

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President (Zoom)
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman (Zoom)
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Janet Johnson, IT; and Mayor Taylor's grandson, Legend.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER AND 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 Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the Closed and Regular Session of March 22, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried 3-0.

DOUG SWIFT COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Cindy Freeman; Rev. Emmanuel Johnson; and Robin Rayford, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to provide an update concerning the Doug Swift Community Garden. Mrs. Freeman noted that the group had cleaned up in front of City Hall. Mrs. Freeman advised that the book mobile is full of free books. She also noted that the area back by the wall has been landscaped, buddy benches and a picnic table have been placed there. She noted that the mural for the back wall – "Be the I in Kind" will be painted on the wall if they receive the grant in the amount of \$31-41K. Mrs. Freeman advised that if they get funding for the big mural, the storage trailer would need to be moved. She also advised that they will be growing a special kind of pepper that will be harvested for use in a hot sauce.

Mrs. Freeman advised that they were going to need a permanent shed – 8' x 8', which would belong to the City if the garden ceases to operate, and it would be located near the raised beds.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he does not want to set a precedent by putting a shed on City property. Mayor Taylor noted that she does not want a permanent structure placed there. Councilman Goldsborough made reference to putting it behind City Hall, since there are already 3

sheds there.

Mayor Taylor advised that we would need to look at the property since the Code requires a primary structure and we want to accommodate them.

Mrs. Freeman also noted that the hoses are ordered for the dock and they will water on Monday and Fridays. She noted that they cannot lug the hoses and put them on each time so they need storage. Mayor Taylor thanked them for their hard work.

HEBRON SAVINGS BANK RESOLUTION #475 – Joyce Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Mrs. Morgan presented Resolution #475 regarding a line of credit from Hebron Savings bank. She noted that the bank had added some language later today, which had been reviewed by Mr. Illuminati.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to adopt Resolution #475. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried 3-0. (Lankford, Johnson, and Goldsborough)

RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES UPDATE, OAG TAG HOUSING COORDINATOR GRANT APPLICATIONS, EARMARK UPDATE, 339-347 W. MAIN STREET CONDITION ASSESSMENTS – JEN MERRITT

Mrs. Merritt advised that she needs approval for a \$45K study that the Maryland Rural Council is doing on the Armory.

Approval so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried 3-0.

Mrs. Merritt also requested approval for \$75K for HVAC, and mold remediation at the Armory. Approval so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried 3-0.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the Sustainable Community meetings are now being held at the Tawes Museum twice a month for 3 months. Mayor Taylor noted that she wants to make sure our priorities are reflected. Council Vice President Lankford advised that he would try to be there.

Mrs. Merritt reviewed information concerning the Housing & Community Resource Coordinator grant application and requested approval to apply for \$50K. Mayor Taylor noted that they would also be a community liaison and help with grants. Mrs. Merritt requested approval of Resolution 476 authorizing the submission of the application for the funding. Approval so moved by Councilman Goldsborough, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried 3-0.

Mrs. Merritt noted that Mr. Illuminati re-wrote the Resolution due to the form that was sent to her by the State.

Mrs. Merritt reviewed the updates to the Earmarks, noting that the request for the Dock had been moved to the Appropriations Committee, adding that she does not know if or when it would be funded. Mayor Taylor commented that it is positive that it has moved to the next phase.

Mrs. Merritt also reviewed an update regarding the It Takes a Village Youth Center funding.

Mrs. Merritt reviewed information concerning Main Street Revitalization of buildings owned by the City and the business incubator, noting that it has been moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Mayor Taylor noted that this is a jump start and thanked Senators Cardin and Van Hollen. Mayor Taylor noted that this is the first time the City has applied for Earmarks and had also gotten advanced.

Mrs. Merritt reviewed information concerning 339-347 W. Main Street. She noted that she does not know how much money it will take to get them rehabbed. She advised that DBF had given an estimate and GMB had given an estimate on the two buildings combined.

After a brief review and discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to accept the bid from GMB in the amount of \$10,865. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried 3-0.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired of about use of money from the ARF.

LAPTOP UPDATES – Jen Merritt

Mrs. Merritt noted that the City has been awarded 500 laptops, though she does not know yet when they will be coming in. She advised that once we know, there will be notification on Facebook and the City's website.

PUBLIC INPUT

Norris Howard advised he is glad to see everyone.

Mayor Taylor's grandson, Legend, said hello to everyone.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Goldsborough thanked all the presenters. He referred to following the City Code concerning the shed that the gardeners want, noting that we must lead by example. He also expressed his thanks to Senators Cardin and Van Hollen.

Council Vice President Lankford apologized for missing the last meeting. He offered best wishes to Councilwoman Scott and commented that he is excited about what is going on.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked the City officials and City staff. She noted that she had attended the 90th Birthday party of Pastor Dorothy Holden, noting that we can present her with a proclamation at the next meeting. She noted that Pastor Holden's church feeds the entire community in January.

Mayor Taylor noted that she would be having Senator Carozza to receive a proclamation for her assistance with LEOPS. She also advised that she would be presenting a proclamation to ESLTR as well as two certificates of appreciation for a dog rescue during a dog attack.

Mayor Taylor encouraged those who would like to participate in city government to request annexation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary