

**PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2007
CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on November 5, 2007, at 7:00 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 Reverend Timothy Rabbit (Havre de Grace Assembly of God).

On motion by Councilmember Kochenderfer, seconded by Councilmember Ferguson and, on six affirmative votes, the Minutes of the October 15, 2007 meeting were approved.

APPOINTMENTS:

On motion by Council Present Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller, and on six affirmative votes, the appointment of Robin Roberts to the Board of Appeals was approved.

On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle, and on six affirmative votes, the appointment of Deborah R. Way to the Board of Appeals was approved.

On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller, and on six affirmative votes, the appointment of Alfred M. Boehly as an alternate to the Board of Appeals was approved.

Following these appointments, Mayor Dougherty administered the oath of office to Robin Roberts, Deborah Way, and Alfred Boehly, just appointed to the Board of Appeals.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Becky Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the Susquehanna Museum, extended an invitation for all to attend the annual Christmas Candlelight Tour.

Reverend Timothy Rabbit, commenting as a citizen of the City, supported the proposed budget amendment to hire two additional police officers.

RESOLUTIONS: None

ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Council President Gamatoria advised that Resolution 2007-5 is being sent to the Council Planning Committee for further review.
- B. **On motion by Councilmember Kochenderfer, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle and, on six affirmative votes, approval was given to the Susquehanna Museum to conduct their 35th annual Candlelight Tour on December 9, 2007.**
- C. **On motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, Budget Amendment #2008-11, which provides for an increase in spending authority for uniforms (01-5-1089-6161), Communications (Cell Phones) (01-5-1089-6281), and Employee Development (001-5-1089-6278) within the Planning Department, was approved. The source of the funding comes from an increase in Distributed Expense Revenues (01-4-0001-4943). The above changes to spending in Fund 9 effectively reflect a budgetary transfer from mandatory water/sewer line inspections.**
- D. Budget Amendment #2008-12 – Council President Gamatoria advised that billing for 2007/2008 real estate taxes (Acct. #01-4-0001-4101) has resulted in billed revenues exceeding the original budget estimates by \$659,000. Of that amount, \$234,900 has been already committed through budget amendments #2008-1 (\$200,000 – Market/St. John Streets paving), #2008-3 (\$25,000 Citizen Care Center), and #2008-10 (\$9,900 – Havre de Hills Lighting). Mayor Dougherty requests approval to commit the balance of \$424,100 as follows:
 1. **On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Craig and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to increase contributions to the Susquehanna Hose Company and the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps totaling \$20,300 (Acct. #01-5-1131-6290) and \$6,100 (Acct. #01-5-1125-6290) respectively.**
 2. **On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to increase the**

paving program (Acct. #01-7-1251-7013) by \$175,000. Chapel Road and Revolution Street have been identified as priority paving items.

3. On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to commit \$150,000 to add two police patrol officers. This includes \$61,000 in salary and benefits (Acct. #01-5-1112-5001), \$79,000 for capital equipment (Acct. 01-5-1112-6501), \$2,000 in supplies and materials (Acct. 01-5-1112-6137), and \$2,000 in uniform expense (Acct. 01-5-1112-6161), and \$6,000 in recruitment and training (Acct. #01-5-1112-6163).
4. On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to commit \$50,000 for an electronic communications upgrade (Acct. #01-5-1091-6501) \$1,300 committed for engineering study with \$48,700 for future communication use.
5. On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Miller and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to commit \$15,000 to Planning/Code Enforcement in an effort to support the Administration's efforts to increase enforcement of building codes (Acct. #01-5-1089-6276).
6. On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, approval was given to commit \$1,000 to the Harford County Historical Society to fund a contribution to the Harford County Historical Society (Acct. #01-5-2332-6255).
7. On motion by Council President Gamatoria, seconded by Councilmember Lyttle and, upon a roll call of six affirmative votes, an agreement was made to support Administration's decision to perform the upcoming zoning study internally and, as a result, to forego the \$50,000 MEDAF Grant (Acct #01-4-0001-4840) previously awarded to partially fund the Zoning Planner. As a result, this amendment includes a reduction in this funding source and an equal reduction in Professional Services within the Planning Department (Acct. #01-5-1089-6276), where the spending for the Zoning Planner had been approved. Council President Gamatoria explained that this action was a "clean-up" procedure.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Dougherty made several public announcements concerning current event activities in the City.

There will be a Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on November 8th, 7:30 a.m. in the St. Patrick's Hall.

The Veteran's Day Memorial service will be held at Tydings Park on November 12th.

On November 17th, from Noon to 3 p.m., Dr. David Jaffe, Allen Boyle, and Charles Hiner, new owners of the "Red Onion" building located at 667 Otsego Street have extended a public invitation to attend a cookout and tour of the building.

On November 18th, from Noon to 4 p.m., the Havre de Grace Soroptimist, the Maritime Museum Commission and the Citizens Care Center are working together to sponsor a fund raiser for Mrs. Charlie Barker who has ongoing medical needs beyond what medical insurance will cover.

Students of the Havre de Grace Elementary School and the Meadowvale Elementary School are collecting donations for the schools Patriot program.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Council President Gamatoria extended his appreciation to Councilmember Kochenderfer for his assistance while he was away.

Councilmember Craig expressed his appreciation to the three new Board of Appeals appointees for agreeing to serve.

Councilmember Ferguson stated that the Street Safety Committee recommends that no more street signs be installed without the approval of a State Traffic engineer.

Upon Councilmember Ferguson's request, Chief Walter advised that she attended the Gang Summit held in Edgewood. The purpose of the summit was to develop a strategic plan for Harford County to implement and follow as a means of controlling the influx of gangs within the County.

Chief Walter also extended her appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their support with the budget amendment effecting her Department.

Councilmember Kochenderfer sent his best wishes for a speedy recovery to Margaret Famous.

Councilmember Lyttle welcomed the new members appointed to the Board of Appeals. He also extended his best wishes to the new owners of the "Red Onion".

Councilmember Miller commented on his attendance to several meetings over the past two weeks. He also welcomed the new members of the Board of Appeals.

Councilmember Miller suggested that an amendment be made to the Landlord Tenant Commission Ordinance allowing the appointment of a member of the Police Department to serve on the Commission Board. The suggestion will be considered.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

John Lee, 437 Battery Drive, discussed the terrible living conditions that still exist in Louisiana post Katrina. He also applauded the Police Department for their fine work.

Kevin Racine, 900 Erie Street, discussed transportation needs in the area.

On motion by Councilmember Miller and, seconded by Councilmember Ferguson, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.