

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman – via Zoom
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Jason Loar; D.J. Parkinson; Jen Merritt; Shanelle Haughton; Elizabeth Brock; Tiffany McMahon; Richard Crumbacker; Diana Murray; and Vijay Singh.

Invocation

Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Passing of Mayor Kim Lawson – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted the recent passing of Mayor Kim Lawson, who had served as a member of City Council and a four-year term as Mayor, as well as Chairman of the Park Commission.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that Mayor Lawson loved the City of Crisfield and was a great historian.

Mayor Taylor noted that his memorial service will be held on Thursday, November 21st at 2:00 p.m. at Bradshaw Funeral Home.

Approval of Minutes

Council Vice President Banks presented two sets of minutes for approval: October 23, 2024, Closed and Regular. He made a motion to approve the two sets of minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford and carried unanimously.

FEMA BRIC Direct Technical Assistance Team Presentation via Zoom

Members of the FEMA BRIC DTA Team, Alex Landry, and John Aldrich, presented the proposal for the Northern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Project, noting that the Notice of Intent to Apply for Grant Funding has been submitted.

Mr. Aldrich reviewed the plans for the 5-foot road elevation. Mr. Landry noted that the roads in the northern part of the City are more elevated. He made reference to sliding gates that would be closed during flood events as well as additional bulkheading at Somers Cove, which will replace the portion not being done by MDE.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the change by DNR in the Marina project and reviewed the Cost Estimate for construction and the needed match. She noted that the grant must be submitted in December.

Mr. Aldrich also reviewed the Northern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Project Operation and Maintenance proposal.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to accept the recommendation of BRIC DTA for the O & M proposal. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Department Head Quarterly Report – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt presented and reviewed information concerning all the active grant funding and stats for the City of Crisfield.

Introduction of Ms. Brock, Circuit Rider – Ms. Haughton

Ms. Haughton introduced Mrs. Elizabeth Brock, the City's new Circuit Rider, who will be working on the Armory and City Dock Bond Bill. Mrs. Brock noted that she is happy to be here.

Department Head Quarterly Report – Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar presented his quarterly report, noting that the wind turbine is still down due to a hydraulic issue which has caused it to be locked up. Mayor Taylor noted that this is not acceptable.

Mr. Loar went on to update information concerning the Jersey Island Pump Station and the Water Isolation valves and noted that the project is completed and in closeout, with testing of the large meters to be done next week.

Councilman Banks made reference to having to test both new and old valves. Mayor Taylor advised that both the new and old valves must work together.

Mr. Loar advised that the I & I project is completed and the 36-sewer project is complete.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the repair of the 7 sewer lines can be done out of year one ARPA funding once we get a signed contract in place.

Mayor Taylor also noted that USDA will be here tomorrow at 11:00.

Mr. Loar went on to note that the Clarifier project received a diagnosis of \$15K for repairs.

EPA Grant Update – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor made reference to a meeting with Moonshot noting that their recommendation for the WWTP upgrade is at \$4.5 M to \$5 M.

Lead Service Line Update – Ms. Haughton

Ms. Haughton advised that she has been working with SERCAP to generate a GIS map and we are required to send a notice to all water customers.

Mayor Taylor reviewed the process information.

Council Vice President Banks commented that the goal is to obtain a survey of pipes that are lead. Mrs. Merritt noted that this is a nationwide issue.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he feels like Phil Goldsborough did a project to get rid of lead lines years ago.

Mayor Taylor noted that we are looking at the MOU for the EPA Change Grant. She reviewed that GCAC is our statutory partners, the Crisfield Fire Department is emergency shelter and resilience hub and we also need to establish a Workforce Development Program. She advised that a zoom meeting concerning the EPA Grant needs to be scheduled next week. The meeting was set for Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Public Input

None

Council Comments

Councilman Lankford commented that he is excited about Northern flood mitigation proposal.

Councilman Patel noted that he had attended a Sustainable Maryland presentation at the Fall MML convention. He also made reference to workforce Development seminars sponsored by the Chamber for November 19th and 25th. Mayor Taylor requested a flyer so that the City could put it on our web page and also make Ms. Parks aware.

Councilwoman Johnson also commented about the Fall MML convention and a session concerning the proposed increase in costs to municipalities for energy for the next 3 years. She also noted that Use of an Open Space for meetings was a topic. Councilwoman Johnson made reference to lengthy meetings held under Mayor Lawson's administration, noting that she had voted against the wind turbine. She noted that Mayor Lawson was a founding member of the Park Commission and that he and his wife, Tillie, had written several successful grant applications for the park.

Council Vice President Banks offered his condolences to the family of Mayor Lawson.

Council Vice President Banks commented that we are working on a lot in the City and offered "hats off" to Mayor Taylor for her work.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that Mayor Lawson influenced him to get into politics. He suggested that the Park Commission name the park on Collin Street after Mayor Lawson.

Mayor Comments – scheduling 2nd meeting in November, City Hall closed Thursday, and Friday, November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving and 2nd meeting in December, office closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone in attendance and for their hard work.

She made reference to the upcoming Thanksgiving Holidays and inquired about holding a second meeting in November, and which day. She also noted that offices are open on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day.

Mayor Taylor commented that she is still looking for funding for an ice rink.

She made reference to the submission of the MEA Grant Proposal through Mr. Len Jornlin. Mayor Taylor also noted that Police Chief interviews will soon be scheduled. Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Grafton Williams' son had passed away.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary