

MINUTES

They Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, At 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor; John Wunder; Jason Loar; Jennifer Merritt; LaFabian Marshall, Alyssa Revel; and Richard Crumbacker.

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 from the meeting of January 11, 2023. So moved by Councilman Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

AUDIT REPORT

Alyssa Revell, Office Manager, PKS, reviewed the City of Crisfield Audit summary. She noted that there is a lot of information and invited the Mayor and City Council to call or email her with any questions. She noted that the City had received an Unmodified Opinion, which is the highest that can be given, as well as the Government Auditing Standard Report.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to last year's water and sewer increase, and noted that before, water and sewer would not pay for itself. She inquired if the increase rectified the situation. Mrs. Revell advised that it did. Mrs. Morgan noted that there is still some time and labor in the General Fund with everyone cross-working in departments. She also noted that the previous rate increase prepared for the loan that the City closed on today. Councilwoman Scott noted that USDA had told us we hadn't been charging enough for water & sewer. Mrs. Morgan advised that we are still short due to the increase in the cost of everything now but charging for actual water usage really helped.

Mrs. Revell thanked Mrs. Morgan and city staff for all their help.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mrs. Revell and the staff of PKS noting that the report speaks well of the City. Mrs. Morgan noted that PKS helps the City all year.

JENNIFER MERRITT, GRANT WRITER/ADMINISTRATOR– REQUEST FOR APPROVAL
TO INCLUDE MAPPING IN LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY GRANT APPLICATION

Mrs. Merritt noted that the City has a limited map of water our water meter system and we would need to increase the application amount from \$50K, which was approved on January 11, 2023, to \$80K. At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the application on the condition that it is allowed. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

JENNIFER MERRITT, GRANT WRITER/ADMINISTRATOR – REVIEW OF CRISFIELD
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Mayor Taylor advised that she had asked Mrs. Merritt to report on projects that are in progress.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the review would also be published in the Crisfield Times.

Mrs. Merritt, along with Mayor Taylor went on to review the project report, highlighting and elaborating on it's contents. (see attached)

Chief Rick Taylor also reviewed grant information concerning the Crisfield Police Department. He noted that new cameras are to be installed for CPD and dispatch monitors. Mayor Taylor also noted that Gail Lankford/Somerset Drug Free Coalition, had obtained a \$5,000 grant for CPD. Mayor Taylor thanked Mrs. Merritt and Chief Taylor for their hard work.

Councilwoman Scott inquired how much grant money is in the works. Mrs. Merritt advised that it was \$5.8M, not including American Rescue Funds. Councilwoman Scott commented that she thought it was between five to 10 million. She noted that the Marina project is a \$40 M project. Mrs. Morgan noted that Project Restore was also grant funded and was recently awarded. Councilwoman Scott added that she would like to see a results report.

MAYOR TAYLOR – REMINDER OF THE COMMUNITY FORUM FEEDBACK MEETING ON FEBRUARY 2ND

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone of the feedback meeting at Crisfield High School on Thursday, February 2nd – 6-7 P.M.

Mayor Taylor noted that Mrs. Morgan had some good news to share. Mrs. Morgan advised that the Waste Water Treatment Plant had received a \$24K credit for excess electricity production generated by the wind turbine. She noted that we will always have a bill of \$3 - \$4K. She noted that she does not know the period of time during which the credit was created. Councilwoman Johnson commented that this is great news.

PUBLIC INPUT

Richard Crumbacker noted that Mr. Mike Headley, a USMC Vietnam War Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, had died last week and would be buried this Friday with military honors.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Banks commented that we need to look into amending the City Code to allow for moving forward. He noted that there are too many hoops to jump through. Councilman Banks advised that we need to focus on our vision. He also thanked the Governor's office for inviting City reps to the inauguration and ball, adding that it was a phenomenal day. He also thanked the City for allowing them to attend.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked everyone for all of their hard work. He commented that a lot is being done, but slowly, and asked everyone to bear with us.

Council Vice President Lankford thanked Mayor Taylor and Mrs. Merritt for the information that they had presented. He noted that City government is moving forward and trying to do what people ask. He noted that he is excited about the flood gates and pumps.

Councilwoman Scott commented that most of the projects that the City is working on involve engineering and advised that Jason Loar, DBF, has been here for over 18 years now.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that it was a privilege and honor to attend the inauguration and ball and advised that she is excited about the next 4 years. She advised that she would be getting the name of the Governor's contact liaison for the City.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the status of Tidal Health/McCready ER. Mayor Taylor noted that they are not ready to put out any information yet.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is glad to hear about the GIS mapping noted in the Project's in Progress report.

Councilwoman Johnson also commended Councilman Banks for his driving skills when taking her and Mayor Taylor to the inauguration and ball.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is glad for the project updates noting that this is a great team.

Mayor Taylor commented that she was honored to attend Governor Moore's inauguration and also thanked the City for being able to attend. She thanked Chief Taylor for the LEOPS testimony and noted that the Senate was receptive. Mayor Taylor noted that the next step would be to go before the House. She thanked Senator Carozza for her help.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Summer Youth Program and asked Councilwoman Johnson if she would check with the Tri County Council for money, noting that we would have to look for businesses to host the youth workers.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for all that they do and thanked the previous administration for the work done by them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary