

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman
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; Tiffany McMahon; Chief Eric Lee; La Fabian Marshall; Jason Loar; Jennifer Merritt; Shanelle Haughton; Brian Fowler; Peter Hirschhoff; Richard Crumbacker; Tylia Lane; Trenton Brittingham; and Katelyn Coleman.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the past month's meetings. Council Vice President Banks presented minutes from the closed meeting of April 9, 2025, and the regular meeting of April 9, 2025, and made a motion to accept. Councilman. Goldsborough requested a clarification regarding the dock bids as presented by Miss Haughton.

Councilman Patel commented that he would like to receive the Power Point earlier to review items such as this one. Motion second by Councilman, Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Department Head Quarterly Reports

Mrs. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Mrs. Morgan noted that included in the packet was a sheet of listed required work sessions that are forthcoming.

She noted that on April 29th there will be a work session at 5 PM and then on the 12th or 13th of May. Mrs. Morgan advised that another work session will need to be held on May 14th at 5:00 and a Public Hearing for the water/sewer rates at 5:30. She advised that the first reader of the draft budget would be held on May 14th and 2nd reader on May 28th.

Mrs. Morgan went on to review profit and loss from July to March. She highlighted page 10 concerning the \$260K overage in water & sewer and the noted expenses. Mrs. Morgan advised Council to stop by her office if they would like detailed information on an account.

Chief Lee

Chief Lee reviewed the contents of his quarterly report highlighting its contents. He noted that two new officers will start the academy in July, with the current attendee graduating in June.

Chief Lee noted the R U OK program, which is highlighted on their Facebook Page, which is a program where CPD PCO's call and check on elderly residents. He noted that the program was the idea of CPD PCO Neilsen.

Chief Lee also noted the upcoming Bike Rodeo on May 12th.

Mr. Hirschhoff, Inspector

Mr. Hirschhoff reviewed activities from January to March in his department.

He advised that he is working on getting Software to streamline the permit process.

Councilman Banks inquired about the number of rental inspections for the City. Mr. Hirschhoff advised that it is 450.

Mr. Fowler, Public Works Director

Mr. Fowler reviewed activities in the public works department, highlighting various information.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the mulch at the park. Mr. Fowler advised that this is ADA certified mulch. Councilwoman Johnson also thanked Mr. Fowler for the installation of the canopy.

Mr. Fowler also noted that public works is now mowing city owned properties.

Ms. Haughton, Grants Adm.

Ms. Haughton reviewed a spread sheet of ongoing grant funded projects and what money has been spent and what is left. She noted that the Mold Remediation project for the Armory is on hold due to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the housing initiative which would be the demolition of four properties, noting that they would need to bid out for demolition. Mayor Taylor also made reference to a tour of a business incubator in Cambridge.

Ms. Haughton made reference to the city dock elevation and advised that GMB would be handling the permit, design, and management. She noted that the southeast pier will be raised 12 inches.

Ms. Holden advised that no bids were received for the Interpretive Sign. Mrs. Morgan suggested Mason graphics.

Ms. Haughton noted that she would be resigning as grant administrator as she is moving out of the area. She thanked the Mayor and Council and city staff for all their support.

Mr. Loar, City Engineer

Mr. Loar presented his quarterly report. He noted that the wind turbine is down and they are working on it today. He advised that it started, but the wind stopped so it shut down.

Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Parkinson is working on the night shift at the Plant to try and isolate the cause of the high nitrogen readings.

On-Line Payment Protection – Ms. Marshall

Ms. Marshall briefed the Mayor and Council on the soon to be implemented online payment security feature for water, sewer, and tax payments. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the material. She noted that customers would need a pin number to access their accounts. Mayor Taylor commented that this feature had been available but was just not enabled. She advised that this feature will roll out in June. Ms. Marshall advised that notifications will go out through bulk mailing and Facebook.

NFWF Grant – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt briefed the Mayor and Council concerning a Nature Based Solutions opportunity through tetra tech. She advised that George Mason University does a peer review of the city of Crisfield outreach. She advised that their goal is to develop a 30/60% design for nature based solutions, including living breakwaters at the Little Annemessex River, marsh restoration and oyster, reef placement, and storm surge modeling.

Mrs. Merritt advised that the city needs to approve the City partnering with George Mason University.

At this time Council Vice President Banks made a motion to move forward with partnering with George Mason University. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried in unanimously

Public Input - No public input

Youth Council Report

Miss Coleman made reference to the current student survey and she found that students do not want a waterpark and don't feel the city should invest in one because they feel students would lose interest fast.

Council Vice President Banks commented that a waterpark is a lot of work, but also noted that there could be an aquatic center inside the waterpark as another feature.

Miss Coleman also noted that students feel the armory could be used for movies. If everything lines up she inquired what the next step would be. Mrs. Merritt advised that there could be multiple uses.

A discussion followed concerning the use of removable seating and screens. Councilman Goldsborough noted that there is a lot of work to get done and it would be a nonprofit theater.

Mayor Taylor commented that it would be a long process to get this done.

Mr. Brittingham noted that he had been inducted into the math honor society

Ms. Lane inquired about any other events coming up that youth could help with.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked the youth council for their quarterly report. He also gave a shout out to Chief Lee and a shout out to the youth council.

Council Vice President Banks thanked the department heads for the great reporting. He noted that the three-day cleanup went great and there will be one scheduled for the fall. Council Vice President Banks commented that he is sorry to see Miss Haughton leave.

Councilwoman Johnson concurred with Council Vice President Bank's comments. She noted that the park commission will hold a meeting on April 29 at 6 PM. She thanked everyone for their great reports commenting that they make the Mayor and City Council look good. She also thanked Elks Lodge number 194 for selecting her to be the Grand Marshall for the Organizational Day parade.

Councilman Patel thanked city staff for their quarterly reports and also thanked the youth council. He also suggested contacting Mrs. Billy Chandler concerning community service hours. Councilman Patel congratulated Councilwoman Johnson for being selected the Grand Marshall of the Elks Organizational Day parade.

Councilman Lankford thanked everyone for their quarterly reports. He noted that he would miss Ms. Haughton. He also commended the youth council on the good job they are doing.

Mayor Taylor commented that she is happy with city staff and the work that they are doing. She thanked also Mr. Illuminati and Ms. McMahon. Mayor Taylor noted that Miss Parks will also be leaving, and her last day is Friday.

Mayor Taylor made reference to upcoming city events; the Organizational Day parade, and the remote-control car race. Ms. Marshall advised that she would put out a Code Red notification for these events.

There being no further business for discussion councilman Johnson made motion to adjourn seconded by councilman banks and carried unanimously meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

