MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Not Present – Ivan Lankford, Councilman and Casey Goldsborough, Council Vice President

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift; LaFabian Marshall; Janet Jackson; Chief Lee; Jackie Collins; Jennifer Floyd; Jennifer Merritt; George & Myra Friedley; Leslie & Mark Langlle; Richard Crumbacker; and Alexandria Wilkins, CWP via Zoom.

Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time, she requested a motion to amend the agenda to add the Neighborhood Watch Update.

Vote to Amend Agenda to Add Neighborhood Watch Update

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda to add the Neighborhood Watch update. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Langle referred to the recent dedication of the Neighborhood Watch signs at the Depot and noted that they were done by VoTech.

She also noted that the City needs "block" leaders to report on events such as storms and to give documentation to the Chief. She noted that the next meeting will be held at the depot on July 25th from 1-2. Mayor Taylor thanked the group for stepping up in this capacity.

Approval of Minutes –

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 24th and June 29th. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

Lead Service Line Inventory - Contract Award – CWP

Ms. Wilkins, CWP, presented and reviewed the Crisfield Technical Assistance update including the Scope of Work and Bid Overview from both Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., and 120Water. She noted that both bids met the Scope of Work. Mayor Taylor noted that both use existing data. She noted that DBF would be using Ground Truthing. Mrs. Merritt added Parcel Point Mapping. Mayor Taylor noted that the original scope required Ground Truthing.

Councilman Patel inquired if the location of the water meters is indicated. Mayor Taylor advised that it is about 80%. Mrs. Morgan added that the meter reading device makes a noise in the location of the meter.

Councilman Banks made reference to the Cloud Based platform. Mrs. Merritt advised that it would cost $12K and it would only be used the first year.

Ms. Wilkins advised that the difference is the GIS data download link.

Councilman Banks reiterated that the two options are 1) GIS System, and 2) Cloud Based.

Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council is ok with mapping through the water meters.

Councilwoman Johnson then made a motion to award the bid to Davis, Bowen and Friedel because of the including of water meters in the Scope of Work. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously 3-0.

Southern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Phase I - Contract Award - Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt made reference to the Southern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Phase I. Mayor Taylor advised that we are waiting on funding. She advised that Phase I is State funded. She reviewed the funding sources for the $3,249,000. Mayor Taylor advised that MDEM must approve the funding source.

Councilman Banks requested information on the difference between Bayland and CDM Smith's proposals.

Ms. Wilkins noted that both firms are qualified.

Mayor Taylor commented that the difference between the two groups is that CDM provides more service for the money. She advised that she is asking CWP to review the differences.

Fire Dept Match Grant Application - Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed the scope of work and project budget information, noting that the total project cost is $1,810,000, with a matching amount of $452,500. She noted that the grant application to DHCD for the $425,500 is due August 6th.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the Grant Application to DHCD in the amount of $425,500. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously 3-0.

Armory Grant Application – Ms. Collins

Ms. Collins reviewed the history of the work that had been completed at the Armory including roof replacement, repairs, asbestos removal and mold remediation. She noted that HVAC system is in design. Ms. Collins advised that she would like to ask for permission to apply to DHCD for grant funding in the amount of $250,000 for the phased HVAC and lead remediation, with the grant application due on August 6th.

Mayor Taylor advised that we want to get the Armory building in useable condition.

Councilman Banks commented that we need to see the project through at this point.

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the DHCD Grant Application for continued work on the Armory. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

Low Income Housing Initiative - July 18 Open House - Mrs. Floyd

Mrs. Floyd reviewed information regarding the City's Low Income Housing Initiative.

She noted that there is a homebuyer's seminar and open house scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2026, at the Corbin from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Mayor Taylor noted that there is a possible applicant for the house on Tyler Street. She noted that Long Term Recovery built this house and will be building the one at 202 Laird Avenue. She noted that the County donated the lots to the City.

Mayor Taylor also urged interested parties not to be discouraged as there would be time to correct financial issues.

Councilman Banks referred to an RFP for contractors. Ms. Floyd advised that she has a draft.

Audit Extension – Mrs. Morgan

Mrs. Morgan presented Resolution #501 for an audit extension for three more years. She noted that she consults with the City's audit team, PKS all year long.

Mrs. Morgan advised that PKS is ok with the wording and read aloud Resolution #501.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion approve Resolution #501. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mr. Loar – Project Updates, Release of the WWTP RFP

Mr. Loar noted that the RFP for the wastewater treatment plant has been put out. He advised that the mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled for July 22.

Mayor Taylor noted that the RFP is for the O & M and licensed operator to run and manage the treatment plant, with the City still in ownership.

Mr. Loar noted that the Cove and Rubberset lift station project is in progress, with Cove Street to be at 90% by the end of the month and Rubberset complete in October.

Mr. Loar noted that all of the permits are in for Jersey Island but MDE. He advised that bids will go out next week. He noted that Mr. Illuminati will be reviewing the contract documents.

Mr. Loar advised that there is still an issue with the sand filter and it may be an air bubble.

Public Works Update – Mr. Ebaugh

Mr. Ebaugh noted that Mr. Bradford had cleaned out the ditch on Charlotte Avenue, which should help with drainage issues. He noted that the speed humps are in and he is working with the Chief to start by putting one at CHS and one at the Dollar Store. He also noted that grass cutting is ongoing and Schultz will be helping with curbs. Mr. Ebaugh noted that he will be taking classes to acquire his pesticide applicator license.

Councilman Banks commented that he has been getting complaints from residents about weeds. He noted that the City used to have a summer youth work program.

Mayor Taylor commented that Schultz has been helping out in the interim.

Public Input

Mrs. Langlle commented that there are home remedies that can be used to kill the weeds. She suggested having a clean-up and beautification day.

Mayor Taylor also added curb painting.

Council Comments

Councilman Patel urged people to stop throwing out their trash. He also made reference to Phoenix Sollberger, a 6-year-old who took it upon his self to clean up the beach.

Councilman Patel also made reference to Public Works staffing issues.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked staff for their hard work. She also noted that there is a Main Street meeting on 7/14 at 11:00 a.m. She advised that Investor's Day is Monday, July 13th with attendance of approximately 50-60.

Councilman Banks thanked Department Heads and staff. He noted that he has been working with Design Collective and has made a decision on a design, which he will share soon.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked Department Heads and staff. She noted that that there have been challenges that we are working through.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Citizens Academy organized by Ms. Marshall and noted that there are 19 people who meet every other Tuesday.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary