

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and 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
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Kate Finucan, Janet Johnson, Lafabian Marshall, Jason Loar, Chief Rick Taylor; and Julio Trejo.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins presented and made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of the Special Meeting of April 13, 2022 and the Closed Meeting of April 13, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously, 5-0.

PRESENTATION TO JULIO TREJO

Mayor Dize presented a certificate of appreciation and gift card to Julio Trejo in recognition of his outstanding service and recognition as Rookie Water/Waster Water Operator of the year from Maryland Rural Water.

BORROWING RESOLUTION #449 LINE OF CREDIT

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the Resolution which modifies the City's line of Credit for emergencies, to \$100,000, from Hebron Savings Bank. She noted various repairs that had to be previously used. The bank has asked that we reduce the balance of \$92,000 to a 5 year loan and convert back to a \$100,000 line of credit.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve Resolution #449. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough.

Discussion – Council Vice President Banks made reference to the money from the Cares Act and if this

would qualify. Mrs. Morgan advised that the majority of the funds had been allocated for infrastructure as voted on previously.

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

BORROWING ORDINANCE

Mrs. Morgan advised that this Borrowing Ordinance cleans up the line of credit. She noted that the America Rescue Fund is allocated for water and sewer repairs.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she thought there was \$200 to \$300K left. Mrs. Morgan advised that \$1.9 is for sewer line, \$200K for isolation valves and we have \$1.2 now.

Council Vice President Banks made the recommendation that we pay off the debt in the next allocation of rescue funds to pay off the loan and made a motion that with the next ARF allotment we pay off the debt from the previous repairs and proceed with the Borrowing Ordinance and pay that off with the next CARES money. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

DISCUSSION – Councilman Atkins commented that it makes sense to pay off the debt, but we will need a lot of grant money for the CIP plan; so what is the best situation. Council Vice President Banks commented that this would be for another discussion. Councilman Atkins commented that we don't want to shoot ourselves in the foot by using the CARES money or they may want to know why we are applying for grant money if we don't need it.

With no further discussion, the motion carried with four ayes and one opposed (Councilman Atkins)

ORDINANCE INCREASING GARBAGE COLLECTION FEE FIRST READER

Councilman Atkins read into record the Ordinance Increasing the Garbage Collection fee. He then made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader, with amendments. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 5-0.

RESOLUTION 450 – DISCONTINUATION OF RECYCLING SERVICE AT THIS TIME

Mrs. Morgan noted that the option to leave the service available should we be able to add it back in was included in the resolution.

Councilman Atkins read into the record Resolution 450 and made a motion that it be adopted. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 5-0.

WATER ORDINANCE 708 – 2ND READER

Councilman Atkins read into the record Water Ordinance 708 and made a motion to adopt it for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 5-0.

SEWER ORDINANCE #709 -SECOND READER

Councilman Atkins read the Sewer Ordinance into record and made a motion that it be adopted for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 5-0.

BUDGET ORDINANCE #710 – SECOND READER

Councilman Atkins read Budget Ordinance #710 into the record and made a motion to adopt if for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough

DISCUSSION -Councilwoman Scott inquired about discussion for money for a City Manager.

Mayor Dize advised that the only way to make it work would be to raise taxes or cut each department by 5% and he could not see doing either. Council Vice President Banks advised that he would like to have heard this before tonight and had wanted to see a detailed budget. Councilman Atkins advised that we have had multiple budget meetings to discuss different sub-sections. Council Vice President Banks advised that this was not the detailed budget he wanted to see and wanted information beforehand. Mrs. Morgan advised that the \$20K in garbage from raising the collection fee is the only change.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we need a person to go to, a person to oversee departments and lead in development. She noted that the Lofton report cites having a City Manager, and the City doesn't have anyone in that capacity. She commented that we don't have enough people working and we have to do and find money but the will is not here.

Councilman Goldsborough stated that nobody doesn't agree that we don't need one, but the current staff does not make enough now and a 5% cut would be devastating and he is not willing to raise taxes.

Councilwoman Scott suggested looking for another way, start with a part time person, we have \$30K. Councilman Goldsborough commented that we need to find a foreman for public works.

Councilman Atkins reiterated the two solutions to hire a City Manager; raise taxes or cut salaries.

Mayor Dize commented that the solution is to have a paid Mayor and if he gets elected for another term, this will be his last and he will propose that solution. Council Vice President Banks noted that we can say its "a solution" but not "the solution".

At this time, Mayor Dize called for a vote on the adoption of the Budget for 2nd Reader.

Ford – opposed, Banks – opposed, Scott – opposed, Atkins – in favor, Goldsborough – in favor.

The motion died, defeated 3-2.

Councilman Atkins inquired of Mr. Baldwin the repercussion of not adopting the Budget.

Mr. Baldwin advised that he had not prepared for this situation, but going forward, the City will remain in a holding pattern.

Mrs. Morgan advised that the Budget goes into effect 20 days after 2nd reader. She advised that we have 2 days to adopt it for 2nd reader in order for it to go into effect by July 1, 2022.

Councilman Atkins commented that we risk being taken over by the State.

FIRST READER FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE

Mr. Baldwin read the Ordinance aloud, noting that the City could address this portion to amend the self-mobilized portion and the second piece after the Planning Commission meets.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adopt the Food Truck Ordinance Amendment. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 5-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Vice President Banks commented that it is his job to guide and make proper decisions and he would never raise taxes to hurt people. He advised that we need to grow our tax base and repair infrastructure through economic development. He stated that he is not here to fight but to do the right thing. He commented that the condos were built on the same infrastructure so that's not why we can't grow.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that our citizens see failure, bad roads, etc. How can we grow private businesses when people can't get to their homes due to standing water so our infrastructure is not working and we need to upgrade? He commented that to grow the city, we will cause others to flood.

Councilman Ford thanked all who had voted for him.

Councilman Atkins commented that he had never had the experience where a Budget fails only because someone wants to do things different in the future. He commented that we will get no loans, grants, and risk losing our incorporation. He advised that he is shocked because there is no valid reason. He added that we have 48 hours to make a decision but he doesn't know how.

Councilwoman Scott commented that her house is for sale, and the sale price is comparative to one on Deal Island with a similar price point. She commented that Deal Island has very little compared to us. She noted that people are retiring here, and we will need someone to carry us through growing the City.

Mayor Dize thanked everyone for allowing him to serve. He commented that if this is his last meeting, he has been humbled and honored to serve the City this past four years. He commented that the City will grow, but not too much. He thanked the citizens and added that he loves Crisfield.

Councilman Atkins made reference to plans to adopt the Budget. Mr. Baldwin advised that we have a 2-day deadline. Mrs. Morgan advised that we must set the tax rate or we will not receive a tax roll from the County.

It was determined that a meeting would be held on Friday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary