

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION #266
JANUARY 7, 2008
CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.**

“A Resolution by the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace, Maryland, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and the Provisions of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1998 Replacement Volume, and Amendments thereto) titled “Corporations-Municipal”, to Amend the Charter of Havre de Grace, Maryland, by Repealing and Re-enacting Section 60, which concerns itself with Tax Exemptions for Approved Fire Department and Ambulance Corps Members.”

Mayor Dougherty asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to testify or comment on this Resolution. To further clarify the purpose of the Resolution, Mayor Dougherty stated this would increase the amount of tax credits for Fire and EMS personnel from \$25,000 to \$50,000. There being no comments, the Hearing was closed.

**FIRST PUBLIC HEARING FOR REQUEST FROM USS FORREST SHERMAN,
DD-931 FOUNDATION
JANUARY 7, 2008
CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:02 P.M.**

“USS FORREST SHERMAN, DD-931 Foundation, Inc. regarding a request to have the USS Forrest ship docked here in Havre de Grace as a museum type attraction.”

Mayor Dougherty asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to testify or comment on this issue.

1. Mr. Bernie Brown, 310 Woodduck Drive; Havre de Grace, Md.

He discussed why he is not in favor of this to include an “unsightly” vessel; concerned about the cost should this corporation go “bankrupt”; his opinion is this is a recreational waterway – very historical – and does not believe Havre de Grace is the place for a 433’ Navy Vessel.

2. Mr. Kevin Racine, 900 Erie Street; Havre de Grace, Md.

As Vice President of the Transportation Committee that he serves on, he stated that plans for that Committee (as relates to BRAC) could be for a 4th or 5th track to be installed in the future and it could very likely be in the same vicinity that this ship would be docked. Therefore, he is also opposed to the docking of this Vessel – he left two documents pertaining to the projection of future transportation for the Councilmembers and Administration to review.

3. Mr. Walter Glenn, 122 Anderson Avenue; Havre de Grace, Md.

Mr. Glenn stated he concurs with the comments made by Mr. Bernie Brown. Havre de Grace is not the place to put that ship!

There being no further comments or questions, the Hearing was closed. Mayor Dougherty did inform those present that this is the first of two Public Hearings on this issue – the second Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 4th at 7:00 in the Council Chambers.

**PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2008
CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:09 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on January 7, 2008, at 7:09 p.m. with Mayor Wayne H. Dougherty presiding and the following members present: Council President Stephen Gamatoria, Council Members Garrett Lyttle, James Miller, Randolph Craig, Barbara Ferguson and Joe Kochenderfer.

Mayor Dougherty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening prayer was Pastor Cordell Hunger (St. James AME Church).

On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle, and, on six affirmative votes, the Minutes of December 17, 2007 were approved.

At this time, Council President Gamatoria requested an Amendment to the Agenda; he asked that Item #6 (Presentation/Recognition to Susquehanna Hose Company for the Duck Drop on New Year's Eve) be postponed until the February Council meeting. There was no objection.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Coleman, Sheryl L. – Motion to Appoint as Member of Street and Traffic Safety Advisory Board by Councilmember Ferguson and seconded by Councilmember Lyttle. It was voted on and approved 6-0.**

OATHS:

The Mayor administered the Oath of Office (assisted by Lt. Bill Johnson of the Advisory Board, Chairman and Councilmember Barbara Ferguson, Council Liaison) to Ms. Sheryl Coleman to serve on the Traffic and Street Safety Committee from January 7, 2008 until January 7, 2011.

There being no Comments from Citizens on Agenda Items, Resolutions, Ordinances or Unfinished Business, the meeting quickly proceeded to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Councilmember Craig made a motion to approved Budget Transfer: Amendment #2008-15 which is necessary because the funding for the Yacht Basin Piers was included with the original 2007 budget but the Lighthouse Pier funding**

was not. As a result, we need to fully fund the contract by authorizing the Lighthouse Pier and adjusting the Yacht Basin Piers to the actual contract amount. This Amendment increases the State Waterway Improvement Grants (Acct. #08-4-1809-4863) by \$ 154,000 and reduces the spending authority for the Yacht Basin Piers (Acct. #08-5-1839-6502) by \$186,000, the difference between the \$1,000,000 currently funded and the \$814,000 contract price to provide the necessary \$340,000 funding for the Lighthouse Pier (Acct. #015-1091-6502). As the Lighthouse Pier is a project of the General Fund (Fund 1), the adjustment also calls for the transfer of \$340,000 from the Marina Fund (Fund 8) (Acct. #08-4-1809-4901) to the General Fund (Fund 1) (Acct. #01-4-1809-4900). After explanation and concurrence by George DeHority, Director of Finance, Councilmember Miller seconded the motion; it was voted on and approved 6-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor noted that the Duck Drop and Fireworks were very commendable again this year. He sincerely thanked the Susquehanna Hose Company for offering to take on this endeavor and to carry it on as a tradition. He reiterated that the Hose Company will be recognized for this at the February Council meeting.

The Mayor then reported briefly on activities/meetings he has participated in the last couple of weeks.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

Council President Gamatoria announced there will be two (2) Council Open Sessions held on January 22nd and 24th, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss the financial condition of the City. He noted this is an opportunity for the Council to discuss with Administration and the Director of Finance the current financial status as well as any major economic issues facing the elected officials in the future. The public is welcome to attend, however, not permitted to speak.

Council President Gamatoria further announced that there will be a Special Council Meeting held on January 22nd at 7:00 P.M. – they will break from the Open Work Session at 7:00 and go into the Special Council Meeting. Issues to be discussed there are:

1. Resolution to Approve the Terms/Conditions of the ENR Upgrade
2. Annexation Plan Resolution for the 5.706 Acres of Bulle Parkway
3. Introduction of the Arts/Entertainment District

Comments from other Councilmembers in addition to the regular reports on meetings/committees were as follows:

Councilmember Craig: Reminded everyone of the Arts Ball coming up on January 26th and it is necessary to obtain tickets now – they are going fast.

Councilmember Ferguson: Looking forward to recognizing the firefighters on the 4th of February.

Councilmember Kochenderfer: Announced River Sweep will be coming up again on the 19th of April. Two new coordinators will be handling the River Sweep this year – more information will be forthcoming closer to the date. On January 9th, at 7:00 p.m. the next Ellsworth Shank Lecture series will be held here in the Chambers – topic will be Cedar Hill Cemetery. Also, W/S Rate Task Force continuing to have meetings.

Councilmember Lyttle: Announced Planning Committee will be meeting this Friday.
Councilmember Miller: Wished everyone a “Happy New Year. Announced the D.P.W. Committee has been active in the Greenway Farms water line project – and it should be hooked up soon. The D.P.W. Committee will be meeting January 18th, at 1:00 P.M.

At this time, the Mayor thanked City Attorney Paul Ishak publicly for following through on the Greenway Water Line Project.

Council President Gamatoria announced at this time that Mayor Dougherty will become the Liaison to the Main Street organization representing Administration.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

A. Mr. Randy Koch – 244 Whirlaway Lane; Havre de Grace

Mr. Koch thanked the Mayor and Council for their prudent use of their taxes. He and other residents from Bulle Rock asked about the taxes they are paying; how are they being used. He stated that it is common knowledge that they also pay HOA fees; the concern is that some of those fees and City taxes are being duplicated. The Mayor responded that he would like to set up a meeting within the next couple of weeks and asked that a representative from their group contact his secretary to schedule such a meeting.

B. Mr. Robert J. Chubb – 238 Whirlaway Lane; Havre de Grace

Mr. Chubb is also from Bulle Rock – the purpose for his visit and his friends and neighbors is also about our taxes and what services are we getting for our taxes. It is a big and growing issue in Bulle Rock about what services are we receiving from the City of Havre de Grace. The Mayor reiterated that he is very willing to meet with residents and asked that they please schedule a meeting with his secretary to discuss this issue.

C. Mr. Mitch Shank – 610 Chesapeake Drive; Havre de Grace

Mr. Shank also thanked the Fire Company for taking over the Duck Drop especially since Havre de Grace has been named the Decoy Capital. Secondly, he was present to represent a new business in the City – “Snap Fitness” inviting Mayor, Councilmembers, Department Heads, etc. to join in a “fitness” program.

Councilmember Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and Mayor Dougherty officially adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.