

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

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

Also, in attendance; Tiffany McMahon; Peter Hirschhoff; Brian Fowler; Jason Loar; D. J. Parkinson; Moonshot Team Members Nick Meurer and Rania Bashar; Richard Crumbacker and LaFabian Marshall.

Invocation 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

Mayor Taylor noted that there were no minutes for approval as the Secretary was out on Bereavement Leave.

APPOINTMENTS:

Moonshot: Update on WWTP /Budget considerations

Moonshot Team Members Nick Meurer and Rania Bashar appeared before the Mayor and City Council to address the compliance issues and the corrective action for the waste water treatment plant. They gave a brief synopsis of what Moonshot does. Mr. Moyer advised that they have been addressing the Nitrogen problem for the City, which has been high since January 2024 and then went on to review the steps for compliance; including process changes, removal of suspended solids through a new belt press, a new sand filter and air tank cleaning. Ms. Bashar noted that there is an opportunity for \$200K in funding through National Rural Water to help with the costs of the corrective items.

Council Vice President Banks thanked the Moonshot team for their assistance. Councilman Lankford inquired if all of the repairs would be done at one time. Mayor Taylor advised that they would be done as soon as possible. Councilman Patel commented that the cost is high.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Moonshot team for their help.

Somerset County : Jesse Drewer, Director, Technical and Community Services Presentation of Draft Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Drewer presented and highlighted various areas of the updated county comp plan. Mayor Taylor noted that Mrs. Merritt had served on the review board for the update on behalf of the City.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the section that spoke about annexation and noted that the wording needs to indicate that the City is interested.

Update Public Works – Mr. Fowler/ paving/ditching

Mr. Fowler noted that he had reached out to several companies concerning paving quotes for the stretch of Somerset Avenue by Woodson School.

Mr. Fowler also noted that Mr. Bradford had put the tide gates in on 7th Street. Mr. Fowler went on to review the tide gate problems that affect Maryland Avenue, as per the complaint made at the public meeting. He noted that he has to determine whether or not the ditch is tidal or non tidal. Mr. Fowler also advised that he will have to obtain Easements to go on resident's property. He also noted that he will be sending out the street sign replacement names to staff for final proof.

Update Public Utilities – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted that the plant was off of the 24 hour monitoring rotation. He noted that the nitrogen readings were more normal, but we are missing the polishing stage.

Update : On Line Payment Protection – Lafabian Marshall

Public Input

Youth Council Comments

Council Comments

Mayor Comments – BIKE RODEO 5/ 17, 10 A.M., TANGIER SOUND MUSIC FESTIVAL 5/24, GATES OPEN 1:30 & SOFT SHELL FESTIVAL, 5/25 , 12 – 5 p.m. W/ WATERMAN'S HALL OF FAME

Adjournment