

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Corbin Studio and Gallery meeting room.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer/Adm.; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Lafabian Marshall, Water/Sewer Collection Manager; John Wunder, Director of Public Works; Janet Johnson, IT Omnitech Pro; Rev. Johnson; Kim Hopkins, Long Term Recovery; Tracey Gordy MDP; Keith Lackie, Critical Area Commission Lower Shore Regional Office; and Richard Crumbacker.

INVOCATION, LORD’S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. She requested a moment of silence for the residents of Smith Island who had received damage due to a recent tornado.

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the Closed and Regular Meetings of July 27, 2022. Councilman Banks noted a correction in the Closed Meeting to read “identify three issues”. At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary correction. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – KIM HOPKINS LONG TERM RECOVERY CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Kim Hopkins, Long Term Recovery Construction Manager, appeared before the Mayor and Council to give an update on the construction being done in Crisfield by LTR. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of Smith Island. Ms. Hopkins noted that the next group of Mennonite Disaster volunteers will be back in Crisfield tomorrow. She advised that four new homes are under construction, and six repairs are being done. She also advised that they will be going to Smith Island. Ms. Hopkins noted that she will be collecting information for house number 5 to be built.

Mayor Taylor advised that she received a lot of inquiries about how to qualify for a new home. Ms. Hopkins explained the process for qualification; noting that a home must have 50% damages for a new build to occur as well as first floor damage. She advised that they are now called Eastern Shore Long

Term Recovery as they are building homes in other towns. Mayor Taylor advised that seeking funding is a big deal and there is a pool of applicants applying for money.

Ms. Hopkins noted that they are currently building homes on Maple Street, N. First Street, Byrdtown Road, and Broadway. She noted that the Mennonites have great resources. Mayor Taylor advised that she appreciates the work being done in our community which is so important. Ms. Hopkins noted that they are always seeking funding sources.

Ms. Tracey Gordy, MDP and Mr. Keith Lackie, Critical Area Commission Regional Office, appeared before the Mayor and Council to introduce themselves to the newly elected administration. Ms. Gordy advised that she is a member of the Governors Cabinet and field officer for 5 Counties. She noted that she has worked with the City since 1998. She went on to review the assistance provided by her office, noting that we can request her help if we need it.

Mr. Lackie noted that 50% of Crisfield is in the critical area, therefore any kind of work that involves pushing dirt needs to be reviewed by Critical Area. Mayor Taylor advised that she would like to see the Critical Area information and map.

Ms. Gordy also noted that she will be updating the Critical Area ordinance. She also noted that she writes state funded grants.

Mayor Taylor inquired of Ms. Gordy if she works with Liz Van Dolah and the Nature Conservancy project. Ms. Gordy advised that she does.

At this time, Mr. Curt Baranowski, USEPA, presented information concerning the CREAT (Climate Resilience Evaluation Tool) program.

Mayor Taylor noted that this is a risk assessment for climate change and inquired what we gain with this tool. Mr. Baranowski advised that he would have an expert walk us through the process.

Mayor Taylor made reference to risk management strategies and inquired if we can align with Ms. Van Dolah's project? Ms. Gordy advised that this would provide the foundation to obtain funding. Mayor Taylor inquired about the next step. Mr. Baranowski advised that we would need to start a planning call with the water infrastructure people.

RESOLUTION 468 OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING AN INTERIM LOAN WITH HEBRON SAVINGS BANK FOR THE CITY OF CRISFIELD WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the Resolution, noting that the interim loan expires October 29, 2022, and this will update it to December 31, 2025.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to adopt Resolution 468. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

JASON LOAR, CITY ENGINEER, - BID RESULTS FOR RECENTLY BID ISOLATION VALVE AND 1936 SEWER REHAB PROJECTS

Mr. Loar noted that these are both American Rescue Fund money projects.

He advised that the 1936 Sewer rehab project received one bid, which was under-budget, from Chesapeake Environmental Services, in the amount of \$951,000. He noted that they could possibly start work this Fall.

Councilman Banks inquired if time and materials is included in this contract. Mr. Loar advised that this is correct. Councilwoman Scott inquired about the funding source. Mr. Loar advised that the source is American Rescue funds. Mrs. Morgan noted that the first round was \$1.2M.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to accept the bid from Chesapeake Environmental Services. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried unanimously.

Mr. Loar went on to review the Water Isolation Valve project. He advised that there are eleven places that need installation and that he had received one bid from Ryan Miller in the amount of \$360,250.80. Councilman Banks noted that the project cost was \$220K, and this bid takes us over. He stated that he would like to have the job re-bid.

During discussion, Mr. Loar suggested decreasing the number of valves and see if Miller will honor the prices. Councilman Banks commented that it takes us from 6 to 11 valves and inquired if we can do more later. Mr. Loar advised that this is correct.

Following further brief discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to go with installing 6 valves, rebidding the RFP. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Councilman Goldsborough inquired when the next Rescue money comes in. Mrs. Morgan advised that it is pending for the next two weeks.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he feels we should go with all eleven since the money is due in. Council Vice President Lankford commented that it would only be over by \$100k.

Mayor Taylor inquired about negotiating the price. Mr. Loar inquired if she wanted us to negotiate the 11 valves at this price, or re-bid 11 or less valves.

Councilman Goldsborough suggested tabling this item until the next meeting and getting a map to look at the valve locations.

Councilman Banks commented that he doesn't want to spend money we don't have and made a motion to do six valves under a new RFP and pay with the money we have. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR TAYLOR – RE: STARS OF SOMERSET

Mayor Taylor noted that the Stars of Somerset event is to be held tomorrow at the City Dock from 4-8 p.m. and in case of rain, it will be held in the Arts Council building.

MAYOR TAYLOR – REVIEW OF ORDINANCE 669 – GRASS CLIPPINGS BLOWN ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

Mayor Taylor reminded people about the impact mowing and throwing grass clippings has on City storm drains. Mrs. Morgan reviewed the Ordinance, which was adopted in 2017, and noted the fines associated with this violation.

Councilman Banks commented that he doesn't think people do this intentionally and this is a good reminder.

MAYOR TAYLOR – USE OF DEPOT – MAXIMUM CAPACITY

Mr. Wunder advised that currently, the maximum capacity on the wooden part of the depot is 100 people.

Mayor Taylor addressed Mr. Loar concerning the matter. Mr. Loar advised that major repairs are needed. He advised that there is a lot of damage to the wooden piers and walkway.

Ms. Finucan noted that State funding will be available for repairs.

Mr. Loar advised that his structural engineer has recommended 100 people, max. Councilman Banks inquired what it was before. Mr. Loar advised that he is unsure of the number. Mayor Taylor noted that everything is ok for the Boat Docking.

Mayor Taylor noted that Ms. Finucan's last day is this Friday. She advised that Ms. Finucan has done a phenomenal job and is an over achiever, with all the grant information organized and ready to move forward with.

PUBLIC INPUT

Rev. Johnson advised that the Community Gardeners are continuing with their plans to expand into a fall garden. He requested that the City prime the back wall of the building toward the back of the garden, and noted that they have obtained grant funding of \$4,000 to get a mural painted on the wall. He advised that he will provide a picture of the mural.

Mayor Taylor thanked Rev. Johnson for the gardeners work and advised that she would have them put on the agenda for a vote.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Lankford commented that the garden is great, and he commends the volunteers. He advised that he is looking forward to the project getting underway.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he will miss Ms. Finucan. He commented that after a recent event, he found that there was no air conditioning upstairs at the fire hall and we need to look at funding to help.

Councilman Banks commented that he feels that the City can finally move forward with many projects with the help from the State agencies. He noted he had been contacted by Deneen Ward, Director of Adult Community Development concerning a 9-credit training program at Wor Wic.

Councilman Banks thanked Mr. Loar for his work and inquired when the 36-sewer work will start. Mr. Loar advised that they could begin investigating soon.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked Councilman Banks for the information from Ms. Ward. She thanked Long Term Recovery for all their work. She advised that she hates to see Ms. Finucan go. Councilwoman Johnson noted that National Night Out was a success with over 200 people and thanked all who volunteered. She noted that we need to hold a Volunteer recognition. She thanked CPD for their hard work.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the Summer Youth Program that the City used to participate in. Mrs. Morgan advised that we don't have it any longer, as we need someone to manage the workers and lack the staff.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she had nothing for discussion.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone in attendance. She referred to the meeting at the Marina with Mary Taylor and Mr. Wunder concerning their 10 year project, which includes piping, in conjunction with fitting projects together. She noted that they will need to obtain permission from the City.

Mayor Taylor referred to the Community Engagement Forum and noted that Beacon is putting together a facilitator and we will need to approve the cost.

Mayor Taylor referred to a recent meeting with Tidal Health representatives, noting that she had asked them for a presentation at a City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MC08102022

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

