site. They would also like to install new security fencing along the perimeter of the site. A portion of the proposed fence, some new pavement, and a storm drainage culvert would be located in the Memorial Boulevard right-of-way. Because this would constitute new encroachments in the public right-of-way, the Council would have to execute a License Agreement for this proposed work.

Mayor Gysberts would prefer to see more pervious surface included in the improvements.

A final License Agreement will be presented for consideration at a Regular Session, following the review by the Planning Commission.

Approval of Change Order for R. C. Willson Water Treatment Plant Phase IV Improvements

There were no questions regarding other items on the preliminary agenda. This completed the preliminary agenda review.

Purchase of Parts for Truck 4, Western Enterprise – Approximately \$ 10,000

Chief Kyd Dieterich stated Truck 4 is out of service due to needed repairs of the fifth wheel. Delivery of parts will take more than four weeks and need to be ordered as soon as possible. It was the general consensus to allow the parts to be ordered. Formal approval will be included on the May 21, 2013 agenda.

Wastewater Local Limits Study

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, and Joe Moss, Wastewater Operations Manager, were present to provide information about the Wastewater Local Limits Study (LLS).

The purpose of the Wastewater Local Limits Study is to develop technically-based local discharge limits for the wastewater treatment plant that will protect treatment plant operations, worker health and safety, the collection system, and the ability to reclaim wastewater byproducts, as well as to ensure compliance with all local, state and federal regulatory requirements. Local Limits for the WwTP were last evaluated in 1999. The Department retained Gannett Fleming, Inc. (GF) to perform the LLS. As a result of the study, GF determined that some changes were submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for approval and MDE approved the Local Limits on April 4, 2013.

City Code Ordinance No. 240-44 Item No. 15, as amended September 25, 2001 by ordinance No. 2001-38, states “the Water and Sewer Department shall allocate among the City’s industrial users which discharge toxic substances into the City public sanitary sewer system in accordance with the local limits as approved by the Maryland Department of Environment for prohibited or limited toxic substances and shall issue as part of the permit process specific limits for each industrial user so discharging the identified pollutants into the public sanitary sewer system. The Water Pollution Control staff is authorized to amend the allocations based upon changes in state allocation and/or particular industrial discharges in their discretion. The limits established shall not be exceeded by the industrial user.”

This discussion is to notify the Mayor and Council of the intent to update the existing Local Limits with the revised Local Limits. The revisions of Local Limits imposes no new duties or responsibility on the City. Staff will continue to administer the Industrial Pretreatment Program as it always has. Staff will begin incorporating these limits into the industrial discharge permits and will continue to be responsible for inspecting and sampling the industrial users.

The revised Local Limits will be applicable to all permitted industrial waste discharges at all times, except as provide by the City and in cases where they are superseded by individual categorical industry treatment standards. Local Limits will be assigned to individual Industrial Users as either concentration-based or mass-based monthly average discharge limits such that the Maximum Allowable Industrial Loads are not exceeded. This is the same methodology currently employed by the City. The City will determine how to allocate and implement the approved Local Limits to the seven Significant Industrial Users (SIUs).

Proposed Ordinance for Water/Wastewater Late Fee and Utility Bill Collections Update

Michael Spiker, Director of Utilities, Scott Nicewarner, Director of Information Technology and Support Services, and Beth Everhart, Customer Service Supervisor, were present to provide additional information about utility bill collections.

Staff surveyed other utilities and several use 10% (of the outstanding bill) as a late fee. An ordinance was presented for review to amend Section 238-15 of the City Code to implement a late fee for past due payments for water usage. Water payments are currently due 21 days after the printed bill date, and are considered late, by Code, 30 days after the bill date. The ordinance would apply a 10% late fee to the unpaid amount of the bill. The Hagerstown Light Department is also investigating applying to the PSC for a late fee to be added to delinquent electric bills in advance of the regular PSC rate increase application. The fee in this instance would be closer to 5 % based upon fees charged in the surrounding area. These fees are intended to be encouragement to make timely payments on utility bills. They are not intended to be a revenue source.

In April, past due accounts totaled \$ 1,358,000. Currently \$ 896,000 is past due. Past due fees on this amount would total \$ 90,000. All water bills are paid by the owner of the property. The late fee would be assessed when the account was 21 days past due. A termination notice would be mailed after 30 days.

Councilmember Brubaker is concerned about the timing for the notice. He asked if the late fee is applied to each billing and then compounded. Mr. Spiker indicated the amount is not compounded. Councilmember Brubaker stated the ordinance reads as though it is compounded.

Mr. Nicewarner reported that about 50% of the past due amounts have been collected since April 1, 2013.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if bills are sent to accounts where the meter has been removed. Mr. Spiker indicated a bill is not sent. Councilmember Aleshire stated there should be a charge when the meter is re-installed. Staff will draft an ordinance to address this.

Councilmember Munson asked if the health department is notified if the water is disconnected. Ms. Everhart stated they are and so is Code Compliance.

Councilmember Nigh asked if most of the payments have been made by service agencies.

Mr. Spiker reported other electric utilities charge a late fee. Any changes in the rates or fees for the electric bills must be approved by the Public Service Commission. It will cost between \$ 10,000 and \$ 12,000 to file for tariff changes.

Take-Home Cars for Detectives

Chief Mark Holtzman requested permission to extend the take-home car program to the six (6) general detectives working in the Criminal Investigations Division.

These general detectives handle all major crimes and are called in several times a week to conduct investigations. This rate of call-backs has increased in recent years as the number of detectives has fallen from a high of 11 to the current number of 6 due to manpower. This change would also reduce their response times by allowing the detectives to drive directly to the crime scene. No additional vehicles would need to be purchased as a result of the take-home policy.

This change would align the general detectives with the Flex Unit (former street crimes) detectives and Narcotics Agents currently assigned to the Investigative Division who already use take-home vehicles. These three investigative groups work together on a routine basis and continue to produce outstanding results.

Councilmember Nigh asked if a camera can be installed at the Alms House.

It was the general consensus to include approval of take-home cars for detectives on the May 21, 2013 agenda.

Budget Work Session

Michelle Burker, Director of Finance, and Michelle Hepburn, Budget Officer, were present to continue discussions of the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget.

General Fund Agency Contributions, Section 3, page 55

A full listing of the General Fund agency contributions is included in Section 3, page 55. Agencies included are: Community Free Clinic, Hagerstown Neighborhood Development Partnership, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Washington County Free Library and CASA. The amounts to agencies are flat compared with the FY 13 budget.

Councilmember Aleshire asked if there are restrictions on the use of these funds. Ms. Burker stated the funds can be used for operating or capital expenditures.

Councilmember Aleshire asked what criteria are used to determine the amounts funded. Ms. Burker stated it is based on previous funding and availability. He noted several of the agencies are quasi-government entities. There are 650 non-profit organizations in the City and he wonders how to choose which to fund.

Councilmember Metzner agrees; however, a number of these organizations have come to expect the funding from the City. He suggested approving the funding as presented for FY 14 and then review the process and amounts during future Work Sessions. The same review should be completed for the Community Development Block Grant funding requests.

Councilmember Aleshire stated HNBP continually asks what the City wants them to be working on. He is not certain funding should be \$ 50,000 for HNBP if he is not sure what their purpose is.

Councilmember Metzner stated the organizations need to realize the funding from the City is not guaranteed. It would be difficult to adjust the funding amounts two weeks before the budget is approved. Councilmember Aleshire agreed and also wants to review the funding at future Work Sessions. Councilmember Metzner wondered if the City had provided funding to the Doleman Black Heritage Museum if there would be an operating museum at this point in time. He is disappointed that the City is not funding the DBHM when they are funding other museums. Ms. Burkner stated the Mayor and Council could make changes to the funding amounts. Councilmember Aleshire does not want to change the amounts now. A review after July 1, 2013 is acceptable.

Councilmember Munson stated he would be voting in favor of funding for each of these agencies. The Council has the responsibility to make these allocations.

A question was raised about the process for requests for funding. Ms. Burkner stated information is sent out to organizations. Organizations submit an application and include their financial reports with the request.

Councilmember Aleshire pointed out if 25% of the 650 non-profits were funded, the cost would be \$ 800,000. This would be 3 cents on the tax rate. This is not a viable approach.

The funding will remain as presented for FY 2014. The process for determining funding will be reviewed during the summer. The agencies listed will be sent notices of the funding approval.

Councilmember Nigh asked if the Food Bank is being considered. Councilmember Munson stated they will be requesting funding during the public hearing later this evening. Councilmember Nigh wondered if donations to the Maryland Food Bank stays in the community. Councilmember Munson indicated this is a question that could be posed to the representative.

CDBG Program, Section 5, pages 3-9

This program focuses on funds on visible and impact projects, housing programs, neighborhood parks and green space, and support for the local service provider. Recipients must carry out eligible activities.

The FY 14 budget includes funds for moving forward with several initiatives in the Strategic Plan including creation of Neighborhood Parks, Various Neighborhood Improvements, and improving the livability and economic prosperity of the City. In cooperation with multiple City

departments, efforts will be made to carry out neighborhood based projects throughout the City. This includes projects being carried out with or without CDBG funding.

There has been a sharp decline in the amount of Federal funding awarded to the City for CDBG Entitlement funds. The City's awarded funding peaked in FY 11 at \$ 1.0 million. The funding amount awarded declined by 21.1% in FY 13 to \$ 662,000 and is expected to decrease by an additional 9.3% in FY 14 to \$ 600,000. Since FY 11, the City has experienced a 40.2% decrease in awarded CDBG Entitlement funding from the Federal Government.

Several housing programs are included in the CDBG funding. Councilmember Metzner pointed out all the programs could have been funded, with reduced allocation. He does not have an issue with funding Holly Place, but it serves 15 people and the State should be providing funding.

Councilmember Metzner asked how reduced funding affects the Community Free Clinic. Ms. Burkner stated the Clinic has not historically submitted requests for the full amount the City has funded.

Councilmember Nigh asked for information about the Children in Need program.

Councilmember Brubaker asked why Foods and Friends is included in the funding list. Councilmember Metzner stated every person receiving this service is a citizen of Hagerstown.

Economic Development, Business Revolving, and Upper Floors Redevelopment Funds,
Section 5, Pages 11-13

The Economic Redevelopment Fund was established to promote the revitalization of the City's downtown and older neighborhood areas. Currently, the fund is being used to promote business and home ownership in the City Center. The Business Revolving Loan Fund is designed to assist in the recruitment, retention and expansion of businesses within the City. For fiscal year 2013/14, this fund has been consolidated with the Upper Floors Redevelopment Fund, and will reflect an incoming transfer of \$ 300,000. It is anticipated that program income will allow \$ 200,000 in new loans to be made. The Upper Floors Redevelopment Fund provides assistance to install elevators and other equipment necessary to make the upper floors of existing downtown buildings attractive for residential or business use. As noted earlier, the fund balance of \$ 300,000 has been transferred to and consolidated with the Business Revolving Loan Fund.

Councilmember Aleshire noted the City will have to start writing off some of the bad investments made with these funds.

Property Management Fund – Section 4, Pages 44-48

Total operating expenses increased by a total of \$ 1.8 million from the adopted FY 13 budget compared to actual projections for FY 13. This significant increase is due to the sale of the former U. S. Army Reserve property at 21 Willard Street. Depreciation expense is growing from the adopted FY 13 budget to FY 14 proposed budget by

\$ 60,000, or 70.6%. This rising trend is a result of investment in capital infrastructure acquisitions and renovations at 36-40 N. Potomac Street and 60 W. Washington Street. Additionally, there is a decline in total revenue by \$ 441,000 or 45.1%. This decrease is a reduction in grant money and capital transfers from CDBG for capital improvements.

Mayor Gysberts opened the discussion for recommendations for changes. The budget ordinance is scheduled to be introduced later today.

Councilmember Aleshire provided a list of possible adjustments to the Council for review. The list includes additional revenue through stormwater fees, parking fee implementation, utility tax rate and sale of City owned property sales. Adjustments to expenses include the Invest Hagerstown program, employee compensation steps, local government synergy evaluation and golf course subsidy. Some of these adjustments impact the FY 14 fiscal year, others make an impact in future years. He is unable to attend the special session scheduled for later today; however, he is available to discuss the ideas presented. He appreciates the Finance Department staff for their work on this budget.

Councilmember Brubaker asked if Invest Hagerstown would be funded by a bond issue. Councilmember Aleshire stated by removing it from the bond list, the annual capital expense would be eliminated. He is suggesting removing the program from the bond issue.

Councilmember Metzner asked what employee compensation is included in the staff budget recommendation. Mr. Zimmerman stated there is \$ 400,000 included in the general fund. A full year COLA of 3% (general fund) would be \$ 407,000. Information has been provided showing the cost of re-instating steps for employees. Ms. Burkner stated other funds have similar contingencies.

Councilmember Metzner pointed out to do more means a revenue adjustment or an expense adjustment. A major adjustment would be the tax rate.

Councilmember Nigh is not comfortable re-instating the steps.

Mr. Zimmerman urged the Mayor and City Council to not use reserve funds for employee compensation. Staff is willing to discuss options with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Gysberts stated employees deserve something. A COLA is the fairest approach. Re-instating the steps will provide an increase to only 49% of the employees. He mentioned there are issues related to employee morale and public safety not being able to retain good employees.

Councilmember Nigh stated public safety has to be up to previous standards. It is difficult to retain public safety employees.

Mayor Gysberts stated he thinks Councilmember Aleshire's proposal of phased-in steps is a good way to provide good compensation for employees. Getting back to the step levels would take longer than one fiscal year. The City may only be able to include a 2% COLA in this budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – May 14, 2013

Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to meet in closed session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State, #4 (Section 10-508(a)) and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, #7 (Section 10-508(a)) at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Hagerstown, Maryland. Councilmember M. E. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Aleshire is opposed to meeting in closed session to discuss the MELP demolition, and therefore recommended meeting in closed session for first item only. Councilmember L. C. Metzner amended the motion by removing the discussion item to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, #7 (Section 10-508(a)). Councilmember K. B. Aleshire seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Aleshire left at this time.

The following people were in attendance: Mayor D. S. Gysberts, Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, Councilmember L. C. Metzner, Councilmember D. F. Munson, Councilmember P. M. Nigh, City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, Eric Deike, Director of Public Works, John Lestitian, Director of Community and Economic Development, Andrew Sargent, Downtown Manager and Donna K. Spickler, City Clerk. The meeting was held to consider a lease agreement for a downtown business. No formal action was taken at the meeting. On a motion duly made, seconded and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

16TH SPECIAL SESSION – May 14, 2013

Mayor D. S. Gysberts reopened the 16th Special Session of the Mayor and City Council. Present with the Mayor were Councilmembers M. E. Brubaker, L. C. Metzner, D. F. Munson and P. M. Nigh; City Administrator Bruce Zimmerman, and City Clerk D. K. Spickler. Councilmember K. B. Aleshire was not present.

On a motion duly made by Councilmember D. F. Munson and seconded by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote to meet in Special Session at 7:09 p.m.

Public Hearing – FY 14 Tax Rate

Michelle Burkner, Director of Finance, stated the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2013, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 0.27%, from \$ 2,575,838,250 to \$ 2,582,770,566. If the City of Hagerstown maintains the current tax rate of \$ 0.788 per \$ 100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 0.269% resulting in \$

54,627 of new real property tax revenues. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7859, the constant yield tax rate. The City of Hagerstown is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City of Hagerstown proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.788 per \$100 of assessment.

No testimony was presented.

The record will remain open for 10 days for additional comments.

Public Hearing – FY 2013-2014 Budget

A public hearing was held to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014. The total of the proposed budget is \$ 133,145,831. Michelle Burkner, Director of Finance, stated money in the general fund budget is received from property tax revenues, State Highway User Revenues, State Income Taxes, Licenses and Permits, Refuse Collection Fees and other revenues. Expenditures include wages and benefits, economic incentives, debt service, capital expenditures, maintenance and repairs and material/supplies/utilities. The City is planning to maintain the City real estate tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013-14 at the same rate as the current year of \$ 0.788 per \$ 100 of assessed value.

The following testimony was presented:

Nancy Smith, 2200 Gale Thorpe Farms Road, Baltimore, Maryland, discussed the Maryland Food Bank. The food bank was founded in 1979 and is a member of a national network of over 200 food banks. They partner with manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to gather good that might otherwise go to waste. The food is distributed to 600 partners throughout regions in Maryland. They reach out to those at risk. A school pantry program has been initiated at a Hagerstown location, with three participating schools. There is a rural delivery program. They measure their success by the pounds of food that go out their door. The Food Bank has submitted a request for funding that would be totally restricted to being used within Hagerstown's City limits. The Food Bank has distributed 865,000 pounds of food to Hagerstown and the surrounding area. The Food Bank receives funding from Salisbury, Baltimore and other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Nigh asked if any resources are distributed to the 13 food pantries in Hagerstown. Ms. Smith indicated they are. They intend to keep the back pack program going.

Councilmember Munson thanked Ms. Smith for this information. The United States is a rich enough country that no one should be going hungry. The late Hattie Harrison was a major benefactor of the Food Bank. He is glad the Food Bank will have a presence in Hagerstown.

Mayor Gysberts thanked Ms. Smith for meeting with members of the Mayor and Council. He is impressed by the innovative ways they are looking for resources.

Ms. Smith stated when government and the right non-profit groups work together, programs can be successful.

Matt Thompson, 220 McRand Court, Hagerstown, Maryland, is the Hagerstown Food Bank manager. They serve over 800 (non-duplicated) families per month. There is an increase in the number of working poor families they assist.

Cullen Coleman, 114 E. Antietam Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, is representing the Elizabethtown East Neighborhoods First group. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts with the Invest Hagerstown program, specifically the residential assistance. There a number of low to middle income people who will benefit from the assistance.

Diane Eves, 1224 Glenwood Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, asked if a tax increase is planned. Mayor Gysberts stated the tax rate will remain the same as it has been for several years. The rate is above the Constant Yield Tax Rate.

There was no further testimony presented. The record will remain open until May 20, 2013 for additional comments.

Public Hearing - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Annual
Action Plan for FY 2013-2014

Jonathan Kerns, Community Development Manager, stated the City of Hagerstown has prepared a draft copy of the proposed Annual Action Plan (AAP) and will be applying for a FY 2013/14 CDBG Entitlement Grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City anticipates a total FY 13/14 CDBG Budget of \$ 1,186,321, which includes a Federal B13 Entitlement Grant of \$ 600,000. In addition to the B13 Entitlement Grant, the City expects to have \$ 586,321 available from program income (CDBG loan repayments) and unspent entitlement funds.

In order to address the City's identified needs, the proposed AAP for FY 2013/14 includes the following activities: public services, public facilities, acquisition, clearance, commercial improvements, housing and administration.

The following testimony was presented:

Cullen Coleman, 114 E. Antietam Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, served as a member of the grant review committee. Staff provided detailed information to the review committee and the grading system used was fair in determining the award to be granted to the organizations.

There was no further testimony presented. The record will remain open until May 30, 2013 for further comment.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Tax Rates Beginning July 1, 2013

Action: On a motion duly made by Councilmember M. E. Brubaker and seconded by Councilmember L. C. Metzner, the Mayor and City Council unanimously agreed by voice vote of all members present to introduce an ordinance to establish the City's tax rates for the levy year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 on the basis

of \$ 0.788 per \$ 100 of assessed value of all real property and \$ 1.97 per \$ 100 assessed value of all business personal property within the City of Hagerstown. These rates are the same as the current year.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Budget FY 2013-2014

Action: Councilmember L. C. Metzner made a motion to introduce an ordinance to adopt the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 in the total amount of \$ 133,145,831. Councilmember D. F. Munson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Munson informed the group he is requesting that funding be included for the Food Bank.

Motion carried, 3-1 with Councilmember P. M. Nigh voting No.

Introduction of an Ordinance: Amending City Code Section 238-15 to Provide for a Late Fee on Water and Sewer Department Bills

Action: No motion was made to introduce this ordinance.

These fees will be discussed further during the June 4, 2013 Work Session.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Bruce Zimmerman, City Administrator, had no additional comments.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember L. C. Metzner commended staff for their work on the budget.

Councilmember M. E. Brubaker had no additional comments.

Councilmember D. F. Munson thanked staff for their work on the budget. This budget is balanced and does not include a tax rate increase.

Councilmember P. M. Nigh thanked the County for improving the buildings on Baltimore Street. She hopes recent home prices are in indication assessments will be rising. She hopes staff is looking into the problems reported with bed bugs. The landscaping at the Alms House is complete. She urged everyone to report suspicious activity to the police. She wondered if a prison crew could help trim the weeds in Hagerstown. The Neighborhoods First Group is donating any remaining funds to the Police Athletic League. Other groups are considering donating their funds to the dog park.

Mayor D. S. Gysberts reported the Ride with the Mayor event was rained out last week and will now be held on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The Ride of Silence is being held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. He spoke to the new class of Neighborhood College. He appreciates the hard

work of the Council and especially staff for working through the budget. He believes there will be difficult decisions to make, such as infrastructure and funding for a stadium. The Council has agreed they need a viable project. Clear direction needs to be provided to staff for the project. The City needs to continue securing public/private partnerships.

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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna K. Spickler
City Clerk

Approved: June 18, 2013