

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in 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
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon; Lonnie Luedtke, Acting Chief, Dennis Parkinson, Jr., Jason Loar and Richard Crumbacker.

Invocation, 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.

Council Vice President Banks made a motion to Approval of Minutes - Zoom Meeting, 11/18/24, Regular Meeting 11/20/24, Zoom Meeting 12/3/24, Closed Meeting 12/11/24, Regular Meeting 12/11/24. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Approval of new Chief of Police – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor introduced the nominee for Chief of Police, Mr. Eric Lee, noting that his start date would be January 21, 2025. She requested a motion to approve Chief Lee.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the nomination of Chief Lee. Motion seconded by Council Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor thanked Captain Luedtke for standing in as Acting Chief.

Approval for Grant Application – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Northern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Project. She noted that the grant is due January 31. She advised that she would like to request approval to apply for \$1.87 M for flood sensor funding. Mayor Taylor advised that Mrs. Merritt will be writing the grant and that a motion is needed apply for \$1.87 M and the option to apply for flood sensors.

Following a brief discussion, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve the grant application for \$1.87 M and the option to apply for flood sensors. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Discussion of Roof Bids – Council Vice President Banks

Council Vice President Banks commented that both proposals, Roof Pro and Dynamic, qualified; Roof Pro \$288K and Dynamic \$208K.

Councilman Goldsborough concurred and advised going with Dynamic.

Mayor Taylor advised that she is concerned that the funding comes from the Business Incubator, and we don't have it earmarked yet. Council Vice President Banks noted that the contract is good for 60 days. He advised awarding the contract, pending the Council's appropriation of funding. Mr. Illuminati advised that this is the right way to go.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to accept the roofing bid from Dynamic. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Discussion of Wastewater Treatment Plant – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted that Clarifier #2 is down, and he is waiting for parts. He advised that ACE will be doing the work. He noted that it will cost \$15K to install. Mr. Loar noted that the cost to install the part is \$15K and the cost for parts is \$28K. He noted that the cost for new would be \$400K.

Mayor Taylor inquired if this will make us out of compliance. Mr. Loar advised that it won't. He noted that C.E.S. must do a cleaning before the clarifiers can be repaired.

Mr. Parkinson noted that the nitrogen numbers are "out of whack" and has asked to be able to see them sooner.

During further discussion, Mayor Taylor noted that we need technical assistance. Mr. Loar advised that Moonshot will help.

Mayor Taylor made reference to leak repairs. Mr. Parkinson advised that one was repaired on Crockett Avenue. Mayor Taylor requested a list and timeframe for leak repairs.

Status of ARPA Contracts – Mayor Taylor, Mr. Loar

Mayor Taylor noted that contracts have been awarded for Mrs. Merritt's grant work continuation, Ditch Maintenance, HVAC, Watershed, R & R, UMES Intern, and Construction Administration.

Mr. Loar noted that the bid has been awarded for the sewer line project we are now waiting on the construction schedule.

Mayor Taylor noted that all the ARPA money had been spent.

Wind Turbine Update – Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar briefed the Mayor and Council on the status and problems concerning the wind turbine. He noted that Aeronatica cannot do the repairs but there is a 3rd party company can come in the first of February. Mr. Loar noted that he would need a purchase order for \$7,000.

At this time, Councilman Patel made a motion to have the 3rd party contractor come in to look at the turbine. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Schedule for Committee Updates – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor advised that the Main Street Committee needs to give a report monthly, as well as the Marketing Committee, the Waterfront Development Committee and the Park Committee.

Introduction of New Public Works Director

Mayor Taylor introduced Mr. Brian Fowler, the new Director of Public Works. Mr. Fowler briefed everyone on his background.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Fowler, noting that his first day of work was a snow day.

Public Input

Tiffany McMahon commented that when she started work the city had flooded.

Council Comments

Council Vice President Banks wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Captain Luedtke for serving as Acting Chief.

Councilman Goldsborough also thanked Captain Luedtke. He noted that he looks forward to working with Mr. Fowler.

Councilman Lankford welcomed Mr. Fowler. He thanked Captain Luedtke for stepping up as Acting Chief when he didn't have to. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Patel welcomed Mr. Fowler. He thanked the City for the sympathy arrangement. He also thanked Captain Luedtke for serving as Acting Chief.

Councilwoman Johnson welcomed Mr. Fowler. She thanked all of the employees for their hard work. She also thanked Captain Luedtke for stepping up. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she would have the committee list the first meeting in February.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also thanked everyone for their hard work. Mayor Taylor advised that she wants 2025 to be about implementation.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Blessing Box has really been a blessing and thanked Michelle (Skittles) Nunally for implementing it.

Mayor Taylor advised that she would like to have some signs commissioned and installed in the areas of the City where work is going to be done.

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone about the luncheon for Chief Lee on January 21st.

Mayor Taylor noted that she is still in need of an inspector and assistant.

Mayor Taylor noted that she is off tomorrow, which is also her birthday.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary