

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Gallery and Studio.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Chief David Dalfonso; D. J. Parkinson; Kevin Wooster; Kristie Eberly; and Lafabian Marshall.

Call to Order, Prayer and Pledge

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Dize requested approval of the set of minutes from the regular meeting of June 24, 2020. Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 5-0.

Borrowing Ordinance #699

Mrs. Morgan advised that this Borrowing Ordinance is for the Norris Harbor Culvert Replacement. She noted that there was a significant savings to reduce our share of the cost due to the change in bridging. Mrs. Morgan advised that the payment will begin in July 2021 and noted that the grant will go directly against the loan. Mayor Dize commended Mrs. Morgan for her due diligence in saving the City a large amount of money.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion, as per C2-10 of the City Charter, to adopt Ordinance #699 as an emergency measure. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan then read Ordinance #699 into record and asked for a motion to adopt the Ordinance.

So moved by Councilman Sheppard, Seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Ordinance #700 Correcting Clerical Errors in FY 2021 Budget

Mrs. Morgan noted that there was a transposition error from the budget work sheets to excel and reviewed the changes on page 2 of Ordinance #700. She advised that Mr. Sullivan had prepared the Ordinance to ratify the corrections.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Ordinance would be adopted as an emergency measure per C2-10 and C2-11 of the City Charter.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance #700 as an emergency measure, as per sections C2-10 and C2-11 of the City Charter. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the changes are self-explanatory. He noted that Ordinance 696 was the 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance and he reviewed the Taxes –local and Other Revenues – decrease in amount. Cable – total revenues/unchanged.

Mayor Dize noted that all errors were in revenue, not expense. Mr. Sullivan added “Revenue from Others – total amount. He advised that Ordinance #700 amends Ordinance #696.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to adopt Ordinance #700. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Councilman Atkins commended Mrs. Morgan for finding the error.

Quarterly Reports – Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Mrs. Morgan reviewed her quarterly report for the year ending 2020. She noted that this has been a difficult year in the water and sewer department. Mrs. Morgan advised that in July and August we receive revenue for the previous year. Mrs. Morgan noted that Mr. Parkinson has worked to make all corrections with MDE and advised that we need to look at increasing water and sewer charges in the future. Mayor Dize commented that we raised sewer by \$5.00 last year and worried about that being too much, but we still need to be able to make repairs when they are needed. He advised that we need to look at a rate increase in the next budget year. He urged the Council to meet with Mrs. Morgan with questions or concerns.

Quarterly Reports – Chief David Dalfonso

Chief Dalfonso thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the City of Crisfield. Chief Dalfonso noted that his department is competent and loyal. He stated that the community is very pro-police. He also advised that the main problem here is Heroin as there is a hub for distribution in this area. Chief Dalfonso went on to review the quarterly report.

Mayor Dize asked the Chief to elaborate on the section entitled New MOU's concerning the Housing Authority. Chief Delfonso explained that there is a problem at the Housing Authority when an unauthorized person lives under a registered tenant, which is considered as trespassing. The Housing Authority has designated CPD officers as agents of the Housing Authority to get rid of the unauthorized tenants, rather than Housing Authority personnel

Mayor Dize commended Chief Dalfonso for going back to community policing and welcomed him on board.

Councilman Atkins commented that he never envisioned the housing authority employees as police officers.

Councilman Sheppard made reference to the Tow Program. Chief Dalfonso advised that CPD will no longer be storing towed vehicles to the Carvel Hall location, therefore, that revenue will be gone. Councilman Atkins commented that the City recently increased the fee, but it is still not high enough to cover the expenses.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he feels the Community Cook Outs are a great gesture.

Quarterly Report D. J. Parkinson, Jr., Supt. Public Utilities

Mr. Parkinson reviewed his report. He made reference to contractor issues with fire hydrants and advised that he is getting cost estimates for repairs.

Mr. Parkinson advised that he had reviewed an online class concerning water meters and learned of a new water meter system. He advised that the company will be visiting the City on August 20th.

Mr. Parkinson reviewed information concerning ENR levels. He made reference to the mixers and advised that he is looking into a new build, since \$40K was spent last year on repairs. He advised that he is looking into a gear box type, which would cost \$9K. Mr. Parkinson advised that he has also done some research on blowers.

Mr. Parkinson again made reference to sewer stoppages caused by people flushing items like rags, wipes, etc. Mayor Dize inquired if you can tell where the items are coming from. Mr. Parkinson advised

that they could. Mayor Dize advised that some legislation is needed to address this problem and impose warnings/fines. Mr. Sullivan advised that this is already covered in the City Code.

Mayor Dize thanked Mr. Parkinson for all he does. He commented that the water meters that don't work have resulted in two years of lost revenue. He asked Mr. Parkinson to focus on getting the meters repaired.

