

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Gallery and Studio.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Jimmy Ford, Councilman (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Mac Baldwin, Attorney; James Parkinson, CPD; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Director; Jason Loar, City Engineer; Tyler Davidson, Omnitech Pro; Kate Finucan; Grant Writer/Administrator; Valerie Swift, Secretary; and Dominic Liberatore.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MAYOR RICHARD D. SCOTT

Mayor Dize noted the vacant seat, picture, and white rose sitting at the table in memory of Mayor Richard Scott, who had recently passed away. Mayor Dize read Mayor Scott's obituary, and highlighted his many years of public service and civic duty. He also noted that Mayor Scott was helpful to his dad when trying to obtain his disability. At this time, Mayor Dize requested a moment of silent prayer in remembrance and honor of the late Mayor Richard D. Scott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 17, 2021 as written. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 4-0.

TRI COUNTY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – MAYOR DIZE

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to appoint Councilman Casey Goldsborough to the Tri-County Council vacancy, which had previously filled by Council Vice President Banks.

Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried 4-0.

CONTINUED STREET RATING DISCUSSION

Mr. Bozman reviewed the streets he had previously discussed; South Somerset Avenue; Norris Harbor Drive; 5th Street; Canal Street; and Wellington Road. He noted that the contractor will be in to do 5th Street, once weather is permitting.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she would like everyone to agree on the next two or three streets per available funding for paving. She advised that she disagrees with Wellington Road and had questions about the S. Somerset Avenue drainage work. Mayor Dize advised that Mr. Bozman has information concerning the drainage work.

Mr. Bozman noted that periodic flooding has been a long time battle for the residents in that area and it has been Mayor Dize' recommendation to get this project done. He advised that CES has found sludge and debris in the pipe in that location, though the pipe looks good and they have given a proposal for doing this work, which will include labor and running the camera on both sides of South Somerset Avenue. Mayor Dize noted that the pipe was cleaned out last year.

Mr. Bozman advised that we have a dollar figure to proceed with this project. Mrs. Morgan noted that we have funding, but the amount exceeds \$4,000. She advised that we don't want to disclose the price if we can't get approval tonight. Mr. Loar advised that he is ok with the proposal. Mayor Dize made reference to getting other bids. Mr. Loar advised that he feels that these companies would charge more due to their location.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if this would be a pre-cursor to paving. Mayor Dize advised that that was correct; we can't do any paving until this is fixed.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to any FEMA money. Mrs. Morgan advised that there must be a design prepared prior to this funding. Ms. Finucan added that the ground can't be disturbed without the design.

Mayor Dize commented that some areas in Crisfield that get flooded drain, but the water never leaves South Somerset Avenue.

Council Vice President Banks inquired of Mr. Bozman if the standing water will be alleviated once CES does this work. Mr. Bozman advised that it should greatly alleviate the problem.

Councilman Atkins addressed Mr. Baldwin if he had any concerns about there being only one bidder. Mr. Baldwin advised that legally, there is no problem.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the proposed work of CES, using their dollar figure. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried 4-1 with one abstention (Ford).

Council Vice President Banks requested that Mrs. Morgan forward him the quote from CES.

Councilwoman Scott continued with discussion regarding street rating. She made reference to Spruce Street. Mayor Dize noted that this is also in bad condition. Mr. Bozman noted that he had also received a request to pave Heron Way. Mayor Dize inquired if the entrance was owned by the County. Mr. Bozman advised that this is correct.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if anyone had gone out to look at the streets. Councilman Atkins advised that he is doing that now. He advised that he had ranked Spruce Street high and Boat Harbor Drive, Canal Street, Norris Harbor Drive to the T intersection and Rural Route Norris Drive. He commented that Wellington Road is not bad at all, but Spruce Street needs to be done. Mayor Dize advised that he agrees with Spruce Street. Council Vice President Banks commented that there are big potholes on Spruce Street and this street is widely used by tourists.

Mayor Dize noted that South Somerset is a huge concern - #1, with #2 being Spruce. He advised that he is not familiar with Heron Way, but he would take a look, but feels that S. Somerset and Spruce should be the next two.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that Mrs. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio has stated that it will be three years before the Marina begins the flood gate.

Mayor Dize noted that the street between the former Cove Restaurant had been paved, and that is still holding up ok. He made reference to Spruce Street and whether or not we want curb, gutter and sidewalk there in light of all of the walking traffic.

Council Vice President Banks concurred that South Somerset Avenue should be done next and then Spruce Street.

Councilman Ford noted the streets in the order that he felt should be done; South Somerset, Spruce Street, Rural Norris Harbor Drive and Norris Harbor Drive as there are many businesses, etc. in that area. He advised that he feels Norris Harbor should be number one and commented that it's like riding a roller coaster.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he feels we need to figure out why the road is a roller coaster before we pave it. He added that maybe there would be help from the State since the Coast Guard is there. Mr. Loar advised that the condition of the road needs to be studied, but there will be a lot of red tape. Mayor Dize made reference to getting a study done now. Councilman Goldsborough agreed and suggested bringing in the State and Federal government. He also commented that South Somerset and Pine Street is crucial. Mr. Loar added that they are in the process of having the sewer lines on those streets CCTV'd first.

Councilwoman Scott summarized the next streets to pave; #1 South Somerset Avenue (hold on FEMA) #2 Norris Harbor/smaller section and #3 Spruce Street.

She noted that Spruce, Norris Harbor and South Somerset are the top picks for everyone, with a study needed for Norris Harbor.

Mrs. Morgan noted that there is \$29K for paving from 2021 and \$80K from 2022.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about doing an engineering study on the entire section of Norris Harbor. Councilman Atkins noted an engineering study from 4th Street to the T intersection. Councilman Ford suggested from the T to H. Glenwood Evans. Mr. Loar recommended doing the entire area.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to determine the cost for an engineering study for structural needs from Fourth Street to the T and the T to Rural Route Norris Harbor Drive and the entire Norris Harbor Drive. (Study Only) Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

Mr. Loar also advised that storm water also needs to be checked to do all the improvements at once. Motion so modified and second.

DISCUSSION

43:00 Jason clarified that a study for the cost to repair Norris Harbor from 4th street to the T intersection would cost about the same as a study to do the entire Norris Harbor drive.

45:30 I clarified the motion was only to do an engineering study, modified to add stormwater study as well.

49:00 Jason clarified - if we only want to resurface, we can have that study next week. If we include a study for stormwater management, we can have that study by Spring

52:00 Councilman Ford commented that in the past, Gerald's ditch had to be open for free flowing tide

53:30 With no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0. Councilman Banks requested clarification, was the motion carried in favor of an RFP? a contractor?

54:00 Jason made the joke that he "would be happy to do the work for you", I clarified that the motion was to do bids for the study, Councilman Banks repeated "'get bids for the study, that's what I thought".

54:41 Councilwoman Scott made a motion that we use remaining funds to focus on Spruce and Somerset as our next priorities for the spring. Mayor Dize requested that we amend the motion to allow Dean Bozman to select the lowest cost bid for the projects, Councilwoman

Scott agreed. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough. Councilman Atkins discussed possibly repairing Canal street. Dean Bozman reported that there was '36 sewer below Canal Street that likely needs repair. Councilman Atkins had no modification to the motion based on this information about '36 sewer.

First screenshot below, at 59:25 of the meeting recording on facebook, Councilwoman Scott and Mayor Dize questioned whether cost involved in repairing a street that was dug up to repair '36 sewer could be covered by American Recovery Act funds, ARF funds used to pave that street ?Jason Loar gave his opinion that streets dug up in order to repair '36 sewer could be repaved using American Rescue funds.

The motion passed 5-0

Councilman Ford advised that he doesn't feel that Fourth Street to the T is a problem, but from the T to H. Glenwood Evans, a study is needed. He advised that he feels Gerald's Ditch would cause a hold-up in the study because of DNR's position with Gerald's Ditch and we will need permission from them include it in the study which could take two to three years. Councilman Atkins noted to keep in mind that we are not talking about repair of the entire Norris Harbor Drive; we are talking about putting out bids for an engineering study to say what it would take to fix this road and according to Mr. Loar, it won't cost that much more to study the entire road.

Mr. Loar advised that construction would be done in phases and a storm water plan is needed first.

Mayor Dize advised that he feels that the study would show to the State and Federal Government that we need funding assistance.

Mr. Bozman added that the tiles on 4th Street probably need to be replaced due to the outfall and would need to be done in phases. Council Vice President Banks commented that he feels we need to re-contact Mrs. Haddaway-Riccio. Councilman Atkins noted that with the study, we can present hard evidence.

Councilman Ford inquired when the study could be done. Mr. Loar advised that it could be done over the winter. Councilman Ford inquired if we are responsible for the tile. Mayor Dize advised that we are only responsible from inside the fence to the Marina basin. Mayor Dize noted that DNR advised that they would be starting the flood gate in 2023. Councilman Atkins added that's why we need the support of the study to take to them.

Councilman Ford commented that in the past, Gerald's ditch had to be open for free flowing tide.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0. Council Vice President Banks.

Councilwoman Scott made a motion for the paving of South Somerset Avenue and Spruce Street with the funds we have, and allow Mr. Bozman to review and choose the lowest bid. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

Councilman Atkins noted that the cost to pave 5th Street is \$25K; we have \$29K with \$80K coming in. He advised that he looked at comparable streets and came up with Canal Street, unless there are other issues. Mayor Dize inquired if 36 Sewer is under that street. Mr. Loar advised that was correct. Mayor Dize noted that was an issue then.

Mayor Dize suggested focusing on S. Somerset and Spruce for now. Councilwoman Scott inquired if we can use rescue money for streets affected by 36 Sewer. Mayor Dize questioned looking at the 36 Sewer and it results in tearing up the street? Mr. Loar advised "yes".

Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER MATTERS

Mayor Dize made reference to 328 W. Main Street, - the old bank building and inquired if we want to re-bid this property. Councilman Atkins advised that he would like to see it be re-bid. Council Vice President Banks noted that we wanted a timeframe for improvements to be made by the purchaser. Councilman Atkins commented that this was correct; not just let the building sit.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to re-bid the old bank property with the stipulation of the deadline for making improvements to the property. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mrs. Morgan also noted that it cost the City \$3,000 to acquire.

Mayor Dize commented that Mr. Sullivan had said that Salisbury hires commercial realtors to handle surplus properties owned by the City. Mr. Baldwin advised that he will look into this.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Goldsborough noted that next year 2022, Crisfield will be celebrating its 150th year in Charter. He advised that there is a group working on making this a big celebration the entire year, with the biggest events in September. Councilman Goldsborough advised that the group would like City government to make a motion honoring next year as the 150th year. He advised the he would like to the City honor the entire year. Councilman Atkins inquired if it will be historically correct. Councilman Goldsborough advised that research is being done to prevent false advertising.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to dedicate 2022 to be the 150th year of the City of Crisfield being in Charter. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Councilman Ford inquired if the group that was formed was strictly for Crisfield. Councilman Goldsborough advised that this is correct. He advised that no time and money will be dedicated to this event; just honoring of the year as the 150th.

Motion carried unanimously – 5-0.

Councilman Ford had no further comments.

Council Vice President Banks thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve on the Tri-County Council and advised that Councilman Goldsborough has been selected to fill his vacancy. He also advised that he has been asked to serve as the County representative for the Tri-County Council.

Council Vice President Banks noted that this is the last meeting of 2021 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The thanked everyone for allowing him to serve.

Councilman Atkins noted the new blue garbage cans from Seagull Garbage Services. He advised that the brown cans have been collected. Councilman Atkins commented about Mr. Sullivan's 10th year with the City and Mrs. Morgan's 40th year with the City. He wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday and urged that we practice Covid safety, noting that it's still not too late to be immunized to protect against covid-19, if people wanted to be protected from the virus over the holidays.

Councilwoman Scott commented regarding Mrs. Morgan's 40th anniversary celebration and commended Mrs. Morgan on doing a great job.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the Lady Grace B & B had gone all out for Christmas.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to renovation and construction on Wynfall Avenue. She also noted that 90 condos at Harbor Light had been sold. She advised that real estate is a hot market for cash buyers.

Councilwoman Scott wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and advised that she is looking for to next year's 150th year celebrations.

Mayor Dize noted his recent illness and difficult time being hospitalized with IBS, Food Poisoning and Pancreatitis. He commended the staff at McCready ER for his confidential treatment, noting that he had received excellent care from Nurse Melissa Evans. Mayor Dize noted that he is still weak and thanked everyone for their prayers.

Mayor Dize noted the impact on the City that Mrs. Morgan had made with her 40 years of employment. He congratulated her for her work.

Mayor Dize thanked those involved with the Miracle on 10th Street event, noting that it drew a huge crowd.

Mayor Dize wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their hard work and support.

There being no further business for discussion, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary