

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, via zoom and Facebook live.

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

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

Mayor Dize noted that there were no minutes to approve.

Mayor Dize noted that Mr. Bozman had resigned at the end of the year.

CONTINUED STREET RATING DISCUSSION

Mayor Dize advised that with Mr. Bozman gone, he had asked Mrs. Morgan to re-group street rating. Mrs. Morgan advised that Ms. Finucan had updates on 5th Street and South Somerset Avenue.

Ms. Finucan advised that she had contacted Mr. Jerry Bozman of Bozman Paving as per Mr. Dean Bozman's information. Mr. Jerry Bozman advised that due to the weather and the asphalt plants being closed, as well as needing a week of temps above 40, he would stay in touch concerning the project. Mayor Dize advised Ms. Finucan to continue to follow up.

Councilwoman Scott commented that Mr. Dean Bozman had said if we got the project approved early enough, it would have gotten done the first of the year. She advised that she felt it could have been done and disagrees that it was weather related.

Mayor Dize advised that we got put off by the contractor and now it is too cold, but we are still number one for when it can get done and we require the least amount of prep work.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we can't do anything now, but if the paver doesn't live up to the timetable, we may need to rethink it. Mayor Dize commented that Mr. Bozman has been an asset in the past and he is not sure why it didn't get done. Councilman Goldsborough inquired if the price would stay firm? Mayor Dize advised that it would.

Mrs. Morgan advised that we could hold on the other streets until Mr. Bozman's replacement is in place.

Council Vice President Banks commented that if the asphalt plant is not open, we can't expect it to get done, but if temps are under 40 next week they should be able to. Ms. Finucan concurred.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the list of streets was presented in the minutes of December 9 and suggested deferring until we have a Public Works director in place.

Councilman Atkins commented that in reference to the locked in paving price, it is not in Mr. Jerry Bozman's best interest to delay the project due to rising prices. He advised that it should have been approved in October so it could have been done in November.

Mayor Dize advised that we need to keep paving in discussion throughout the year.

Councilwoman Scott reviewed that we are waiting on the paving of 5th Street and getting in a replacement for Mr. Dean Bozman. We can focus on the Norris Harbor Drive Study. She made reference to the process and time line for South Somerset Avenue drainage and paving and funding issues.

Ms. Finucan advised that she has contacted CES to get a date to start running the camera in the pipes. Mrs. Morgan also noted that she is researching if we can use ARF for stormwater corrections.

Mayor Dize made reference to the order of paving thus far; 5th Street, South Somerset and Spruce Street and noted that Spruce Street needs sidewalk, and curb and guttering. Mrs. Morgan advised that this needs to be reviewed for all streets before paving.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the Norris Harbor Engineering Study.

Mayor Dize advised that a clarification on the motion is needed of whether or not Mr. Loar is to Bid out the job or the entire study, or DBF provide a quote.

Councilman Atkins noted that he wanted it put out to bids to any firm, but did not intend to exclude DBF from bidding, in order to get the best price.

Mrs. Morgan reminded that this is a work session, so no vote can be taken, but we can put out an RFP tomorrow, and that would not exclude DBF.

Council Vice President Banks advised that it was his understanding that DBF was to give us the cost for the study, then we would put it out for bids. Mayor Dize advised that if they provided the cost, they would be excluded from bidding; if we put the RFP out, they can bid.

Councilman Atkins advised that in his motion, he did not intend to exclude DBF. His intent was to put out the job for bids, and accept the qualified low bidder.

Mr. Loar advised that he understood that the City needed an engineering study for Norris Harbor Drive; the City would put out the RFP, and then DBF could put in a bid, but if DBF creates the RFP, we cannot bid. He advised that Councilman added "Put out a study" to bid. Mayor Dize advised that we are not ready to do active construction; we need the study to provide to the State Reps so that they can see our need for help.

Further discussion followed. Mayor Dize reiterated that Ms. Finucan could prepare an RFP. Discussion continued about waiting until the next meeting to have a clear understanding of what was said in the motion.

BIDS RE; 328 W. MAIN STREET

Ms. Finucan read aloud the bid notice that had gone out for 328 W. Main Street. She advised that no bids had been received. Council concurred to put the discussion on the next agenda.

SUPPORT FROM CAROZZA'S OFFICE CONCERNING EMERGENCY VEHICLE FOR CFD

Mayor Dize made reference to providing a letter of support for the Crisfield Fire Department to Senator Carozza's office for an emergency surplus vehicle to be used in high water. Council concurred to support as long as there is no cost.

CITY RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mrs. Morgan advised that there are only 33 residents who participate in the City's curb side recycling program. She advised that they can carry their materials to the transfer station in Hopewell without needing a trash sticker and inquired how the Council would feel about discontinuing the program. She noted that Seagull does not do recycling.

Councilwoman Scott commented that Captain's Quarters had recycling bins, but when collected, it was all dumped together, so the time and energy was wasted.

Following further discussion, it was concurred that this item could be put on the next meeting agenda.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council Vice President Banks wished everyone a Happy New Year. He commented that he will continue to work to develop the downtown area and grow the City.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired of Mr. Baldwin the status of Carvel Hall. Mr. Baldwin advised that he had spoken to Mr. Bibart yesterday, who advised that he was working on the title search and hope to be settled this month.

Councilman Atkins commented that we voted on Carvel Hall last March, and they are only just now doing a title search. He advised that he feels its not going to happen.

Councilman Atkins noted that Broadband is only going to the Marina.

Mr. Loar advised that the turbine had been repaired and is now down again reference to the wind turbine being down since November and that Mr. Baldwin needs to contact the contractors. Mr. Baldwin advised that Bearing and Aeronautica are on the hook for August to December and a letter will be sent to try and come to settlement without litigation. Councilman Atkins inquired why it is down now. Mrs. Morgan advised that it went out on January 3rd due to hydraulics. She advised that the maintenance contract runs out this year and legal must handle it.

Councilman Atkins commented that PRMC is now in Crisis Mode and urged people to get their Covid shot and stay out of the hospital.

Mayor Dize noted that It Takes a Village was deeded the Whittington Primary property today.

Mayor Dize noted that Mr. Bozman and Mrs. Soukup had resigned from the City and both were good employees.

He advised that Ms. LaFabian Marshall would be coming back to work here and was a smart and responsible employee.

He noted that the ad for Mr. Bozman's job had gone out, noting that he would be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary (absent from meeting)