MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Corbin, Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President, via zoom
Ivan Lankford, via Zoom
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon; Chief Lee; D. J. Parkinson, Jr., Jason Loar; Dan Kuebler; Brian Fowler;

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

At this time Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular and closed meeting of June 10, 2025, and the closed meeting of May 21, 2025. Motion seconded by Council-woman Johnson and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC UTILITIES UPDATE – MR. PARKINSON

Mr. Parkinson advised that there is no air conditioner in the lab, and they have been borrowing public works fans. He noted that Somerset Heating and Air would be in in the morning. Mr. Parkinson noted that the belt filter press has been delivered and the company repaired a leak in the floorboard. He noted that it is a simple operation that does not require constant monitoring and is doing a good job of dewatering the sludge which goes to the landfill. He advised that public utilities would have the press for two months and should be able to get the nitrogen numbers down. He also noted that they were below four for the last two weeks. Mayor Taylor noted that we were way out of compliance prior. Mr. Parkinson also noted that the temperatures are now constant without fluctuation.

In reference to Cove St., Mr. Parkinson advised that on Sunday night, there was a breakdown due to the tank being full of non-flushable items, causing the hose to break, full of debris. He is working on a notice with Miss Marshall so the public will be aware not to use these items. He advised that this created a slight overflow which must be reported to MDE to the Shellfish department. He also urge the public to call City Hall if they see any manholes overflowing.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there is an alert on the pump. Mr. Parkinson advised that there is only a light and someone must call in. Mr. Loar advised that the new pump will have an alert. Mr. Parkinson also noted that he will need to schedule a site visit with Moonshot. Mr. Loar advised the date will be July 7, eighth or ninth.

At this time, Mr. Parkinson left the meeting due to working on a sewer stoppage on Hudson Street. He advised that they had hit something hard in the line at 7 feet deep and will have CSS coming down to assist.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Clean Water initiative is moving along.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if we can fine the people who flush the wipes. Mrs. Morgan advised that this is a municipal infraction. Mr. Parkinson noted that it must be on their side of the clean out. Councilwoman Johnson commented that this is the second time this year in the same area.

Mr. Dan Kuebler addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the beach at Brick Hill. He noted that Mrs. Morgan is in charge of funding distribution for the beach and has been instrumental in helping with the beach project which started six years ago.

DAN KUEBLER – BEACH INFORMATION

Mr. Kueber noted that he designed the RV park for the Legion and also noted that RV users have access to the beach showers. He advised that the Legion gave $42,000 for beach improvements and improvements to the bathhouse. Mr. Kuebler advised that up to 12 RVs can stay at the Legion and one of the amenities was use of the showers however, they have been in ongoing disrepair due to lack of winterization and vandalism.

Mr. Kuebler noted that Mrs. Morgan had addressed the need for security in that location which resulted in the installation of cameras. Mrs. Morgan noted that the police department has access to the cameras.

Mr. Fowler met with Mr. Kuebler today concerning the issues that need to be addressed.

Mayor Taylor commented that even with the cameras there is still vandalism occurring.

Chief Lee advised that surveillance signs are posted.

Mr. Kuebler advised that Mr. Fowler has a plan to set the door so they will open inward to prevent wind damage.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that there needs to be posted no use from Dusk to Dawn.

Mr. Keebler requested that a schedule be set to get the work done as the beach as it is well used in the community.

CHIEF LEE RE: SURPLUS VEHICLES AND POLICE UPDATES

Chief Lee advised that the equipment is being removed from the surplus vehicles and should be done by Friday. He suggested $500 per vehicle or $1400 for all three.

At this time Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to advertise the vehicles for the prices recommended by Chief Lee. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Chief Lee noted that Sergeant Hoover is now taking DARE classes. He also advised that the Hum V was picked up yesterday. Chief Lee noted that the vehicle would be used for events such as flooding, etc. He also noted that he was able to get the department of general services administration fee down to $941.71. He noted that he would be getting surplus emergency equipment from the Princess Anne police department.

Chief Lee made reference to the department's desktops which need to be replaced and advised that he has over $16,000 to be used for that.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Mr. Fowler noted that the final proof has gone in for the street signs, 60 in total, and has been sent to Mason graphics and will be done next week.

Mr. Fowler noted that the Kubota tractor clutch needs to be repaired. He noted the cost for a new tractor is $12,942.

After a brief discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to have the clutch repaired on the tractor. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

Mr. Illuminati noted that the funding would come out of the 25 budget.

Mr. Fowler presented paving quotes for Somerset Avenue by Woodson school from the following, Sams $90,000, for 21,000 feet of paving, and Delmar Paving, in the amount of$ 94,822 to patch 32,000 ft.^{2} on S. Somerset Ave.

Mayor Taylor advised that we have 80,000 in the budget for paving.

Mr. Fowler also noted that the tide gate project will not affect the paving job.

Councilman Patel inquired if the solar project would hurt the roads after being paved. Mr. Fowler advised that they would need to reroute their travel.

After a brief discussion Councilman Patel made a motion to approve the bid amount of $94,822. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Mr. Illuminati will be preparing a contract for roadwork.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the BRIC project and a breakdown from CDM Smith, in the amount of $4000.

After a brief discussion Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to pay CDM Smith, the amount of $4000 to break down the BRIC project. Motion seconded by councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

SOLAR SIMPLIFIED PUBLIC MEETING

Mayor Taylor made reference to holding a public meeting concerning the program offered by Solar Simplified. She suggested the second meeting in July at 5 o'clock.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Cleanwater Initiatives noting that the city is moving forward with $2 million.

PUBLIC INPUT

A resident of Somerset Avenue inquired if the police department is fully staffed. Mayor Taylor advised that the Chief is actively recruiting. He also commented that there are some people living at the Pines Motel. He also commented about cars racing down the street. He made reference to the need to grow new businesses, thinking about the loss of Café Carry out. He also made reference to from Potomac Street to N. Somerset Ave. noting that street markings need to be painted back in, as it is an accident waiting to happen.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to attending the Maryland municipal league conference. She noted that it was very interesting this year. She also noted that she met a representative from Spark and Splash who will come down to the city and do a splash pad.

She noted that on July 2 there will be a main street commission meeting.

She also commented that at the MML convention she learned that there is to be no chitchat between Council during meetings.

Councilman Patel thanked public Works in public utilities for their hard work. He noted that the city needs the public's help concerning flushing wipes down the sewer system. He also commented that the public needs to respect the beach area at brick Hill.

Councilman Lankford thanked all of the people reporting and noted that the Cove street pump issues are costly.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that the HUM V was the deal of a lifetime and is a good piece of equipment to have during flooding situations.

Mayor Taylor noted that she attended the Maryland Municipal League convention along with Council-woman Johnson and Councilman Patel.

Mayor Taylor made reference to a request from the Heritage Foundation for sponsorship as well as the upcoming heritage festival. She noted that this would be discussed to vote on at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Taylor made reference to Optimize Renewables with Mr. Len Jornlynn. She noted that they received grant funding and will need to do a walk-through.

Mayor Taylor also noted that MEMA has $64 million to give away one time.

Mayor Taylor commented that the Maryland Municipal convention provided good information at their sessions.

Mayor Taylor also noted that NBC News 4 has been looking for Mr. Phil Goldsborough to speak with on July 23rd and 24th concerning the loss of the BRIC funding.

Mayor Taylor noted that the annual Freedom Fest will be held on Sunday, July 6 as well as fireworks. Mayor Taylor noted that the Charting of the Tides event will be held here at the Corbin library this Saturday as well as another event at 4:13 Art Gallery. Mrs. Morgan noted that this is already on the electric sign on Maryland Avenue.

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary