

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President – via ZOOM
Eric Banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Ruthie Todd, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer

Also, in attendance; Chief Rick Taylor, Valerie Swift, Secretary; Keisha Evans, CHS Dean of Students; William Holland; Savannah Hall; Abigail Wise; Richard Crumbacker; Jennifer Merritt; John Wunder, Caitlin Culotta; and Jason Loar.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed meeting of October 11, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Swearing in of Crisfield High School Student Representatives – Mayor Taylor

Councilwoman Todd introduced Crisfield high School Student Representatives William Holland; Savanah Hall and Abigail Wise.

Mayor Taylor then swore in the three students, who signed the City record book.

Tri-County Council Information – Councilwoman Johnson

Councilwoman Johnson reviewed information concerning the Tri-County Council and what it does. Mayor Taylor noted that she would be re-appointing Councilwoman Johnson to serve in the capacity for the City. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is honored to continue serving.

Southern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Maintenance Plan Commitment Info – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed slides concerning the status of the Maintenance Plan Commitment.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that water and sewer will need to review the maintenance plan.

Quarterly Report – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed her quarterly report highlighting all the grants and projects she is administering.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Phil Goldsborough for his assistance with ground truthing for upcoming projects.

Councilman Banks commented concerning the bond bill for the dock design.

Mayor Taylor explained details about the Façade Grant.

Mrs. Merritt explained the use of the Armory.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that the Council had never voted on the use of the Armory building.

Councilman Goldsborough also inquired what would happen if we don't receive money for the lead service lines. Mayor Taylor advised that she feels that there will be funding.

First Reader – Cannabis Ordinance – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati presented the Cannabis Ordinance for First Reader, as recommended by the Planning Commission. He also noted that a Public Hearing will be held, which will be advertised twice. He also noted that the moratorium is still in place.

At this time, Mr. Illuminati reviewed and read the Ordinance aloud. He thanked the Planning Commission for their hard work.

At this time, the Mayor and Council reviewed map of the I-1 and I-2 zoned areas, which apply to the Ordinance. Councilman Goldsborough noted that he also believes there is an I-1 area at the Small Boat Harbor. He also advised that he feels any proposed cannabis business should go through the Special Exception process.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that we need to follow process and do what it fair. Councilwoman Todd concurred.

Student Council Abigail Wise inquired about the Special Exception process. Mayor Taylor advised that the applicant interested in a request a Special Exception to appear and be heard by, the Board of Zoning Appeals for a decision. Councilman Goldsborough added that its an extra step, but it helps citizens.

Crisfield Police Department Raffle Drawing – Chief Taylor

Chief Taylor noted that CPD had done a raffle to help with the K-9, noting that Mission BBQ had donated a gift basket. He noted that Mary Taylor was the winner.

Optimize Renewable Energy Information – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that there would be a presentation at the November 29th meeting.

Temporary Housing for Elevation – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that a temporary solution has been found for this issue. She noted that the City needs to support the work of the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee in their construction and elevation projects.

Councilman Goldsborough noted the County's stipulation about allowing anyone to live in a camper.

Upcoming City Events – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor reviewed the upcoming activities in the City -16th Century Tall Ship visiting Crisfield at Somers Cove Marina – Opening Ceremony Thursday, November 9th 9:00 a.m., Veteran's Day Saturday, November 11, 2023, Thanksgiving November 23rd & 24th, Christmas in Crisfield Saturday, November 25th, Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 1st 5-7.

Auto Payment Option for Customer Bill Payment – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that the City now offers another option for customers to pay their bills.

Public Input

George Friedley commented about Gerald's Ditch and the pump stations and tide gate. He also made reference to the proposed improvements to the dock and raising the bulkhead.

Council Comments

Student City Government Member Savanah Hall noted that she is glad for this opportunity.

Student City Government Member William Holland advised that he is glad to have a voice in City government.

Student City Government Member Abigail Wise added that this is a great opportunity and thanked the Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Todd noted that she grateful to have the students here.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is glad to have the student representatives here and is impressed with their backgrounds. She noted that this is a great selection of students.

Councilman Banks thanked City Staff and the Mayor and Council for all that they do. He also thanked the Student City Government members.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked the students and encouraged them to stay involved in government. He also thanked the city for the auto pay feature.

Council Vice President Banks thanked the students, noting that we need their perspective. He advised that he would be reaching out to them for their input and ideas concerning Main Street Re-development. He also thanked the staff members.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor noted that she expects ideas from the youth members. She noted that one of the focus projects was to make an impact and engage youth.

Mayor Taylor thanked the staff and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by;

Valerie Swift
Secretary