

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President, VIA Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor
Rick Taylor, Chief of Police

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Members of Maryland Legal Aide and Mid Shore Pro Bono; Brandi Horner, DSS; Vanessa Jones; Jennifer Merritt; Rev. Johnson; Kyle Tyler. Absent, Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson.

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

Councilman Banks made a motion approve the minutes from the December 14th meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 4-0.

MID SHORE PRO-BONO, LEGAL AIDE INFORMATION

Elliott Earhart, Case Manager and Bibi Barnes, Esq. advised that cases are scheduled for court on Mondays for housing related issues. She also noted that they also help with Rental Assistance, but there is not much available. She noted that there is an expungement clinic at the Somerset County Health Department on March 29th. Mayor Taylor inquired what the fee is for the clinic. Ms. Earhart and Ms. Barnes advised that there is no fee if the person is qualified. Mayor Taylor inquired how much lead time is needed for their services. Ms. Earhart advised that the tenant should contact them as soon as they get the notice. Mayor Taylor advised that there are several local evictions scheduled at the Housing Authority.

Richard Crumbacker inquired if the services extend to subsidized housing, i.e. the Housing Authority. Ms. Earhart advised that it does.

Jamie Maliman, Maryland Legal Aide, advised that she handles cases on the Lower Eastern Shore. She advised that she was there to address the Housing issue. She noted that tenants need to go to court and should reach out to legal services once they receive an eviction notice. She advised that subsidized housing charges 30% of a tenant's income and she wants more information about the Housing Authority evictions. She advised that there are 80 cases scheduled for the Housing Authority on Monday. She advised that the need to go to court, get a ledger of their payments, and call legal services.

Ms. Brandi Horner, DSS, noted that those are past evictions, 8, 9, 10, months. She commented that it is unusual to see such a high volume of cases in public housing.

Council Vice President Lankford inquired how long it takes to be assigned a representative. Jaimie advised that it can be within a week or at that minute. Councilwoman Johns commented that it is 80 families.

Ms. Earhart noted that their contact email is midshoreprobono.org.

BRANDI HORNER, DSS, SOMERSET COUNTY, RE: MARYLAND LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)

Mrs. Horner appeared by the Mayor and City Council concerning their water assistance program. She advised that this was initiated by Ms. LaFabian Marshall. She advised that they are helping 9 applicants in the City of Crisfield.

Councilwoman Scott inquired who qualifies for help. Mrs. Horner advised that anyone who receives SSI, SNAP, and TCA are all categorically eligible. Ms. Marshall advised that the information would be at City Hall.

CRISFIELD GARDNERS – UPDATE – INFO

Pastor Johnson thanked the City for the use of the water. He advised that there is new signage. And a cart for people to take produce. He also made reference to community flower beds for people to rent the beds for \$5.00. Pastor Johnson noted that they are adding blueberry bushes. He also advised that they will need some help from the City with watering at the Depot.

Councilwoman Scott commented that there may be people who want to do the watering. Mayor Taylor advised that she would like to see it be through volunteers, as public works is

short of staff. Councilman Goldsborough commented that it could be self-watering. Pastor Johnson also noted that primer has been applied to the building wall that faces the Garden.

GIRL SCOUTS PRESENTATION

Mrs. Anette Bagley introduced Lilly Funderburg and Brae'Lynn Hankerson, members of Girl Scout Troup 185, out of Westover, who gave a presentation about missing lifesavers at the dock by the Crisfield Library in their project titled "Saving Lives By the Dock", which earned a silver medal.

Mayor Taylor advised that she is honored that Crisfield was selected for this project and wants to work with them.

Councilwoman Scott noted that this is a very impressive project, and commended the girls on their courage to present.

Council Vice President Lankford thanked them for their presentation.

JENNIFER MERRITT, GRANT WRITER/ADMINISTRATOR – REVIEW OF EARMARKS

Mrs. Merritt reviewed a power point concerning earmarks for the City Dock repair. She noted that she had requested \$2M in the earmark process from Senator's Cardin and Van Hollen's office.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the dock is the focal point of the City of Crisfield and we want to use it more in the realm of economic development, community development and health and wellness.

Councilman Banks commented that the timing is great as it is a focal location that we would like to incorporate into an entertainment venue.

MAYOR TAYLOR – HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – VANESSA JONES

Mayor Taylor introduced her appointment to the Housing Authority Commission, Vanessa Jones. Mayor Taylor swore her in and Ms. Jones signed the City's Swearing In book.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL – VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF NEW INSPECTOR, KYLE TYLER

Mr. Tyler introduced himself, noting that his is a 2013 graduate of Crisfield High School and a member of the Pocomoke Fire Department.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to hire Mr. Kyle Tyler as City Inspector. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Annette Bagley, Girl Scout Troup Leader, thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing their presentation concerning life rings at the library dock.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Banks thanked everyone for their presentations at this evening's meeting.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked everyone for the presentations and the new hire.

Council Vice President Lankford welcomed Kyle onboard and congratulated Ms. Vanessa Jones for her appointment on the Housing Authority Board. He also noted that Legal Aide had some great information and asked that it be provided for the evictees.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she had some updates on the Ferry. She advised that the partners meet every Thursday and several firms have sent in letters of intent. She also welcomed Kyle onboard.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Taylor thanked all of the people who want to come in and share information for the community. She also thanked Mr. Illuminati's help concerning eviction concerns.

Mayor Taylor also gave a shout out to Ms. Caitlin Culotta for the great job she has done in the building inspection department and noted that she will continue to assist Mr. Tyler. She also congratulated Mr. Andre Collins for winning the Jefferson Award.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to adjourn,

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seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor noted that the next meeting would be a work session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary