

MINUTES

The mayor and city Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Corbin studio and Gallery meeting room.

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor

Eric banks, Council Vice President via Zoom, due to illness

Ivan Lankford, Councilman via Zoom

Casey Goldsborough, Councilman

Laverne Johnson, Councilwoman

Hitesh Patel, Councilman

Joyce L Morgan, Treasurer/City Manager Clerk

Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance, Valerie Swift, Secretary, Shannelle Houghton, Peter Hirschhoff, Chief Eric Lee, Bryan Fowler, Jason Loar, DJ Parkinson, La Fabian Marshall, Tiffany McMahon, Richard Crumbacher, Mitchell Parks, Tim Canty, Susan Whited, Jim Estes, Jim Peters, James Hyde, Jennifer Collins, Michael Maddox, Alyssa Revell, Andy Hainey, Frankie Pruitt, Louis Hickman, Bryant Owens, Jeannie Hickman, Nikki Lee, Woody Lee, Jen Merritt, and Don Alcorn.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed meeting of February 12, 2025, and the regular meeting of February 12, 2025. Motion seconded I council woman Johnson and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION CRISFIELD FIRE DEPT.

Bryant Owens, president, Louis Hickman, passed president and Frankie Pruitt, chief of the Crisfield fire department appeared before the Mayor and Council to

thank them for the recent roof repair. Mr. Hickman advised that the fire department cannot do anything without the help of the Mayor and City Council.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked those present and the entire Crisfield Fire Department, noting that they are second to none.

At this time, Mayor Taylor presented a certificate of appreciation to outgoing president, Louis Hickman in appreciation for all of his hard work and years of service to the fire department.

PKS ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT- MS. REVELLE, MR. HAYNIE

Alyssa Revelle PKS Manager and Andy Haynie PKS President appeared before the Mayor and City Council to present the annual audit report for the city. Miss Revelle noted that the city has received the independent auditors report and noted that the city received a clean and unmodified opinion, which is the highest that can be awarded. She also noted that the state auditor's report has found that there are no issues of noncompliance.

She also advised that this year the city received a Single Audit and there are no issues of noncompliance as well. Mr. Haynie explained that the single audit is a more thorough audit because of federal funds. He went on to highlight various areas of the audit report. Mayor Taylor inquired about miscellaneous items category. Mr. Haynie advised that this is pension and insurances. Miss Revelle also noted that there has been significant net revenue increase.

Mr. Haynie noted that the losses in the water and sewer department and the difference in utilities is due to the windmill being out of operation, but the city is still to the good. Miss Revelle thanked Mrs. Morgan and city staff for their help during the audit and advised the Mayor and Council to reach out to them with any questions.

HYDRONET AND MESONET PRESENTATION

Tim Canty, PhD and Associate Professor and director of Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation concerning Hydro net climate resilience

network. He noted that the Hydro net is a water level sensor. He advised that they are there to help and will install the sensors. He noted that there is no cost for anything.

James Hyde of the UMD Maryland Mesonet, noted that this project is a statewide weather monitoring network that uses a highly accurate station. He advised that Maryland Mesonet proposes to install one station near the airport on the front lawn area, located on a pad on the right. He also noted that this station is free to the city.

Mayor Taylor advised that as this property is located the county, we would need the County Commissioners to sign off on this project as well. Mr. Hyatt advised that they have a template for a land use agreement. Mr. illuminati advised that he can draft the agreement.

Mr. Hyatt advised that the data goes to the National Weather Service. He also noted that it would be a land use agreement, not an easement. He advised that they do the maintenance and there is no cost.

After further brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve both the Hydronet and Mesonet projects. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Don Alcorn made reference to financial documentation concerning the projects.

QUARTERLY REPORT – MRS. MERRITT

Mrs. Merritt, climate resilience, and project consultant presented and reviewed her quarterly report.

Mrs. Merritt went on to review the slides concerning grants and loans as well as highlighting information concerning the status of the Crisfield flood mitigation project.

UPDATE PROJECT RESTORE – MS. HAUGHTON

Miss Haughton presented an update concerning Project Restore 2.0. She noted that the project was awarded to the following three; 1) Inspiration Healthcare located at 609 West Main St., #2, Indian Infusion Restaurant to be located at the former Hometown Sub location, and #3, Mama Bear Daycare, which will be located at 523–525 West Main St.

PATCH WORK – MR. FOWLER

Mr. Fowler made reference to road patching noting that Public Works is working on potholes, putting in gravel at this time. He noted that he has made a chart where large potholes are located; Ninth Street, Sixth and Broadway, Fourth and Cove, Norris Harbor Drive and Somerset to Cove.

He also advised that the street sweeper is up and running.

WIND TURBINE UPDATE – MR. LOAR

Mr. Loar updated the Mayor and Council concerning wind turbine. He noted that the rotor sensor is bad and also reviewed a proposed maintenance plan.

WATER LEAK UPDATE & TREATMENT PLANT – MR. PARKINSON

Mr. Parkinson reviewed the status of the various water leaks in the city. He noted that when the leak is fixed on Norris Harbor, we can put out a Code Red and use the cut-off valve that will work. He noted that Wednesdays will be designated for water leak repairs. He noted that the leak on Somerset Avenue will have to be repaired by Ryan Miller. He noted that public utilities would be digging out the hole on Friday themselves. He also noted that the leak on 10th and Broadway will also be repaired by Ryan Miller.

In reference to the wastewater treatment plant, Mr. Parkinson advised that he's been working with Mr. John McGee from Davis Bowen Fridell concerning the nitrogen level and what they have done so far has not worked. He advised that Moonshot has said they must remove the solids to get the nitrogen in line or implement plan number two which is more pumps. Mayor Taylor emphasized the need to get over the hurdle of the excess nitrogen level.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA – MR. ILLUMINATTI

Prior to Public Input, Mr. Illuminati noted that the agenda needs to be amended to resolve an issue regarding the Crisfield Somerset County Airport.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda as per the instruction of Mr. Illuminati. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel, and carried, with Councilman Goldsborough recusing himself from any vote concerning this matter, due to a potential conflict of interest as he is an employee of Somerset County, Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Illuminati noted that the County feels that the City of Crisfield should forgo receiving revenue from the airport hangars until they reach half of the cost (\$1.3M).

At this time, Councilman Patel made a motion that the City of Crisfield will forgo receiving any revenue from the airport hangars until they reach half of the cost (\$1.3M). Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried with a vote of “aye” from Councilman Patel, Councilwoman Johnson, Councilman Lankford and Council Vice President Banks, and abstention by Councilman Goldsborough. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Donald Alcorn commented that if the wind turbine is not producing sufficient energy, it needs to be fixed or removed. He also commented that he would like to see a document from Hydronet and Mesonet that their services are free.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Johnson asked the Council to consider a second session of public input.

Councilman Patel thanked all those in attendance, the presenters and City staff. He advised that he would have no problem with a 2nd session of Public Input, but the public must realize that no answers can be addressed then as well, and sessions could drag on with many complaints.

Council Vice President Banks requested prayers for healing from his current illness.

Councilman Lankford thanked everyone in attendance and all the presenters.

Councilman Goldsborough congratulated Mr. Hickman on his service to the fire department. He congratulated Mrs. Merritt on applying for a grant to restore Long Point and Great Point. He also made reference to discussion with Miss Utility. Mr. Parkinson advised that this concerns underground boring.

Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Hirschhoff had discovered a need for a code clarification concerning the proper rental registration fees. She advised that he will be working with Mr. illuminati to draft a document.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Taylor advised that she will hold on any statements and trust in God. She made reference to the recent death of a four-year-old girl as a result of an accident and asked for prayer for their family. She also asked that we pray for each other.

ADJOURNMENT

At this time councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ocean seconded by Councilman Patel and Carey unanimously Mayor Taylor also introduced Miss La Fabian Marshall the new Public Relations Officer. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan , Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager Prepared by Valerie Swift, Sec.