

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Chief David Dalfonso; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer; Kristie Eberly, Grants Administrator; Jason Loar, City Engineer; and Julie Bellamy.

PRAYER, PLEDGE AND CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DIZE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of the Regular Session of September 23, 2020, Work Session of October 14, 2020 and Closed Session of October 14, 2020, as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, presented her quarterly financial report. She advised the Council to stop by the office to meet with her with any questions.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if there were any surprises. Mrs. Morgan advised that from July through September, \$242K in revenue will go back into 2019-2020. She noted that there had also been multiple unexpected expenses due to sewer clean-outs this year and last year. Councilman Atkins made reference to Covid expenditures. Mrs. Morgan advised that the City received a grant from the County in the amount of \$230K. She advised that we have purchased touch free equipment for the City Hall restroom and downtown restrooms, laptops for the ability to work at home, signage, a security system, and we are working on a security gate for the airport and public utilities department.

Councilman Atkins inquired if there would be a HUR decrease next year. Mrs. Morgan advised that the City had been notified that the payment to the City will be down \$20K. Mayor Dize added that there will also be a decrease in income taxes.

Chief David Dalfonso presented his quarterly report highlighting its contents. Mayor Dize made reference to the officers doing bike patrol and made reference to the required certification. Chief Dalfonso advised that that was correct.

Councilman Sheppard commented that the bike patrol is impressive. Councilman Atkins noted that he had heard positive comments from the community as well.

Mayor Dize thanked the Chief for all he does. The Chief thanked the Mayor for his support.

Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer, reviewed the Building Inspector's report highlighting its contents. He noted that there have been two new homes built in Crisfield; one on Line Drive and one on Wellington Road, in the County.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the rehab of homes. Mr. Bozman advised that this is because of the uptick of people moving here. Mayor Dize inquired about the status of the home being elevated on the corner of Main and Somerset. Mr. Bozman advised that Clayton Johnson has been working with the owner and doing a little at a time. Mayor Dize asked Mr. Bozman to have Mr. Johnson get the grass cleaned up on the front deck.

Mr. Bozman went on to review the Public Works report and also reviewed picture slides of the ditch cleaning project.

Councilwoman Scott inquired what the percentage was of ditches that had been cleaned. Mr. Bozman advised that it was 10%. Councilwoman Scott inquired about plans to continue. Mr. Bozman advised that we will continue to clean as long as we have money.

Mayor Dize noted that the County did the Mosquito Control ditching project; we are working on the boat harbor side and are now in the middle.

Mrs. Morgan added that we worked on South Somerset Avenue last year.

Mr. Bozman added that we are now working on alleviating flooding on Myrtle Street.

Mayor Dize noted that Grants Writer/Administrator, Kristie Eberly would be leaving her position with the City on Friday. He thanked her for all of her hard work and many accomplishments for the City of Crisfield. Mayor Dize then introduced Julie Bellamy, who would be filling Mrs. Eberly's position. Mrs. Bellamy introduced herself noting that she had spent most of her career in economic development. She advised that she had worked for Davis, Bowen, and Friedel and was most recently the City Manager for Hebron. She commented that Mrs. Eberly has done a fabulous job.

Mayor Dize asked that the Council contact Mrs. Bellamy by email first to allow her time to get organized, then they could call to schedule a visit.

Mrs. Eberly, went on to review her Grant report, highlighting its contents. She also reviewed the proposal from Davis, Bowen, and Friedel, for Engineering Services for the Norris Harbor Drive Culvert replacement. Councilman Atkins inquired about wetland services. Mr. Loar advised that this is not required.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the proposal from Davis, Bowen, and Friedel. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mrs. Eberly advised that she had just received the proposal yesterday. Mr. Sullivan advised that he wanted to get it done before Mrs. Eberly left.

Mrs. Eberly continued to review her report, noting that on November 4, 2020, the Kayak Launch will be on the Board of Public Works agenda.

Council Vice President Banks inquired about one of the items on her report under Pending Grants; the Downtown Park, and advised that he was unaware that the City had submitted for this. Mrs. Eberly advised that this was an application submitted per the Mayor's request. Mayor Dize advised that this was an idea of former Mayor Kim Lawson to clean up the downtown parking lot. Mrs. Eberly noted that the application is also for restroom renovation and seating. Councilman Sheppard inquired how many bids had been received. Councilman

Atkins commented that it goes out for bids if we receive grant funding. Mr. Sullivan advised that it doesn't require Council approval unless we get the grant. Councilwoman Scott commented that this is a key piece of property and is in rough condition.

Jason Loar, Asbestos Bid Recommendation

Mr. Loar reviewed the bids for Asbestos Removal as received – A & I, Inc. - \$73,800, North Star Contractors - \$79,975, and Fishers Environmental - \$88,978.

Councilman Atkins inquired what is involved in the process. Mr. Loar advised that this involves removing the old tile and mastic, and it is the first step in the process of the Armory renovations. Council Vice President Banks inquired if the asbestos could penetrate the concrete. Mr. Loar advised that it would be ground away. He noted that this is a messy job, and all three contractors were reputable.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the low bid of A & I Inc. contingent upon Maryland Historical Trust approval and execution. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 5-0. Mr. Sullivan advised waiting for approval from MHT.

Motion to Approve Sign Contractor Bid

Councilman Ford noted that the City had received two bids, which had been emailed to Councilmembers for review, and all concurred by email that they recommend going with Selby Sign Company, who was the lower bidder.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the bid from Selby Sign. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford.

During discussion, Council Vice President Banks advised that he had spoken with Councilman Ford about the size of the design logo on the Phillips sign being too big and about two poles being removed and two wrapped. Councilman Sheppard inquired if there will be two or four poles. Mr. Bozman advised that two will be removed from the base. Councilwoman Scott inquired if there is any way to modify the size of the logo. Mr. Bozman advised that the sign will be pre-fabricated in the shop, but he would call and check. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Sullivan also noted that there will be free lifetime internet service for the sign.

Planning Commission Recommendation to Mayor and Council

Mr. Sullivan noted that as there was no plat available for review the Mayor and Council should wait for approval.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to table the matter. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor and City Council Comments

Councilman Atkins noted that he had received no feedback from the Housing Authority at this time. He made reference to an idea that was looked at 10 years ago where Covell Communities from Baltimore had proposed to rehab the Housing Authority a step at a time. Councilman Sheppard advised that he would first like to see Mr. Bibb's plan.

Councilman Atkins inquired if the Mayor and Council would like to meet with this group or email them.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she would like to give Mr. Bibb a chance to get his proposal off of the ground before throwing out another idea. Councilman Atkins commented that he would like to get the ball rolling. Councilman Sheppard agreed.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the Veteran's Banners and advised that he met with the Somers Cove Marina Commission on-line and got their approval. The marina commission will now forward this request to the DNR, as owner of the property, for the DNR's approval. Councilman Atkins advised that he also emailed the chairwoman and several members of the Somerset County Library Board of Directors, they advised that they would need a vote by the full board, they requested by email, forwarded to the full City Council and mayor, that the city use only 10 of the 11 light poles on the lot, one being on the ramp, with additional stipulations that there only be two banners per pole, that the banners be displayed from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and that any damaged banners be removed immediately.

Councilwoman Scott presented an update concerning the Marketing Team. She advised that she had met and had a lengthy discussion with her team comprised of Greg Cain, Eric Banks, Linda Singh and Clint Sterling, with Mr. Banks serving as the Chairman. She noted that she hadn't yet received any response from anyone wishing to serve on the Design Team. Councilwoman Scott also commented that she is feeling a new energy in Crisfield.

Councilman Sheppard thanked Mrs. Eberly for her work, adding that she is sorry to see her go. He welcomed Mrs. Bellamy on board. He noted that there is a lot of positive energy going on now.

Councilman Ford added that he is sorry to see Mrs. Eberly go and welcomed Mrs. Bellamy on board. He also advised that he is in the process of starting a new project, but is checking on funding first.

Council Vice President Banks thanked both Mrs. Eberly and Mrs. Bellamy.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he is here to work and that transparency is important. He advised that the Downtown Waterfront Development Team is working on renderings and expressed concern about the neighboring property of the Customs House and the plans for renovation in that area, adding that he wants to stay in the loop of what is going on.

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to address Council Vice President Banks' comment about transparency. He advised that he approached Mrs. Eberly concerning a grant application that was nearing deadline, for the downtown parking lot and restroom. He advised that he was and always has been transparent and this is just an initial start to a project. Mayor Dize then called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary