

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Lafabian Marshall, Water Department; John Wunder, Public Works; Janet Johnson, I.T.; Jason Loar, City Engineer; Rev. Johnson; Elmer Barkley; Bernard Ward; and Richard Crumbacker.

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the Closed and Regular Meeting of August 10, 2022.

Approval so moved by Councilwoman Scott, seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0.

COMMUNITY GARDENERS – PROPOSAL FOR BLOCK BUILDING

Rev. Johnson reviewed the proposal from the Community Gardeners for the block building at the rear of the garden in preparation for the painting of the mural by the Arts Council. Included in the proposal was repair of the roof and windows in the building as well as removal of the vines and applying primer.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she wasn't aware that the roof needed work.

Mr. Wonder noted that the other items on the list could be handled, possibly with some help from Work Release, but the roof would be a big deal.

Council Vice President Lankford inquired about the longevity of the building. Mr. Wonder advised that the structure is ok but the cost to repair the roof could run from \$15 to \$20K. Mayor Taylor commented that she doesn't feel the roof will impact the mural. Rev. Johnson concurred. Mr. Wunder noted that it is safe for storing and working on City equipment.

Mayor Taylor advised that the City can remove the vines, sure up/paint the windows, and apply the primer.

Mr. Wunder advised that he could cover the windows, not replace them.

At this time Councilwoman Scott made a motion that the City would find a way to get the items done, possibly with help from ECI. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

CHIEF RICK TAYLOR – UPDATE ON NEW POLICE VEHICLE GRANT AND STATUS OF CURRENT POLICE VEHICLE INVENTORY

Chief Rick Taylor reviewed the status of two new police vehicles obtained through a USDA grant. He commended Mrs. Bernice Evans, CAC, for obtaining the grant funding.

Chief Taylor advised that he had received a quote from Hertrich for a total of \$37,328 per vehicle. The city pays 25% which is \$18,664 and USDA pays \$55,992. He advised that this will allow us to take some of the vehicles with mileage of 100K and up, out of rotation since they are associated with costly repairs. Mrs. Morgan noted that the City's share was \$24K.

Councilman Banks inquired if we shopped around for the vehicles. Chief Taylor advised that this was correct. Councilwoman Scott thanked Chief Taylor for the good news. Chief Taylor advised that he couldn't have done it without Mrs. Evans.

JASON LOAR – FOLLOW UP ON ISOLATION VALVES

Mr. Loar made reference to the bid for isolation valves and noted that he had looked at several options; 11, 9, 7, and 4 valves. He reviewed the map showing the areas of isolation involved as per the valves to be installed. Mr. Loar advised that the cost for 11 valves is \$360K, 9 is \$320K, 7 is \$283K and 4 is \$210K and advised that he needs an option for the re-bid.

Councilman Banks suggested 9 valves. Mr. Loar noted that the price is based on the original bid and there may be more bidders if we bid out less valves. Councilwoman Scott inquired if we could bid two variables. Mr. Loar advised that we could and advised that he would also bid on Maryland Marketplace. Mayor Dize inquired about 11 versus 9. Mr. Loar advised that this would allow us to isolate the Housing Authority due to the large water meters.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Loar suggested bidding out 7 with two alternatives. So moved by Council Vice President Lankford, seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0.

BROADBAND MOU

Mrs. Morgan briefed the Mayor and Council on the grant for Broadband which was obtained through DHCD. She advised that there is no dollar match from the City, just rental space in-kind for 3 years amounting to \$39K. After 3 years, the City can charge rent. She advised that Mr. Baldwin has approved the MOU. Mayor Taylor advised that she is excited at the prospect of having Broadband.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the acceptance and execution by Mayor Taylor of the Broadband MOU. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Vanessa Jones made reference to wanting to attract people to Crisfield, but the grass growing out of sidewalks and the condition of Main Street is a deterrent. Mayor Taylor advised that this would be addressed as we are working hard to keep up. She urged people to call City Hall when they have concerns.

Elmer Barkley inquired if the Broadband is for both commercial and residential. Mayor Taylor advised that it is for both.

Council Vice President Lankford noted that the job will be bid out to see who comes to provide the service.

Bernard Ward expressed his concern about the lack of recreation for our kids and sees them playing in the streets, which is not safe. He also commented that he likes the City's bid process.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Housing Authority will be repairing the basketball courts soon and there is also an application in with Somerset County Parks and Rec.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Scott commented that she has no big issues; noting that we have a good team and good start.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that Ms. Deneen Ward would like to be on the Agenda for the September 14 meeting concerning 9 credit Courses at Wor Wic Community College. Council Vice President Lankford noted that she is looking for a location here.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that she is excited about Broadband coming. She also directed Mr. Ward to speak to Andre Collins

Councilman Banks noted that he has been meeting a lot of new people and is getting positive feedback on why they moved to Crisfield. He commented that we need growth and change.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to zoning board questions and advised that he would invite Ms. Tracey Gordy to the next Zoning meeting. Councilman Goldsborough advised Mr. Ward that he would talk to him after the meeting concerning a Rec Center here.

Council Vice President Lankford noted that he likes to coming to our meetings and being in on the ground floor, moving in a positive direction.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Community Engagement Forum proposal from Beacon. She advised that they will facilitate the forum, possibly in October. She advised that she wants everything to fit together.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone who helped with the weekend activities; Andre Collins for Dre Day and Greg Cain for the DJ Jazzy Jeff event. She also noted that she had finally had a chance to attend the Saturday morning Farmers Market. Mayor Taylor also noted that Shiloh Church will be doing a backpack give away in August.

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone that the Project Restore grant is due by 5:00 p.m. on September 8th. She noted that this assists the grantee to start a business in a vacant building in the City of Crisfield and will pay rent up to \$2,000 per month for two years. She encouraged people to obtain grants for businesses. She also noted that we need a work session to look into that. Mayor Taylor also noted that Tidal Health reps will be attendance at the meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Banks, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary