

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Work Session on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President Via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Jason Loar; Jennifer Merritt; John Wunder; Kyle Tyler; Lafabian Marshall; and Richard Crumbacker

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

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL PROJECT LEADS – Mayor Taylor

1 -Infrastructure – flooding Lead – Council Vice President Lankford, Team – John Wunder, Jennifer Merritt, Jason Loar, Status TNC, BRIC, Creat Next Steps – Look at flooding, priority areas

2) Business Development (new and existing) – hire Director of Business Development and they will create a team

3) Revitalization of Main Street, Ivan and LaVerne

Discussion – how to update community on project info

Council Vice President Lankford – advise when and where we are going to start, social media, live updates, newspapers

Councilman Banks – update every 60-90 days, Council Vice President Lankford, Update monthly

Mrs. Marshall suggested updating by Facebook live with a pre-recorded, scripted segment, people can submit questions.

Discussion - Business Development – Councilman Banks advised that we need people and services. Open new businesses and support old ones – people need options.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that businesses close early, maybe change hours – open later, stay open longer

Councilwoman Scott suggested a less cumbersome permit process and we need to get the Director of Business Development onboard.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that the new Director should reach out to Carvel Hall to see what we can do to assist them to get open.

Council Vice President Banks noted that the Mayor and Council don't have time to solicit. He noted that we need restaurants.

Mayor Taylor advised that we need to hire the Director of Business Development to help small business, help them stay open longer, develop an easier permitting process, look at all opportunities that are out there. She noted that DHCD has money for entrepreneurs in the sustainable community and enterprise zone.

Revitalization of Main Street –

Councilwoman Scott noted that CEDC encompasses both uptown and downtown

Mayor Taylor advised that a team needs to be assembled including those who can prepare an RFP to give to architects

Councilman Banks commented that an RFP is needed to get stores back open.

City Dock – Mayor Taylor advised that this would also include waterfront development

Councilman Banks advised that he had a team do a boardwalk regeneration project and start over on a site for a venue. He commented that this needs to be Waterfront Development and City Dock and advised he would make a motion at the next Regular Meeting.

Rehab of Derelict Houses – Councilman Goldsborough and Banks, Kyle Tyler

Mr. Tyler advised that he is working on two demo letters, but is waiting for clearance from Mr. Illuminati. Mayor Taylor noted that we have \$10k in the budget for demo and need to look for funding.

Marketing – Councilwoman Scott advised that she had a team working on this category to establish their vision, mission and goals. She advised that they are meeting every two weeks to develop a marketing plan for the City of Crisfield. She advised that they are looking to do things that can be tracked

Zoning – Councilman Goldsborough would be the lead in this team. He advised that items are missing from the current building code and suggested working with MDOP.

Recreation Center – Armory used in interim. Mr. Wunder noted that HVAC has been installed and mold remediation done. Councilman Goldsborough advised that he would be putting a team together.

Youth Engagement – Mayor Taylor advised that CHS students would create a website and Mrs. Heather Ross would be working with them with the first goal to establish a calendar.

Mayor Taylor noted that it is good to brainstorm to formulate teams and ideas.

Remarks –

Councilwoman Scott noted that the Ferry Committee has listed Crisfield as a port. She also commented that we want a hotel conference center.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that Karmin-tia Greer's program provides for free internet for all Somerset County Students and is inviting organizations to be involved. She also commented that Crisfield is moving forward.

Councilman Goldsborough had no comments.

Council Vice President Lankford commented that he likes the direction we are going in.

Mayor Taylor thanked the staff for all their work. She noted that we need a conference room at City Hall. She advised that Staff meeting would be held in Chief Taylor's office.

She also noted that LEOPS had been approved for the police department. Chief Taylor added that it was by a vote of 134 to 0.

Mayor Taylor thanked Senator Carozza, Delegate Otto and Delegate Anderton for helping CPD obtain an otherwise pittance retirement.

Councilman Banks also offered kudos to former Chief Dalfonso for his work in initiating the process. Chief Taylor noted that Chief Tabor was instrumental as well.

Mayor Taylor also thanked Mr. Crumbacker for being in attendance.

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

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Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary