

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor, via Zoom
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President, Via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Absent – Councilman Casey Goldsborough – vacation

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Kyle Tyler; Jason Loar; Mary Buffington; Richard Crumbacker; Bill Meyer; Frances Myer; Capt. Lonnie Luedtke; Ruthie Todd; Angela Todd; Jonathan Todd.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 14, 2023. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried 3-0.

Swearing in of Ruthie L. Todd, Councilwoman

Mayor Taylor introduced Ruthie Todd to be sworn in as a member of City Council to finish out the term of Councilwoman Charlotte Scott.

At this time, Clerk of the Court for Somerset County, Deputy Clerk Angela Todd administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Todd, during which time, Councilwoman Todd signed both the Clerk's Book and the City of Crisfield book.

Mayor Taylor welcomed Councilwoman Todd on board, noting that she was excited to have her on the team.

Councilwoman Todd noted that she is proud to be here, adding that it had been a long time since she had previously served on City Council. She commented that her heart is with the Police Department, adding that she would help with National Night out in August.

Presentation from the Greater Crisfield Action Coalition

Frances Myers reviewed a power point presentation with data concerning various real estate statistics.

Councilman Banks thanked her for the presentation, noting that the data is helpful.

Mayor Taylor referred to the last slide – “How do we define success” specifics, and inquired what area GCAC is working in and what they are doing to define success.

Mrs. Myers advised that they are getting ready to place an ad in the Regional Association of Home Builders and will continue to work with the City. She commented that she feels this Administration has expressed their need to grow.

Councilwoman Todd commented that she would like to review the plans to be able to work together with GCAC, not be at odds with them.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that she appreciates the presentation and would like more details and be able to meet more. Mrs. Myers advised that she would like to have a City liaison on the GCAC Board.

Council Vice President Lankford thanked her for the presentation and noted that he looks forward to working together.

Mayor Taylor advised that she agrees with Councilwoman Johnson, and we do need a liaison. She also thanked Mrs. Myers for the Greater Salisbury meeting connection.

Councilman Banks noted that a presentation was offered 5-6 years ago, and then City Manager, Rick Pollitt, was the City liaison.

Appointments –

Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, Mary Buffington– Ditch Mapping, GIS Circuit Rider program and RMPIF Funding

Ms. Buffington reviewed her program presentation and the various services provided.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked Ms. Buffington for her presentation.

Councilwoman Todd inquired who would be doing the ditching. Mrs. Merritt advised that this would be addressed.

Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Buffington, noting that the drainage problem was a big issue when she came into office. She advised that Mrs. Merritt knew of a contact to do the ditching. She advised that the current drainage system does not work, adding that the work done by Ms. Buffington's organization was so important.

Council Vice President Lankford noted that this was a great presentation.

Councilman Banks commented that it shows that the City of Crisfield and administration works hard to address issues.

Introduction of new Director of Business Development, A. C. Alrey – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor introduced Mr. A. C. Alrey, Director of Business Development. Mr. Alrey noted that he is glad and excited to be here, noting that the City has a lot of potential.

Councilman Banks noted that this is a new position, designated by Mayor Taylor.

Jennifer Merritt – Quarterly Report

Mrs. Merritt reviewed and highlighted her quarterly report. Mayor Taylor noted that in reference to the BRIC project, it would be done in two phases, due to the large amount of funding.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the Sustainable Community Project is going well, with a group of various members, headed by Tracey Gordey, MDOP, meeting twice a month.

Mrs. Merritt also noted that the laptops will be delivered tomorrow.

Mayor Taylor also noted that City needs a Housing and Community Resources Coordinator. She thanked Mrs. Merritt for her report noting that it allows the Council to see the different projects in the works.

Public Input

Mr. Bill Mayer commented that he would like to see new businesses in Crisfield and advised that he will be opening the former Mermaid Shanty with the new name of “Munchies”. He noted that he is impressed by the work of the Mayor and Council.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Todd commented that she is happy to be back. She noted that she is glad to see the flooding issues are being addressed. She also noted that she needs to have some clarification on the role of GCAC.

Council Vice President Lankford welcomed Councilwoman Todd and Mr. Alrey on board. He noted that Mr. Alrey will also be working on Main Street revitalization. He thanked Mrs. Merritt for her updates and noted that he is glad to be part of the team.

Councilwoman Johnson welcomed Councilwoman Todd and Mr. Alrey on board.

She thanked Mrs. Merritt for all her hard work. She added that the City has a lot on its plate and is doing a lot. Councilwoman Johnson thanked the City staff for all of their hard work, noting that employees need to be thanked more.

Councilman Banks apologized to those watching on Facebook, noting that it was due to Verizon services.

He commented that he has been meeting for 3 years and is excited about what we are doing. He noted that he is excited to have a Director of Business Development and welcomed Councilwoman Todd on board.

Mayor Comments/Discussion –

Mayor Taylor noted that she missed being there in person.

She thanked the County Commissioners for the two houses on Broadway that need to be demolished. She noted that they would be built on right away, with ESLTR looking at assisting.

Mayor Taylor noted that the City has a lot on its plate. She thanked Councilwoman Todd for joining the team. She also noted that there would be a work session asap. She also noted that a town hall meeting is necessary.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their hard work and thanked Mr. Illuminati for his advice.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Sec.