

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin A & E Gallery.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer/Administrator; Chief David Dalfonso; Jennifer Merritt; Darlene Taylor and Michael Rosato, Artist.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed session of February 24, 2021, the regular session of February 24, 2021, the special meeting of March 3, 2021, the regular session of March 10, 2021, and the work session of March 24, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION – INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ARTIST, MICHAEL ROSATO, DARLENE TAYLOR, AND JENNIFER MERRITT- SEAFOOD WORKERS MURAL

Mr. Rosato thanked everyone for meeting with him, noting that the question now is “where will the Mural go, since the previous location at 347 W. Main Street is no longer an option.

Mrs. Merritt briefed on the A & E background story leading up to the mural working with GCAC and DHCD, and the previous plans to place it on Main Street. She noted that Ms. Taylor and Council Vice President Banks took the lead in this project.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the project and plans, and shared her enthusiasm for the mural which honors crab pickers' legacy and history. She advised that her vision for the new location was the Crisfield Municipal Park. Mr. Rosato, who is an internationally known artist, with work in

various countries and states, including at the Smithsonian, noted that the mural tells the story of the history of the seafood worker and will provide a rich experience for visitors. He advised that the painting is 10' by 28' with an 11 inch border titled Crisfield Maryland Heritage.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the community meeting that was held here with 20-30 people in attendance and noted that there was some valuable community input.

Mayor Dize commented that the only thing needed was the location. Ms. Taylor agreed.

Councilwoman Scott asked Mr. Rosato to share his background. Mr. Rosato advised that he had done various paintings that shared stories.

Councilwoman Scott inquired how the mural in Cambridge affected tourism. Mr. Rosato advised that the mural had brought in millions of dollars in tourism.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the timeline for getting it up. Mrs. Merritt advised that this depends on getting the grant funding and getting the wall constructed to put it on up. Mayor Dize inquired about the cost of the wall. Mrs. Merritt advised that she was not sure of the cost.

Councilman Atkins made reference to it being a permanent structure. Mr. Rosato advised that it will be mounted on a concrete with rebar wall.

Councilman Atkins inquired why it wasn't placed at 415 W. Main Street. Ms. Taylor advised that there was not enough visibility and there was also a propane tank. Mayor Dize noted that the sign in Cambridge has a grassy area in front.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that the Park Commission would need to provide input.

Council Vice President Banks noted that the sketch on the screen is no comparison to the one in the studio. Mayor Dize advised that he will reach out to the Park Commission tomorrow.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer deferred her reporting time to Chief Dalfonso, noting that a full report was in the Mayor and Councils packet.

Chief David Dalfonso presented and highlighted his quarterly report. He noted that progress has been made in making the Crisfield Police Department a professional agency.

Councilwoman Scott addressed the Chief concerning the 1200 calls noted in the report. Chief Dalfonso advised that most are complaints of various natures i.e. traffic, accidents, etc.

Chief Dalfonso highlighted information concerning grants received, including a USDA grant for two new patrol vehicles. He also made reference to the GOCP Grant for Central Square Information Sharing and UCR and NIBS Reporting. He noted that the cost to the City will be approximately \$3,500 per year starting next year.

Dean Bozman, Code Administration/Public Utilities, reviewed and highlighted his quarterly report. Councilwoman Scott inquired if there were any new builds. Mr. Bozman advised that there were none this quarter. He went on to review his report, highlighting pictures of the Norris Harbor Culvert Replacement. Council Vice President Banks suggested posting “No Swimming” signs there.

Mr. Bozman also made reference to the pictures of the asbestos removal at the Armory and advised that the next step will be to put out an RFP for the roof. Mr. Bozman also noted that the kayak launch installation is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Mr. Bozman made reference to the Stop Light and noted that the age of the light is causing disrepair. He advised that he had contacted Carter Electric and a rebuild will cost \$4,612.80 and a total replacement will cost \$11,800. Councilman Atkins inquired about the cost of the recent repair. Mrs. Morgan advised that it was \$4,500.

Mr. Bozman also presented pictures of the recent ditch cleaning project. He noted that the drainage study presentation will be given on May 19th.

Mr. Bozman also noted that the Safe Route to School will be observed next Tuesday, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Bozman made reference to the scheduled depot clean-up for May 8th and plans for power washing the boardwalk, planting flowers, painting the pavilion upper deck and painting the benches on the green space.

Mr. Bozman highlighted and reviewed the public utilities report.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she appreciates all of the work his department does.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to making a decision concerning the stoplight. Mayor Dize advised that is ok to open this item for discussion.

Councilman Atkins commented that there are 2 options; repair is not viable, so we either replace it or don't, but we have to change the Charter. He commented that a stoplight is a wind hazard and he is leaning toward a 4 way stop.

Mayor Dize asked Mr. Bozman if there is a warranty on a new light. Mr. Bozman advised that he would check.

Council Vice President Banks advised that we can't keep throwing away \$4,000 at a time, and we don't have \$11,000 either, therefore he is ok with the 4 way stop and changing the Charter.

Mr. Sullivan advised that it would just require a Code change.

Councilwoman Scott concurred that it is not needed and is ok with a 4 way.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that being a "one stoplight town" is a tourist attraction and a guide point for various locations. He advised that he is not in favor of doing away with it. Councilman Ford advised that he agrees with Councilman Goldsborough. Councilwoman Scott commented that she had never seen any literature referencing Crisfield as a "one stoplight town."

Following this discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion that the stoplight on Main & Somerset not be replaced or repaired, and the City Code be changed to reflect that. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried 3-2 (Opposed – Councilman Goldsborough and Councilman Ford)

Mayor Dize introduced Kate Finucan, the City's new Grant Writer/Administrator, who presented updates on current grant applications and grants that are in the works. Mayor Dize noted that Ms. Finucan has been here for two months and had presented the most comprehensive updates that have been given thus far.

2ND READER FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE #702

Mr. Sullivan presented Ordinance #702 for 2nd Reader and read into record the summary at the top of page one. Approval for 2nd reader so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0.

CONTRACT OF SALE – 347 W. MAIN STREET

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the EDU's and assignment prior to closing. He advised that the owner must move forward with the closing and the transfer of the EDU must be 1) in City limits, 2) accounts must be paid current (which they are not) and 3) they must own the property.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the Contract of Sale. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott made reference to the 7 EDU's. Mr. Sullivan advised that by the 2nd meeting in May, they will be processed. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan made reference to a Title issue with 339 W. Main Street. He advised that there is an open mortgage and a Certificate of Satisfaction must be issued. Failure to comply will force the City to move forward.

Mr. Sullivan noted that he had spoken with Mr. Biebart concerning the Carvel Hall Contract of Sale for approval. He advised that Mr. Biebart is both professional and knowledgeable and he is relieved that they will be a professional partner. He added that he doesn't feel the Contract will be approved before August 11, 2021.

Mr. Bozman noted that he had received a reminder from Tim Howlett concerning the depot clean up that Artist Robin Daniels has planned to paint a large crab in the middle of the lower platform. Mr. Bozman noted that Mr. Howlett is submitting an Event Application. Mrs. Morgan noted that there is a request for a letter of funding support for the painting of the crab.

Councilman Atkins advised that he is ok with the artwork. Councilwoman Scott commented that she would like to see the proposal. Council Vice President advised that he would also like to see it.

Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve the crab artwork by Ms. Daniels, contingent upon receipt of the Event Application. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried 4-1 (Councilman Ford voted Nay).

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Vice President Banks complimented on the good Department Head reports and progress that has been made and the Budget Work Session which educates citizens.

Councilman Ford had nothing to report.

Councilman Goldsborough had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Scott commented that it is good to have people in the community stepping up to help with projects such as the depot.

Councilman Atkins commented that it pangs the heart, when something that you've known your whole life is gone, hopefully we've made the right decision to eliminate the stoplight. He also noted that he would have information from Donn Bibb for the next meeting. He also noted that we now have our first electric charging station in Crisfield, located at the new library. Councilman Atkins noted that 101 Military Banners have been ordered, with a preview program scheduled for Saturday, May 15 at the Crab Bowl. Councilman Atkins also noted that he is hoping to soon have the DP& L pole contract. Councilman Atkins reminded everyone to have their Ethics Forms turned in soon, as they are due on April 30th.

Mayor Dize noted that Charlotte Avenue has been opened back up. Mayor Dize thanked the Department Heads for their phenomenal work. Mayor Dize noted his appreciation for the City Council.

Mrs. Morgan made reference to working on the DP & L contract through email. Mr. Sullivan advised that this was ok. Mrs. Morgan also read a statement from Mr. Howlett that he had received form the Health Department concerning Covid requirements.

Council Vice President Banks also commended Mrs. Morgan for the phenomenal job she does.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Vice President Banks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ford, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary