

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session via Zoom and Facebook Live, on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT Via Zoom

Barry Dize, Mayor

Eric Banks, Council Vice President

Jimmy Ford, Councilman

Mike Atkins, Councilman

Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman

Councilman Casey Goldsborough

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Michael Sullivan City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer.

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

At this time, Mayor Dize requested a moment of silence in remembrance of "911". He also read aloud a commemorative prayer.

Mayor Dize, Councilman Atkins, and Councilman Goldsborough offered their condolences to Council Vice President Banks due to the passing of his mother, Helen.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she had spoken to Council Vice President Banks and offered her condolences as well.

PUBLIC HEARING CIP CLOSEOUT

At this time, Mr. Sullivan read aloud the public hearing notice.

Mayor Dize opened the public hearing for comments. Following a waiting period with no comments received via Facebook, the public hearing adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of June 9, 2021, July 14, 2021 and July 28, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEMBERS

Mr. Sullivan made reference to Section 112-128 of the City code concerning Board of Zoning Appeals appointments and advised that Mayor Dize would be re-appointing members Margo Green-Gale, Artie Tawes; Elmer Barkley; Lamont Potter; and David Tawes.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the re-appointment of all five of the members of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously 5-0. Councilman Atkins added that he appreciates those who are willing to donate their time.

AMENDMENT OF REQUEST TO PLANNING COMMISSION TO REDUCE REQUIRED BOARD OF ZONING MEMBERS FROM 7 TO 5

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to request from the Planning Commission that the Board of Zoning Appeals be reduced from seven members to five members.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Chapter 112 Section 128 SS B requires that a reduction in the Board of Zoning Appeals must go before the Planning Commission for recommendation.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion request a recommendation from the Planning Commission that the Board of Zoning Appeals membership be reduced from seven to five. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford.

Councilman Atkins inquired of Mr. Sullivan what would make up a quorum with five members. Mr. Sullivan advised that if would be the majority of members being present; with five members it would be three.

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

JASON LOAR, DBF – PRESENTATION/ USE OF RESCUE MONEY

Mr. Loar made reference to the request from Council Vice President Banks for more information concerning water and waste water. He presented a map of the sewer system and highlighted the 36 sewer and some of the 89 sewer which needs to be cleaned and camera'd. Mr. Loar advised that the cost estimate to do it all would be \$1.7M. He advised that he recommends cleaning and inspecting with the option to insert a liner. He also advised that he recommends looking at the 89 sewer and advised that a set of documents to go out to bid be prepared.

Mr. Loar advised that the first item to consider would be to clean and tv the sewer line, with the contingency for lining any pipe that needs it. Mayor Dize inquired who would decide if the lining was necessary. Mr. Loar advised that he would, along with the contractors, once they review the video.

Mayor Dize inquired of Mr. Loar if the \$1.7M would include every piece of sewer line, cleaning, camera, and lining. Mr. Loar advised that this was correct.

Mrs. Morgan advised that the City doesn't have access to the other \$1.2M yet, but she will look into when. Mr. Loar advised that he believes it would come in the same time next year.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion that Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., put out for bids to clean, camera, and line, if necessary, the 36 and 89 sewer lines. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford.

Discussion –

Council Vice President Banks advised that he would like to see the documents and maps before giving approval.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to following up with a work-session to discuss the use for the \$1.7M. She advised that she is not ready to spend that amount on just one thing.

Councilman Atkins commented that we did a small replacement of the 36 sewer years ago and it was a major improvement. He advised that this work should create a savings in cost and he feels like it would be a mistake to delay the repairs and we should move forward.

Mr. Loar advised that he understands Council Vice President Banks concern. He advised that they would use a unit price contract and can tailor it to narrow down the cost.

At this time, Mayor Dize called for a vote which was as follows; Councilwoman Scott – nay, Councilman Atkins, aye, Council Vice President Banks – Nay, Councilman Ford aye, Councilman Goldsborough – off of zoom at this time.

Councilman Goldsborough re-joined the meeting and Councilman Atkins reviewed the motion for him, that the City is requesting that Mr. Loar put out for bids the cleaning, videoing and repairing the 36 and 89 sewer lines, which can be tailored toward the funding.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he was in favor of the motion. The vote carried with 3 in favor, 2 against.

Mr. Loar continued with the water discussion in the CIP Plan. He made reference to the water leak in front of Food Lion in 2015, which resulted in there being no water and then a few years later, another leak, which caused an outage in the City. He advised that to better isolate the areas that would need to be turned off to make repairs, the City needs to have isolation valves installed. He presented a map showing isolation in 5 areas and suggested installing 12 valves. Mr. Loar advised that cost would be \$200K and this is a high priority in the CIP. Mr. Loar advised that if an isolation valve is inserted, no water would have to be turned off.

Mayor Dize inquired if this is as high a priority as the sewer. Mr. Loar advised that it was, but we could probably do 6 or 7 on Richardson. Mayor Dize inquired if we did six, would there be problems later on. Mr. Loar advised that installing 6 would cut the City in half. Mayor Dize advised that he doesn't want to put a band aide on the problem.

Mr. Loar went on to say that waste water is the highest priority, then the water valves, and then replacing the large water meters, because we need to know what we are sending out and receiving back.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the Agenda says "Use of Rescue Money" and inquired of Mr. Loar if he is the most knowledgeable. Mr. Loar advised that he is familiar. Councilwoman Scott inquired if the money can be used for economic development, marketing, ditch clean outs and tide gates. Mr. Loar advised that it could be used for those.

Councilwoman Scott inquired of the amount of the line item in the budget for Economic Development. Mrs. Morgan advised that the amount was \$5,000. She advised that she also has the list of allowable uses.

After further discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to authorize Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., to put out bids for 12 isolation valves and installation of the large water meters. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford.

Mayor Dize requested a count of the vote for this motion. Votes were as follows; Councilwoman Scott – Nay, Councilman Atkins - Aye, Councilman Ford – Aye, Council Vice President Banks – Aye, and Councilman Goldsborough – Aye. The motion carried 4-1.

APPOINTMENTS TO CRISFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Dize noted that the Ordinance establishing the CEDC was established on June 10, 2020. Mr. Sullivan noted that this was Ordinance 698 Establishing the Crisfield Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Dize noted that the Board will consist of 1) The City Manager, 2) Somerset County EDC Director, Danny Thompson, 3) the President of the Chamber, 4) the Paid Director of the A & E District. Mayor Dize presented five names of people to serve as voting members of the CEDC Board; Troy Brittingham, Billie Jo Chandler, Melissa Laird, Hitesh Patel, and John Tawes.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept all five people as voting members of the Crisfield EDC. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott advised that she thought the Mayor had asked each Councilmember to submit names, and hers were not selected. Mayor Dize advised that these are the names that he submitted. Councilman Atkins commented that at a prior meeting, she and Council Vice President Banks noted that they did not wish to participate in the submission of names. Councilwoman Scott advised that she had changed her mind and submitted two names. She advised that she was disappointed that they were not included.

Mayor Dize called for a vote; Councilwoman Scott – Nay, Councilman Atkins, Aye, Councilman Ford, Aye, Council Vice President Banks, Nay; and Councilman Goldsborough, Aye. The motion carried 3-2.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he is thankful for the establishment of the Crisfield EDC and would like to see some money for marketing in the Budget. Councilman Ford concurred with Councilman Goldsborough.

Council Vice President Banks had no comments.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she is not opposed to work on the 36 Sewer or the installation of the valves in meters; she is opposed to the non-discussion about funding.

Councilwoman Scott commented that good things are happening in Crisfield.

Councilman Atkins commented that he is happy to see us moving in the right direction.

Councilman Atkins commented that a lot of people can bring ideas to the Crisfield EDC, but only the Mayor and City Council can address the crumbling infrastructure, leaking sewer, and frozen valves, as well as water usage to the County. He added that we are moving in the right direction. Councilman Atkins expressed his sympathy concerning the loss of Mrs. Helen Taylor.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Dize commented that there were many people in town this past weekend. He noted that the Park was full and there were 100 transient boats in the Marina. Boat Docking was at capacity and there was also a lot of foot traffic in the Marina. Mayor Dize noted that the Crab Derby was great, along with all of the other events held at the Elks.

Mayor Dize commented that the CIP is a big discussion with \$17M in infrastructure needed in the City. He made reference to previous issues such as the hole on Richardson Avenue with sewer coming up, schools and the hospital closed because water had to be turned off for repairs. He advised that he ran on a platform of repairing infrastructure and this is where we need to be, along with cleaning ditches, and repairing roads and pipes and advised that he would make no apology for being an Infrastructure Mayor. He added that he is excited about what we have accomplished.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared By Valerie Swift, Sec.

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer