

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman – 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, Secretary; Tiffany McMahon; Rick Taylor; Denny Cullison; D. J. Parkinson; Jason Loar; Shanelle Haughton; Richard Crumbacker; Billy Gene Swift; James Parkinson; Rita Parkinson; Josh Parkinson; Denise Farrell; Maryann Bradley; Paula Bissett; Keith Lackie, MDP; Tracey Taylor, MDP; John Slaughter, UMD; Chris Hartman, UMES; Dominique Parks; and Mark Joon.

Invocation, Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the Regular and Closed Meetings of October 9, 2024. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time she requested approval of the minutes from the October 9, 2024 closed and regular meetings. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Project Restore 2.0 Update – Ms. Parks

Ms Parks reviewed Project Restore 2.0 details, noting that there will be three \$150,000 grants with 30,000 available for equipment.

Service Recognition – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor presented Captain JP Parkinson with an award honoring his service to the city in recognition of his recent retirement.

Drone Delivery Pilot Project – Tracey Taylor

Mrs. Tracy, Taylor, MDOP, introduced Mr. Keith Lackey, MDOP, Mr. John Slaughter UMD and Mr. Chris Hartman, UMES, who presented information regarding the drone project that is proposed for delivering medical packages.

Mayor Taylor noted that this is a pilot program and inquired what they would need.

Mr. Slaughter advised that they need some space. Mayor Taylor inquired if this program was in conjunction with Tidal Health. Mr. slaughter advised that they were in talks with Tidal Health a year ago. Mayor Taylor also inquired the number of drones that would be used. Mr. Slaughter advised there would be one to start. He also noted that the Tangier Island program went well. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if they have been to Smith Island yet. Mr. Slaughter advised that they have not been there yet with the drone operation.

Councilman Goldsborough advised he is concerned with the impact this program might have on our local pharmacies. Councilman Patel inquired if the program will involve our local pharmacies. Mr. Slaughter advised that the program would involve local pharmacies.

Councilman Lankford inquired about the success of such programs. Mr. slaughter advised that they are successful.

Recognition of Support – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor also noted that she would be recognizing Mrs. Taylor at another program next week.

Department Head Quarterly Reports –

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Mrs. Morgan Reviewed the first quarter financial report highlighting various pages with comments. She invited council members to stop by City Hall for any details. Mayor Taylor commented that we have to get the budget for the wastewater treatment plant under control, noting the various costly expenditures.

Rick Taylor, Chief of Police

Chief Taylor presented and reviewed his quarterly report highlighting various items. He also noted that Hoover has been attending a 10-week program concerning DARE.

At this time, Mayor Taylor announced that Chief Taylor would be retiring as of December 1, 2024. Chief Taylor offered up his thanks for being allowed to work as chief of the Crisfield police department noting that Crisfield will always be home.

D. J. Parkinson, Public Utilities Director

Mr. Parkinson presented and reviewed his quarterly report, highlighting various information. He urged those who may be watching my Facebook to spread the word about not flushing wipes, and other materials down the sanitary sewer. He also advised he would be working on a letter to go out to the public.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the hydrant leaking on Somerset Avenue. Mr. Parkinson advised that the hydrant is leaking at the valve or water lateral.

Denny Cullison, Public Works Director

Mr. Cullison reviewed his quarterly report, highlighting its contents.

Mayor Taylor requested a schedule of street sweeping. Mr. Cullison advised that he is having the streets swept on schedule as well as replacing street signs.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the areas that had been cold patched. Mr. Cullison advised they have done the end of fourth Street and the marina, Pine Street, and Cove Street.

Introduction of New Grant Writer/Administrator

Mayor Taylor introduced Shanelle Haughton who will be the new grant writer/administrator. She noted that Miss Haughton comes from a research background. Miss Haughton advised she is happy to be here

At this time, Council Vice President Banks in motion to accept Miss Haughton as the new grant writer/administrator motion, second by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the 9 bids that have been received for surplus property and read them loud as follows;

Mark Hoover – Crown Vic – \$1000
Billy Gene Swift – total package –\$4850
Lonnie Ludtke – 1998 Ford truck - \$700
Andrew Jones – Crown Vic – \$400
Andrew Jones – 2013 Explorer – \$600
Andrew Jones – 2007 dump truck – \$600
Ginny Liberatore – 1998 teal truck \$500
\$500 Norris Howard – \$10 – Volvo, held in abeyance

After reviewing the bids and a brief discussion, all Council concurred that the winning bid was \$4850 from Billy Gene Swift. Mayor Taylor thanked all who had participated in the bid process.

At this time Council Vice President Banks made a motion to award the bid package to Billy Gene Swift in the amount of \$4,850. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

EPA Change Grant

Mayor Taylor made reference to the EPA change grant noting that along with GCAC, we need contributory partners. She advised that grant funding will be used to upgrade the WWTP and also the Crisfield fire department is an emergency shelter and resilience hub.

Mayor Taylor advised that the MOU needs to be done ASAP and we need a zoom meeting with EPA.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Tri-County Council noting that Councilwoman Johnson has been the City/County representative. She noted that in 2025 Princess Anne will have the representative.

Public Input

Councilwoman Johnson recognized Paula Bissett, who was in tonight's audience. She noted that Miss Bissett helps with food distribution.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Johnson noted the last Main Street meeting had been canceled. She also noted that she would be meeting with Mrs. Merritt and Mrs. Haughton.

Councilwoman Johnson advised the Chief that she hates to see him go.

Chief Taylor thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to be both a police officer and the Chief.

Councilman Patel advised Chief Taylor that he is sorry to see him go. He also noted Trunk or Treat will be held this Saturday at 3 PM and the gun bash at the Crisfield fire department also, beginning at noon.

Councilman Lankford thanked the department heads for the reports. He welcomed the new grant writer on board and also offered well wishes to Chief Taylor noting that he had made the department better and he's sorry to see him go but knows that he must take the opportunity.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he had wanted Chief Taylor to be there longer than he was. He also commented that chief Taylor was always available and thanked him for his services. Councilman Goldsborough also advised that he looks forward to working with Ms. Haughton. He went on to thank the department heads for their reports and noted that he is looking forward to better news concerning the wind turbine and sewer plant.

Council Vice President Banks thanked everyone for their reports. He noted that the first city cleanup went well and thanked Mrs. Parks for her coordination. He advises that two truckloads of trash was removed from the small boat harbor area. Council Vice President Banks commented that it hurts to see Chief Taylor go and thanked him for his service.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy land use concerning maximum benefit and made reference to what has been done with the Packing House in Cambridge. She advised that she would like everyone to be able to look at that as it is a business incubator.

Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Loar would report at the next meeting. She advised that Mrs. Merritt had received an award for lead line survey resilience action planning.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the huge meeting concerning the expansion of the historic district. She also made reference to the EPA grant writing services, noting that ARPA money will be used and advised that a meeting will be set up concerning its use.

Mayor Taylor made reference to trick-or-treating which will be held on Halloween. She also made reference to the need for a Christmas in Crisfield committee. Mayor Taylor commented about having an ice rink in Crisfield and noted that the cost would be \$50,000.

Mayor Taylor addressed Chief Taylor and commented that he worked well with her and lead his department with integrity and will be missed.

They're being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce L Morgan Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift Secretary