MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Corbin, Studio and Gallery located at 4 E. Main Street.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman (zoom)
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Tiffany McMahon; Jennifer Merritt; Chief Lee; D. J. Parkinson; Jason Loar, Brian Fowler, Peterallen Hirschoff; LaFabian Marshall; Richard Crumbacker, Brian & Karen Sutherland; Roger Clark & wife; Charlotte Scott; Mr. & Mrs. Rayford; Elmer Barkley.

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

Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular and Special Meeting of April 8, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried with abstention from Councilman Patel who was not present.

Neighborhood Nursing Program – Mr. Clark

Mr. Clark presented information concerning the Neighborhood Nursing Program which would serve all of Somerset County and be a bridge between doctors and patients. He noted that the Housing Authority would be added to the stakeholders. He advised that there is a need for Community Health Workers and they would need to obtain 100 service hours and 40 practical hours, a degree is not required. He advised that two would be hired at $52K salary. He advised that the program would be grant funded for three years.

Councilman Lankford inquired if 3 years is the actual length of the program. Mr. Clark advised that the program is in effect, ready to hire and get the program going.

Councilman Patel wished them good luck on the program.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that this program is needed.

Council Vice President Banks inquired if this is a John's Hopkins Initiative. Mr. Clark advised that this was correct.

Corbin Mural – Mr. & Mrs. Sutherland

Mr. & Mrs. Sutherland reviewed slides concerning the proposed Corbin Mural based on Jackie Miller's artwork. Karen explained that the 9" x 12" ceramic tiles will be fused on the artwork based on various colors of paint issued to whomever purchases the tiles, which are numbered. Anything can be painted on the tiles in the color that is assigned to the number. When all are put together, it will form the artwork designed by Jackie Miller.

She noted that they have 200 tiles and 432 are needed and kits are available

Brian noted that the mural would be placed on the side of the Corbin and there would be a Fall unveiling ceremony.

Mayor Taylor urged everyone to get a kit. Councilman Lankford commented that this sounds like a great program and asked if names will be listed. Mr. Sutherland advised that they would.

Update African American Museum – Mrs. Rayford

Mrs. Rayford presented an update concerning the African-American Museum.

She noted that the soft launch and community reception was held on February 22. She advised that the desire is to preserve African-American history and advised that there will be an icon gallery and that Dr. Clara Small from Salisbury University is donating a piece of history and Stan Rayford is donating his baseball history. Mrs. Rayford commented that the future site may be the Customs House. She noted that there is a partnership fundraiser cookbook called Food for the Soul.

She advised that is about preserving legacy, identity, and contributions “from this place great stories shall come“. Mayor Taylor thanked Mrs. Rayford for her time and effort and offered her 100% support.

Councilman Lankford and councilman Patel had no comments. Councilwoman Johnson commented that the soft launch was nice. Council vice president Banks, thanked Mrs. Rayford for a great presentation Councilman Goldsborough commented that he loves museums and loves the idea of this museum.

Project map

Charlotte Scott presented a map of the project on going on in the city. She noted that she needs an aerial map with tags size 4 x 6. Miss Marshall went on to review the map highlighting points on the map that represent projects.

Mrs. Scott noted that she is projecting $313 million in plans and proposed investors with the marina doing a $30 million rehab. Mrs. Scott noted that there is $100 million-$50,000 projects and she thanked Mayor Taylor for her mitigation efforts.

Mrs. Scott thanked Jen and Ms. Marshall for all of their assistance. Mrs. Scott commented that council is so important to work together to move things forward.

Council members thanked Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Merritt, and Ms. Marshall for all of their work in putting this information together.

Rezoning Recommendation – Mr. Hirschoff

Mr. Hirschoff reviewed the history of the request for rezoning of property on Seventh Street as well as a letter from the planning commission. He noted that a public hearing will be held on May 13, 2026.

He advised that the planning commission is making a recommendation to the Mayor and Council as there has been substantial change in the character of the neighborhood at that location.

Mayor Taylor noted that first reader of the ordinance for the rezoning would be done tonight. She noted that there is a process to be followed, which involves a public hearing and second reader.

First Reader – Rezoning 7th Street -Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati presented the ordinance for rezoning of the property on seventh Street. He noted that in-depth research had been done concerning the ordinance. At this Mr. Illuminati read the ordinance into record for First Reader.

Mayor Taylor noted that the planning commission has made the recommendation to the Mayor and Council, will be passed for First Reader and the process involves a public hearing followed by second reader.

Mr. Illuminati thanked Mr. Hirschoff and the Planning Commission for their in-depth research. He noted that the public hearing has been scheduled for May 13,2026 at 4:30 PM here at the Corbin. He then went on to read aloud the ordinance for rezoning for first reader.

Councilman Goldsboro had no comments

Councilman Vice President Banks thanked Mr. Hirschoff and the Planning Commission for their hard work with the assistance of Mr. Illuminati.

Councilman Patel inquired if the rezoning pertains to seventh Street or Stuart shipyard and commented that there had been a mistake in zoning, but was changed in 2017

Mr. Hirschoff noted that this was an intensive process, and there was no lag in the project.

Department Head Reports

Mrs. Morgan Clerk Treasure/City Manager reviewed the budget update concerning the nine-month profit and loss period. She went on to highlight the total budget, highlighting the items for profit and then went on to highlight the expense side. She noted that there are codes for each line item.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the police department is under budget but legal fees are over. She also noted that we are over in street paving and street sanitation.

Mrs. Morgan went on to highlight various pages noting the overage in water and sewer due to the lack of the turbine running, plant breakdowns, chemicals for sand filter.

Mayor Taylor commented that the turbines issues have caused the city $10,000 in electric bills when it is not working.

Mayor Taylor noted that the dock is over due to engineering fees, but we will get reimbursed for that. She also noted that the ambulance line item is over do to hours and pay increases. Mayor Taylor noted that the county reimburses the city for this.

Councilman Patel made reference to page 4 in the amount of 61,450. Mrs. Morgan noted that this is reimbursement for a contract.

Police Department – Chief Lee

Chief Lee reviewed his quarterly report. Councilman Goldsborough made reference to electric scooters which are getting worse on City streets. He noted otherwise that CPD has done a good job.

Council Vice President Banks commented that CPD has done a good job and thanked them for being under budget.

Councilman Patel also thanked CPD and asked them to keep up the good work.

Councilman Lankford noted that he's glad that there are three police trainees for the academy.

Mrs. Merritt went on to review grant information details concerning existing grants and funds that are available or have been spent.

WWTP – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson presented his quarterly report regarding the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the schedule for flushing fire hydrants.

Mr. Parkinson advised that he has a scheduled flushing list.

City Engineer Quarterly Report – Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar reviewed his quarterly report concerning the sanitary sewer placement project, which has been completed by Teal, the wastewater improvements project for Cove and Rubberset, wastewater pumping station replacements, the wind turbine status and the Jersey Island pump station rehab.

Public Works Quarterly Report – Mr. Fowler

Mr. Fowler reviewed his quarterly report highlighting various aspects. He commended IWORQS for its efficiency. He also reminded citizens that the downtown trash cans are not for household trash.

Building Inspector Quarterly Report – Mr. Hirschoff

Mr. Hirschoff reviewed his quarterly report. He commended Ms. Marshall for helping with the IWORQS program.

Information -Oath of Office – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati reviewed information concerning the swearing-in date of the Mayor and Council. He noted that the mayor would be sworn in on June 29 and the Council will be seated on June 24. Mr. Illuminati recommended that the city follow the City Charter concerning this matter for this time and change it after the election.

Council Meeting Attendance – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati noted that there is nothing in the Crisfield Charter concerning attendance of council members at meetings. He reviewed a list of other towns' requirements.

Discussion followed;

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he feels we need an attendance policy using Berlin as a model, noting that we need an in-person quorum.

Council Vice President Banks advised that he feels this discussion would require a work session.

Councilwoman Johnson, Councilman Patel and Councilman Lankford agreed about the need for a discussion in a work session.

Mayor Taylor suggested continuing conversation to look at examples, options and make it make sense.

Farmers Market Info – Mayor

Mayor Taylor made reference to Ms. Aerielle Johnston's Farmers Market, opening on May 23rd at 253 N. Somerset Avenue. She advised that the City supports it 100%.

Public Input

Mr. Illuminati noted that House Bill 1142 was signed and passed establishing a task force to increase revenue. Mayor Taylor noted that MML lobbied.

Ms. McMahon made reference to the D-Torch House Bill for Road Safety. Mayor Taylor noted that this had been adopted.

Youth Council Report

Mayor Taylor noted that both students are graduating.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Johnson noted that the upcoming Organizational Week is their 40th year anniversary.

Council Vice President Banks noted that Design Collective has 3 new revisions for the depot design.

Councilman Patel noted that this Saturday is opening day for Little League with games to be held on Old State Road at the Glen Ward field.

Chief Lee advised that he will have MSP monitoring traffic speeds for safety.

Councilman Lankford noted that we had covered a lot for a meeting and thanked everyone.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their work and presentations.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Sec.