

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 At 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

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

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Jennifer Merritt, Grant Writer; Richard Crumbacker; and team members from FEMA, BRIC and DTA.

Invocation

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 10, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

FEMA BRIC DTA (15 minutes)

Team members from FEMA, BRIC and DTA attended the Mayor and Council meeting in order to review the contents of their report and findings.

Bid approval of tide gate/ stormwater pumping stations

Mrs. Merritt went on to review the bids that were received and reviewed by City staff and noted that Bayland scored the highest.

Mr. Wunder noted that he had contacted Anne Arundel County for a reference and was advised that they use them a lot. The town of North Beach gave them an excellent review.

Mayor Taylor noted that they had a high area of expertise.

After further brief discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to accept Bayland for the design phase of Tide Gates and Stormwater Pump. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously 4-0.

Resolutions –

Mrs. Merritt presented 4 Resolutions for approval by the Council for the award of grants: Res. 477 – Authorizing the Application for and Conditional Acceptance of Financial Assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland (For the Crisfield Low Income Housing Initiative for Affordable Housing project (demolition) \$132,100)

Approval so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Banks And carried unanimously.

Res. 478 - Authorizing the Application for and Conditional Acceptance of Financial Assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland (Armory rehabilitation, \$250,000).

Approval so moved by Councilman Goldsborough, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ross, Circuit Rider, presented Res. 479 - Authorizing the Application for and Conditional Acceptance of Financial Assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland (Crisfield Façade Improvement Program, \$75,000)

Approval so moved by Councilman Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ross, Circuit Rider, presented Res. 480 - Authorizing the Application for and Conditional Acceptance of Financial Assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland (333 West Main St. Interpretive Sign \$10,000)

Approval so moved by Councilman Goldsborough, seconded by Councilman Banks, and carried unanimously.

Paid Vacation Buyout – Andrew Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati reviewed the proposal for the Paid Vacation Buyout program, allowing employees with a large accumulation of accrued vacation to buy out no more than 160 hours of the accrued vacation.

Mayor Taylor advised that the City was not trying to hurt employees, but needed a way to take care of the overage.

Mrs. Morgan noted that by their anniversary date in 2024, employees make only carry over 2 weeks. She also noted that she has a budgeted amount for the vacation buy out.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the Paid Vacation Buyout proposal. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Waiver of Building Permit Fees for Future Projects of the Eastern Shore Long Term Recovery Commission, (not including inspections done by First State Inspections) Kyle Tyler

Mr. Tyler presented the request from ESLTR for the City to waive the Building Permit Fees of the City for any future projects.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion that the city waive Building Permit Fees for any of ESLTR's future project. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Laptop Update – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that 250 laptops have been distributed and we are waiting on the next 250.

Mayor Taylor referred to the information presented by the FEMA BRIC and DTA team and inquired about the bio retention basin. Mr. Alex Landry explained that this would be a pond/reservoir for storm water.

Mayor Taylor also inquired about the road elevation. Mr. Landry explained that this would be done in certain areas, but the entire road would not be paved to 5 feet, but at the crown of the road, and there would be underground drainage.

Councilman Goldsborough requested a copy of the slide show and noted that the bio-retention pond is good.

Councilman Banks thanked everyone for their presentation.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that she had seen pictures of the bio-retention ponds.

Public Input

None

Council Comments

Council Vice President Lankford commented that he is happy that we are moving forward.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that Tri-County Council has funds available for Crisfield. She also made reference to Broad Band for the Eastern Shore. Councilwoman Johnson commented that MML had some interesting presentations and thanked the City for being allowed to attend.

Mayor Taylor commented that at MML on Tuesday, any staff member could attend for \$50 per person. She also referred to the "Porta Dam" information presented at MML. Mayor Taylor gave a shout out to Governor Moore for attending MML, and for giving kudos to Crisfield.

Councilman Banks thanked city staff for all of their hard work. He noted that the Crisfield Marketing Team is underway and wants to do a music festival this year.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked city staff and encouraged them to take vacation time. He noted that we are moving in the right direction.

Mayor Comments/Discussion

Mayor Taylor thanked the city staff. She noted that it is important to get information out to the public. Mayor Taylor noted that the Bluegrass Festival brought more than 1,000 people to Crisfield. She also noted the 4th of July Events on July 2nd and that she would be attending the Unity Day Roundtable meeting at the Tawes Museum tomorrow. Mayor Taylor also noted that she would be on vacation the week of August 14th.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by,

Valerie Swift, Secretary