

FINANCE & UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 5:00 PM

Mayor Nathan Brown convened the Commission meeting at 5:00 p.m. Those present included Commission Members Vaughn Ripley, Jerry Bonanno, Carroll Jones, Syree Williams, and John Dayton; staff members Julie Martorana, Jeremy Mose, Carrie Myers, Kevin Grunwell, Matt Campbell, Bruce Dell, and Rikki Bruchey. Commissioner Brian Keller participated via phone.

FOG (Fats, Oile, Grease) Ordinance Update – Mr. Mose and Mr. Dell discussed this item. They explained that staff has developed a FOG program for commercial businesses, and that updating the ordinance would give the program “teeth,” such as the proper channels to inspect and fine establishments violating the ordinance. Mr. Mose added these actions are covered under plumbing code and State environmental law, but the local ordinance currently lacked some effectiveness. The Commission recommended approval to the Council.

ARPA Update – Ms. Bruchey discussed this item. She stated \$990,000 was spent in FY23 and so far \$336,000 in July of FY24 towards ARPA projects. Another \$5 million worth has been encumbered.

School Resource Officer Program Update - Chief Grunwell provided an update on this program, which was being moved back to Frederick County Sheriff’s Office for oversight and to provide an officer.

WTRI Acquisition Update - Mayor Brown stated the seller of the property at 214 13th Avenue had asked for a continuation of the study period of three weeks. The Council approved the extension last night.

Bond Discussion – Ms. Martorana stated staff had been discussing bond options with Davenport to cover the following projects: purchase of medical center, match money for Sports Complex \$800,000 grant, B&O Park improvements, WTRI purchase, 811 West Potomac Street improvements and previous expenditures reimbursement. She stated the total bond amount would be around \$1,725,000. Davenport suggested the City issue an RFP for either direct bank financing or a bond. Mayor Brown added that current revenue from tenants at the medical center would cover the debt service for bond repayment. The consensus of the Commission was to move forward with proposals.

Report prepared by Carrie Myers