

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council held their regular work session on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman (via Zoom)
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent: Mayor Barry Dize, due to work commitment

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; David Dalfanso, Chief of Police; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; William Berryhill, I.T.; and Richard Crumbacker.

Council Vice President Banks called the meeting to order opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF CITY OF CRISFIELD DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT VIA ZOOM BY BAYLAND CONSULTANTS AND DESIGNERS – MEGAN BARNIEA AND ANNA JOHNSON

At this time, Council Vice President Banks introduced via Zoom, Megan Barniea and Anna Johnson, of Bayland Consultants and Designers, who had prepared the Crisfield Drainage Study.

Ms. Barniea introduced herself, highlighting her background. She noted that her firm was selected to do the drainage study in July of 2020.

She went on to review the power point presentation, noting that Cove Street was #1 on the list of areas of concern and highlighted other information as presented.

Councilwoman Scott inquired why Solomon's Island was used in the study. Ms. Johnson advised that this was because of the availability of 40 years of hourly data on water levels at Solomon's Island that we don't have from Crisfield, and this was the minimum amount of data needed to predict future water levels in Crisfield.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the number of tide gates in the City and how many we still need. Ms. Barniea advised that there are 40 outflows and we need 10 additional.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to \$75K per year for storm drain maintenance. Mr. Bozman advised that he would have to clarify that number.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to jumping on some of the smaller projects first and also the use of the \$2.1 Federal money.

Mrs. Morgan advised that \$55K has been budgeted for the first six months of the fiscal year for maintenance of the storm drains. She advised Councilwoman Scott that this is grant money.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he appreciates the presentation from Bayland and sees the biggest problem is the \$2.3M cost. Ms. Barniea noted that the highest cost is the pumping station.

Councilman Ford commented that as a Cove Street resident, he would like to see that done first, as it affects him and others in the neighborhood, as well as the Housing Authority. He advised we need to do the big projects, we don't need to do the little projects, they will come across, we don't need them yet, we need to do what the people want. He advised that as a land owner on Cove Street, he wants it taken care of.

Councilman Atkins, who was in attendance via zoom, addressed Ms. Barniea, noting that he had questions and an observation. He noted that he had reviewed the report with an independent environmental engineer, who was impressed with the report, and made reference to pages 53,55,56, and 104-106. Councilman Atkins made reference to pages 55 and 56, for the benefit of himself and the Council, with regards to the scoring system, with 1 being the worst and 10 the best, noting that a more expensive procedure may receive a score of 1, and 9 for a project with a low cost, with 5 a high cost. Ms. Barniea noted that the lower the number, the higher the cost. Councilman Atkins commented that this was indeed one of the the most important city meeting that he has attended since he has served on City Council. He thanked Ms. Barniea and Ms. Johnson for giving us the hard numbers, and if we of the City Council don't do something to prevent it, many areas of the town will experience persistent and widespread flooding by 2030, probably the most important infrastructure issue facing us, if we don't get to work on this now, and many low lying areas will be reclaimed by the Chesapeake Bay.

Ms. Barniea noted that the problems are attributed to low elevation and storm drains. She advised that taking corrective measures will not stop the flooding, but will reduce the amount of time the water stands. Councilman Atkins commented that we need to get to work on the very low lying areas between now and the next 9 years.

Council Vice President Banks thanked Ms. Barniea and Ms. Johnson for providing the City with this vital information. He commented that these areas have been flooded for many years. He also noted that First Street, Tyler Street, Cove Street and Broadway are all connected to the shore line, but 4th Street, Cove Street, and N 4th Street are listed midway in the priority flooding area, although in a normal tide, Broadway and 4th Street can have flooding. Mr. Bozman advised that a list was provided, but we did not prioritize; this list was prioritized by Bayland. Council Vice President Banks also noted that Myrtle Street

was not included. Council Vice President Banks made reference to the effect of storm drains and drainage on the flooding. Ms. Barniea advised that this is impacted by sea level rise, but if the drains are kept clear, it will reduce storm flows. She advised that this is noted in bullets on the report. Council Vice President Banks inquired how the installation of 10 more flood gates would help. Ms. Barniea advised that they would prevent back watering and reduce sediment and help with maintenance. Council Vice President Banks made reference to seeing where the water drains and conditions. Ms. Barniea advised that they did maps and ran storm scenarios. Council Vice President made reference to the 16 current gates. Ms. Barniea advised that the additional gates are needed.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the cost of the study. Mrs. Morgan advised that it was County funded.

Mr. Sullivan inquired if the mitigation components are located on public or private property. Ms. Barniea advised that there is usually an easement agreement, but they had no land records for information on property owners. Mr. Sullivan inquired about the 9 properties adjacent to waterways. Ms. Barniea advised that they are noted on table 57.

Council Vice President Banks asked the Council be provided with a copy of tonight's Power Point Presentation.

Mr. Sullivan inquired about the level of alarm to the City of Crisfield with respect to Bayland's findings. Ms. Barniea advised that there is cause for a little alarm, noting that we can't stop street flooding but we can reduce the time it stands on the road.

There being no further discussion during this portion of the meeting, Council Vice President Banks advised that it be closed to re-open into a Budget Work Session scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary