

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 12, 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 phone
Eric Banks, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor
Rick Taylor, Chief of Police

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Janet Johnson, LaFabian Marshall; Veridiana Hill; Stan Rayford; Richard Crumbacker. Absent – Councilman Casey Goldsborough

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

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order, opening 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 and Regular Meetings of May 24, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Department Head Reports –

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, presented her financial report for the year ending 6/30/2023. She noted that handouts are in everyone's packet and went on to review the summary total with comments. She also reviewed the additional funding that had come in.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Vacation Buy-out was successful and eliminated the City from liability of employees having excess vacation hours.

Rick Taylor, Chief of Police, reviewed his quarterly report and stats. He noted the changes in Juvenile Arrest levels; 9 and under – no charges, 10-12 – charges for Crimes of Violence, 13-17 – can be charged with misdemeanor.

Mayor Taylor inquired about the recent arson. Chief Taylor advised that it was under investigation by the Fire Marshall.

Swearing in of PFC Virdiana Hill

Mayor Taylor swore in Virdiana Hill as PFC, noting that she is glad to have her back.

John Wunder – Public Works/Utilities/Airport, reviewed and highlighted various areas of his report. He noted that Reynolds has started digs for the Isolation Valve project. Mr. Loar noted that the valve order could take two months.

Mayor Taylor referred to the RAS pumps and the cost for repair. Mr. Loar suggested a total replacement and bar screen.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the situation concerning the adaptive swing vandalism and noted that the City would be putting up signs.

Mayor Taylor briefed concerning 339 W. Main Street.

Kyle Tyler, Building Inspector. Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Tyler is out on paternity leave. Councilman Banks read Mr. Tyler's report aloud. Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Tyler is working with Councilman Goldsborough on revamping the City Code's nuisance ordinance. Mr. Illuminati noted that we would need a closed session concerning that matter at the next meeting.

Jason Loar, Engineer, reviewed his quarterly report. He noted that we need an updated communication system for the water towers. Mr. Loar noted that next October, the lead pipe inventory is due.

Mayor Taylor noted that we need the 36 Sewer lines done asap. Mr. Illuminati noted he would brief on the consent order at the Closed Meeting.

Laptop Update

Councilwoman Johnson noted that we are waiting on the other 250 to arrive. She advised that she had checked with Mr. Hickman, who had not heard from the company yet. Councilwoman Johnson also noted that the tablet and phone distribution was not through the City, but a private contractor.

Council Vice President Lankford inquired if there is a waitlist on the laptops. Councilwoman Johnson advised that it is first come, first served.

Marketing Team Update – Stan Rayford

Mr. Rayford briefed the Mayor and Council on the establishment of the Marketing team, their mission and plans for a jazz event on September 16th. Mayor Taylor commented that this is a tight timeframe in which to pull this event together.

Mayor Taylor inquired about Mr. Rayford's background. Mr. Rayford advised that he worked in the marketing department at Dupont and now is a Pastor and counselor.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Team also needs a message that is specific to Crisfield.

Vote on Vacant Council Seat

Mayor Taylor requested that this be tabled for the moment.

Public Input

No Public Input was offered at this time.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Johnson commented that the Park Commission needs to meet to discuss and make decisions about replacing the awnings at the City park. She also noted that a tree limb is poking through the canvas.

She made reference to the Main Street Revitalization Committee and people's response to a survey which indicates people would like to see an oyster bar, Dunkin Donuts, Rita's mom & pop shops, and a diner. She noted that input from the Community Forum includes all of Main Street.

Council Vice President Lankford thanked the Department Heads for their report. He noted that we are making progress. He advised that he would like to see the structural report for 339 W. Main Street.

He also noted that he has been having difficulty finding a provider for Broadband.

Councilman Banks thanked city staff for all that they do, commenting that we are moving forward. He advised that he would like to discuss the design for the dock, boardwalk, and hotel conference center. He also thanked Mr. Rayford for his presentation.

Mrs. Morgan noted that Councilman Goldsborough won't be available for the next meeting, but was ok with the City Council candidate.

Mayor Comments/Discussion

Mayor Taylor noted that Kyle Tyler would be back in the office on July 24th. She also advised that Mrs. Merritt is on vacation and would report at the next meeting.

Mayor Taylor offered condolences to the Wilson and Rolley families.

Mayor Taylor noted that we would hold a work-session meeting next month.

Mayor Taylor also commented about the need for holding town hall sessions.

She also gave a shout out to Robbie Mrohs for assisting her when she had a car problem.

Mayor Taylor also wished a happy birthday to her grandson, Legend, who is seven years old.

Mayor Taylor noted that the new Director of Business Development would be in on July 24, 2023. She also thanked Rev. Rayford for his presentation.

Mrs. Morgan also gave a shout-out to Ms. LaFabian Marshall for getting out tax bills in a timely manner. Mrs. Morgan also noted that Councilman Goldsborough has given his ok for voting on the council replacement.

At this time, Mayor Taylor requested a vote on the vacant Council seat. Councilman Banks made a motion to appoint Ruthie Todd to serve out the remaining term of Charlotte Scott. Motion seconded by Council-woman Johnson and carried 3-0, with Councilman Goldsborough in concurrence.

Mayor Taylor advised that Mrs. Todd would be sworn in at the next meeting.

Mayor Taylor noted the Saturday Gospel event at the Depot and Councilman Goldsborough will be giving the welcome. She also noted that Andre Collins will be holding Charlotte Avenue Day, with Captain Luedtke doing the cooking.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Banks and carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by;

Valerie Swift, Secretary