

PUBLIC HEARING FOR:

MDE BORROWING AUTHORITY ORDINANCE # 893

December 3, 2007

7:00 P.M.

A Public Hearing was conducted at this time on the above reference Ordinance by the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace, Maryland. The first reading of this Ordinance was given. The Mayor asked for any comments from the Public. The only comment made was by Councilmember Lyttle mentioning that there had been a discrepancy of this issue being introduced as an Ordinance or a Resolution. He was advised this matter had been cleared up by advice of City Attorney and the correct format is by Ordinance. There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:08 P.M., noting that the second reading and adoption of Ordinance #893 is scheduled for the next Council Meeting on December 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

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PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 2007

CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:08 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on December 3, 2007, at 7:08 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 led by Pastor Bob Savage (Room at the Cross Mission Church).

On motion by Councilmember Kochenderfer, seconded by Council President Gamatoria, and, on six affirmative votes, the Minutes of November 19, 2007 were approved.

At this time, Councilman Kochenderfer requested an Amendment to the Agenda; he made a motion to add under New Business - (a) Request for Special Event – Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting to be held on Friday, December 7th, 2007. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Barbara Ferguson, voted on and passed 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Recognition of Police Officer of the Year – OFC. Brian Daniels
Recognition Presented By: V.F.W. Post #8126 (Russell Levy)**

A very impressive presentation was delivered to OFC. Daniels by Mr. Levy not only from the local level, but State and National as well.

APPOINTMENTS:

Motions were made to fulfill the following Reappointments to the Planning Commission:

- A. James A. Cameron: Motion made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Council President Gamatoria, voted on and approved 6-0.**
- B. Rene’ A. Lambert: Motion made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Kochenderfer, voted on and approved 6-0.**
- C. Wardell V. Stansbury: Motion made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Ferguson, voted on and approved 6-0.**

Following these appointments, Council President Gamatoria thanked all three applicants for their previous service and being willing to continue this service. Councilmember Kochenderfer echoed the Council President’s comments and noted that each of these applicants will continue to be a great asset to the City.

OATHS:

The Mayor, assisted by Councilmember Miller – Liaison to the Planning Commission, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Rene’ A. Lambert and Mr. Wardell V. Stansbury. Mr. Cameron was not in attendance, therefore, he will be given the Oath of Office at a later date.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Mr. Michael Hitchings – 331 Tidewater Drive, Havre de Grace:**

On behalf of him and his neighbors, expressed concern with the upcoming paving project on Chapel Road because of the present cold weather conditions. Mayor Dougherty explained that this project is being done in conjunction with the end of the Market Street Project. He also assured Mr. Hitchings that the Department of Public Works is very closely monitoring the weather conditions; Bill Reeder (Deputy Director of D.P.W.) noted that surface temperatures are being checked on a daily basis. The Mayor further noted that should weather conditions not be acceptable, this project will be held off until Spring always aware of protecting the taxpayer’s dollars.

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace Maryland Municipal Corporation to approve a Real Property Tax Credit against the City Property tax imposed on the eligible assessment for property in the Enterprise Zone known as Smuckers Quality Beverages, Inc., 340 Old Bay Lane, Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078 and approval for the State Income Tax Credit based on the number of new employees that will be hired. After reading, a motion was made by Councilmember Lyttle to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Miller and on a Roll Call, passed 6-0. Resolution # 2007-19 was assigned in order to make this active.**

ORDINANCES:

A. Noted that Public Hearing for Ordinance #893 was held prior to this Council meeting and is scheduled for second reading and adoption at the December 17, 2007 Council Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS

A. As per motion for Amendment to Agenda, a Special Event Request was submitted for the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held on Friday, December 7, 2007 in conjunction with “First Friday”. On motion by Councilmember Kochenderfer, seconded by Council President Gamatoria to approve this request, it was voted on and passed 6-0.

Councilmember Miller suggested that maybe some of these yearly events could be approved through Administration rather than going through Council. Councilmember Kochenderfer noted that this had been discussed at a Special Events Committee Meeting and it was decided that any event that does not require City services could be approved by Administration, however, when City services are needed, it should go before Council.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR

Before noting his recent activities and itinerary, the Mayor shared the following: (1) His pleasure at how well the recent ground breaking ceremony went at the WWTP – he thanked Donna Geiger from D.P.W. for her efforts in this; (2) Mentioned again the upcoming project on Chapel Road and reiterated that weather will certainly be taken into consideration before actual paving starts; (3) Noted that budget preparation is currently in progress; and lastly (4) Noted there will be a “If I Were A Mayor” Contest taking place for the 4th graders in both of the elementary schools here in the City. He will be forwarding this information to the schools.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

Council President Gamatoria thanked the Mayor for this new budget process and the fact that Council now has some insight into the process. He further noted his attendance at the recent Quarterly Meeting of Municipal Elected Officials held in Aberdeen. He noted several worthwhile topics were discussed – especially noteworthy was the “single stream recycling” issue – this will be pursued and could certainly be a benefit to all concerned.

Councilmember Craig also commented on the WWTP ground breaking ceremony. He noted it is important to also recognize past councils and administration’s efforts in getting this project started. He looks forward to the completion of this project particularly because of the part it will play in assisting with the cleanliness of the Chesapeake Bay.

Councilmember Ferguson thanked OFC. Daniels for his accomplishments. She further noted that the Street and Safety Committee have requested funds for some very important projects they have planned.

Councilmember Kochenderfer congratulated SMILES on the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner they provided again this year. He announced that on Friday, December 7th at noon is the opening of the first house here in Havre de Grace built by the Habitat for Humanity located at 844 Erie Street. Further noted this Sunday is the 35th year for the Havre de Grace Candlelight Tour.

Councilmember Lyttle also noted his pleasure at the WWTP Ground Breaking Ceremony. He agreed there was some really good discussions on recycling of paper held at the Aberdeen Quarterly meeting, informing the public that recycling of paper can be a real savings in the tipping fees that the City pays. He also thanked the Council and Administration for prayers for his wife's scheduled surgery tomorrow.

Councilmember Miller also offered his congratulations to OFC Daniels. He further noted that the Landlord/Tenant Committee needs two more volunteers. He gave a report on the status of Ontario Street. He also mentioned there will be another scheduled cleanup of Angel Hill Cemetery.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

A. Mr. Richard Clements (518 Camilla Street, Havre de Grace)

Discussed at length his displeasure with issues at the City Marina. When it appeared that Mr. Clements could be threatening a law suit against the City, Councilmember Miller asked the Mayor to intervene and have Mr. Clements end his comments. The Mayor agreed and gave Mr. Clements 30 seconds to complete his discussion.

On motion by Councilmember Miller, Mayor Dougherty adjourned the Council Meeting at 8:37 p.m.