Councilman Sheppard commented that non-working fire hydrants pose dangers. Mr. Parkinson commented that this was due to improper use by the fire department and contractors.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if all of the Public Utilities staff is filled and certified. Mr. Parkinson advised that he is not fully staffed, but all have temporary licenses.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if the wind turbine had offset the cost of the electric bill at the plant. Mrs. Morgan advised that it has been running \$3K to \$4K per month on the low end and \$6K to \$7K on the high end, but the bill used to be \$15K per month.

Mrs. Morgan also added that employees have a time frame in which to obtain their licenses.

Councilman Ford inquired if there are still unmetered water lines. Mr. Parkinson advised that this is correct and some are so old that can't be located as they are buried.

Council Vice President Banks commented that pouring grease down sinks cost the City money and time and urged users to pour grease in a jug. Mrs. Morgan added that flushing wipes are a big problem as well.

Mayor Dize again commented about the need for an Ordinance to address habitual violators. Mr. Sullivan advised that two sections of the Code address this violation; Sections 94-26(D) and 94-36 (A) and (B) authorize the imposition of fines right now. He suggested looking into abating the problem and treating all violators the same.

Mrs. Morgan noted that Ms. Marshall does the City's Social Media, so the information could be given to her.

Mr. Parkinson closed his report by sharing a thank you card the department had received from a local citizen that they had helped.

Quarterly Report – Kevin Wooster, Supt. of Public Works

Mr. Wooster reviewed his quarterly activity report, highlighting its contents. He also reviewed Mr. Bozman's report, as he was on vacation.

Councilman Sheppard made reference to a complaint about public access being cut off on a right of way from Wynfall to Maryland Avenue. Mr. Wooster advised that he would look into the matter.

Mrs. Morgan also noted that a lot of Mr. Bozman's permits were sheds.

Quarterly Report – Kristie Eberly Grants Writer/Administrator

Mrs. Kristie Eberly, Grants Writer/Administrator reviewed the status of awarded grants, It Takes A Village; the Crisfield Nature Preserve, Façade Improvement Program wrap up and update on the program for FY 20, the Crisfield Armory Rehabilitation and Explore Crisfield.

Councilman Sheppard inquired if there is enough money to accomplish the tasks at the Armory. Mrs. Eberly advised that they will try but probably not.

Mrs. Eberly inquired if the Mayor and Council would like Linda Singh to come back and provide an update on the Explore Crisfield web page. The Mayor and Council advised that they would.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if the kayak launch was moving forward on time. Mrs. Eberly and Mayor Dize advised that MDE is the hold up on this project due to underwater vegetation that is not there, but we have the money. Mayor Dize also noted that Councilman Ford has done a lot of work regarding the kayak launch. Councilwoman Scott congratulated Mrs. Eberly on all of her work.

Quarterly Report – LaFabian Marshall, Circuit Rider/Public Relations

Ms. Marshall presented and reviewed her report. She thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to work for the City of Crisfield. She noted that her main project had been the updating of the City of Crisfield website. She also noted that she had done an armory video with Mayor Dize.

Mayor Dize commended Ms. Marshall on the fantastic job she had done on the City's website.

Review of Speed Limit Ordinance by Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed Speed Limit Ordinance. Councilman Atkins noted the inconsistencies of the speed limits and made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Crisfield Arts and Entertainment District Sub-recipient Agreement

Mr. Sullivan advised that this is the final agreement, needed to obtain an Employer Identification Number to receive grants. He noted that they have a \$2500 grant for a billboard.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the sub-recipient agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor and City Council Comments

Councilman Sheppard noted that there has been an influx of people at the dock, and tourists, which he attributed to Linda Singh and the Explore Crisfield webpage.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she would be sending out an email to the Mayor and Council concerning a piece of property on Somerset Avenue.

Councilman Atkins made reference to a recent spike in COVID 19 and noted that masks matter and save lives. He thanked everyone for wearing one.

Council Vice President Banks advised that he is grateful for the information presented by the Department Heads and feels the City is going in a positive direction. He advised Chief Delfanso that he has heard great things about him. Council Vice President Banks noted that he is also grateful for the previous work session, noting that discussion and planning is key.

Councilman Ford advised that he had nothing for discussion or comments.

Mayor Dize noted that the existing businesses in Crisfield need to be open when tourists are here and keep consistent hours. He suggested adjusting hours to accommodate this.

Mayor Dize noted that the downtown restrooms will be updated with touch free fixtures, in keeping with COVID prevention.

Mayor Dize noted that at this time, there is no interest in the Carvel Hall building/property. Mr. Sullivan noted that Mr. Spangler had offered a conference call with DHCD and advised that their option agreement had expired on March 31, 2020. He noted that they had forgotten the deadline and let it lapse. Mr. Sullivan commented that this property is a uniquely difficult site to develop and he made reference to moving forward with other ideas.

Mayor Dize commented about moving in another direction with another group and suggested a closed meeting after the next regular meeting on July 22, 2020.

Mayor Dize noted that members are need on the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Park Commission, and the Crisfield Economic Develop Commission. He suggested either we eliminate the Boards or fill the vacancies.

Mayor Dize also commented that there needs to be some kind of decorative statue for the Corbin Library.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

