

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular work session on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook Live.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM

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
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance via Zoom; Valerie Swift, Secretary; David Dalfonso, Chief of Police; Jason Loar, City Engineer; and Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement.

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance via Facebook Live.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott opened with the Lord's Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW OF FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE

Mr. Sullivan advised that he had not received any comments from any members of Council, other than the change requested by Councilman Atkins of 83-16 for the license to be effective for one year from the date of issuance.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the floor was open to comments and if there were none, the document could be presented for First Reader at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Dize made reference to page Section 83-19 restricting a food truck from parking within 200 feet of the front of an operating business. He inquired if this is too close.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he feels this is too close and suggested considering 500 to 1000 feet, but it would be on a case by case basis.

Councilman Atkins suggested 500 feet. Council Vice President Banks advised that he is ok with 500.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she feels more is better, as well as restaurants, and advised that she is ok with 200 feet.

Councilman Atkins advised that he is ok with 200 or 500.

Council Vice President Banks commented that we could look into it as we grow. Mayor Dize commented that this (having a lot of restaurants) would be a good problem to have.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that he is ok with 200 feet, but questioned it for special events at the depot.

Councilwoman Scott commented that more business generates more traffic.

Councilman Ford commented that he doesn't see 200 feet downtown, and suggested leaving it as is.

Councilman Atkins advised moving forward as written at the next meeting.

JASON LOAR, CIP PRESENTATION

Mr. Loar reviewed and summarized details concerning the CIP. He noted that the City received money from CDBG for the preparation of a comprehensive plan, which will be updated annually. He advised that capital improvement is anything over \$4,000, but is not comprehensive for all items. He advised that the categories are water, waste water, storm water, streets, sidewalks, and parks, buildings (Armory), the depot, and the airport. Mr. Loar advised that over the next five years, the City hopes to receive \$18M to make improvements in these areas. Mr. Loar noted that water and waste water are the most important items, along with the isolation valves and maintenance items.

Mayor Dize read page 6 from the CIP concerning infrastructure failures, water shut downs, State fines, and MDE violations. Mayor Dize also noted that \$2.1M in Covid funding is coming through the American Rescue Plan, and can be used for water and sewer issues.

Councilman Atkins thanked Mr. Loar for his presentation. He noted that the 36 Sewer replacement, the treatment plant, and the water supply, are tops on his list. Councilman Atkins made reference to the rainwater that is being treated by the City, due to inflow and infiltration, which is a cost to tax payers. He noted that if we can prevent this, there will be money available for other things. Councilman Atkins inquired of Mr. Loar if the next phase of the 36 sewer was the remainder of the 36 sewer. Mr. Loar advised that this was correct. He also noted that funds from the American Rescue Plan can be used for water and sewer projects. Councilman Atkins suggested the cut-off valves. Mr. Loar also advised that he has a recommendation to replace some of the water lines to be able to listen for leaks. Councilman Atkins commented that we need to get this done and stop wasting money.

Council Vice President Banks inquired about getting a map of the water and sewer lines. Mr. Loar advised that he could get one.

Council Vice President Banks made reference to which buildings were involved in the CIP. Mr. Loar advised that it was only the Armory.

Councilman Ford commented that some of the pipes are not shown on maps, like the ones that caused the water leak downtown. Mr. Loar advised that he has some older construction plans, though those lines should have been abandoned, but there could still be some in the ground. Mr. Ford made reference to the drainage study. Mr. Bozman advised that we just got the draft report back on the drainage study. He advised that he had met with Bayland today and they will be doing a public presentation in the future. He advised that they covered the 10 most flooded areas.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to Streets and Sidewalks, and inquired of Mr. Loar the reason for the decrease in from \$150K to \$50K. Mr. Loar advised that this was based on the HUR and we received \$80K last year. Mrs. Morgan advised that this will be down to \$60K this fiscal year. Councilwoman Scott also made reference to buildings and inquired about finishing the other side of City Hall. Mayor Dize advised that we are budgeting \$10K to finish it. He noted that we had to trim \$80K last year and will have to do it again, if necessary.

Councilwoman Scott inquired of Mr. Loar what the most urgent need is for the City. Mr. Loar advised that this would be the 36 Sewer and the isolation valves.

Councilwoman Scott inquired of Mrs. Morgan the amount of grant funding the City had received in the last five years. Mrs. Morgan advised that she would get this information and noted that some years, it is not that much. Councilwoman Scott also inquired about the City's credit rating. Mrs. Morgan advised that she would advise. She also noted that the City has a debt policy to prevent over-borrowing.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked Mr. Loar for his presentation and advised that he agrees with the priority being the 36 Sewer and the shut off valves. He also made reference to 2026 and plans for 10 additional hangars and inquired about the funding source. Mr. Loar advised that there may be additional funds out there. Mrs. Morgan noted that the loan is the City's share. Councilman Goldsborough inquired about grant money. Mrs. Morgan advised that this is not listed in new money .

Councilman Atkins inquired about what we can do between now and the next meeting to make progress on the 36 Sewer. Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Loar which maps we should look at. Mr. Loar advised looking at facility maps. Councilman Atkins commented that this is not going to happen overnight and we need to look at the condition of the sewers first, through trenchless methods. He also made reference to looking into the Rural Maryland Council. Mr. Loar advised that the deadline has passed, so we can request funds next year with the maximum amount being \$250K. Councilman Atkins inquired if funding agencies look at jurisdictions to make funding plans. Mr. Loar advised that they do not.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ford commented that he feels he was only elected to say “yes” or “no”. He commented that he can’t get into City Hall, is locked out and he is against it.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he is working on a youth facility for the City and advised that he is thankful to be here.

Councilman Atkins gave a “thumbs up” to William Johnson for his successful March Madness race car event and hoping he will schedule another one. Councilman Atkins noted that the Somerset County School Board has given permission for the Tribute Banners to be placed on the poles at Whittington Primary and Crisfield High School. He also advised that he is working with DNR Secretary Jeannie Hadaway-Riccio to obtain permission to place the banners on the Marina light poles.

Councilman Atkins also commented that Covid funding should be used to focus on the 36 Sewer.

Councilwoman Scott noted that Water’s Edge Restaurant is opening, as well as CaptainTylers, and a third seafood business is also opening. She noted that there are multiple real estate offers on some properties.

Council Vice President Banks noted that his committee is continuing to work on downtown waterfront development and the hotel conference center, as well as meeting with investors on funding. He offered hats off to William Johnson for a successful event, which was part of the Crisfield 24. Council Vice President Banks also noted the second new event – the Scorchy Tawes Classic Fishing Tournament, to be held on June 4, 2021. He also added that there was a good turn-out at the March Madness event, adding that this is a positive direction for Crisfield.

Mayor Dize noted that he met with Councilman Goldsborough and Clint Sterling concerning a youth facility and Mr. Sterling will be attending the next work session. Mayor Dize noted that the City will be receiving \$4.7M for a complete re-do of the Armory. He commented that various types of events can be held there once renovated. Mayor Dize noted that Councilman Goldsborough is taking the lead on this. Mayor Dize noted that at the April 14th Work Session, Mr. Sterling will be there at 5:00 p.m., followed by Budget discussion. Mrs. Morgan noted that this would be at the Corbin A&E Gallery meeting room. Mayor Dize noted that on April 28th, there would be a 5:00 p.m. Budget Work Session followed by the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. including Department Head reports. Mayor Dize advised that the City would start allowing public attendance to the meetings in May, following Covid guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary