

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 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
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Tiffany McMahon; Jennifer Merritt; D.J. Parkinson, Jr.; George Friedley; Rick Taylor, Diana Murray and Vijay Singh.

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.

Mayor Kim Lawson Memorial Service Tomorrow at 2:00 Bradshaw & Sons Funeral Home – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone that Mayor Kim Lawson's Memorial Service would be held tomorrow at 2:00 p. m. at Bradshaw Funeral Home.

Approval of Northern Flood Mitigation Grant – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed the requested funding for the Norther Flood Mitigation Grant. She reviewed the funding sources, cost summary and match. She noted an increase of \$1.8 M to manage the grant. She noted that the Marina is doing the State funded work and that may be considered as a match. Councilman Patel

inquired which property is considered as a match. Mrs. Merritt advised that this is located at Woodson School and Calvary Road.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to authorize Mrs. Merritt to apply for Phase II Northern Mitigation. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Jazz Festival Invoice – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor referred to an open invoice for lodging for the recent Jazz Festival in the amount of \$2,190. She noted that the organizers had put in some of their own money for this event. Mayor Taylor also noted that A & E may take this event over and the city won't do it anymore.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the budget for this event. Mayor Taylor advised that the city has \$10K in the Marketing Budget.

Councilman Goldsborough requested the total amount spent. Mayor Taylor advised that she could get a report.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that there were low ticket sales for this event.

Councilman Patel inquired about the financial report from last year's festival and also inquired about the tax amount for the room.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to use the funding from the Marketing Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford.

During discussion, Councilman Goldsborough noted that he wants to see the expense document. Mayor Taylor advised that the city will still have to pay the expense, regardless. Councilman Goldsborough advised that he wants to see the budget, contract, figures before making any decision.

Council Vice President Banks noted that last year pre-sale tickets covered the event and private individuals spent their money.

The motion failed with two in favor and two against and one abstention (Council Vice President Banks) due to conflict of interest. The matter was tabled until December.

Wind Turbine Update – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson advised that there had been no reply from Aeronautica. The third party had given a quote of \$6,840 for diagnostic, from T & M Bases, for two 10-hour days the week after Thanksgiving. Mr. Illuminati inquired if there were any other diagnostic companies. Mayor Taylor advised that there were no other contractors on the East Coast.

Councilman Patel inquired if this would void the original contract. Mr. Illuminati gave an example that if a building contractor leaves a job, you must hire another person to complete the job, but you hire that person for what you can sue and recover for. He advised that authorization is needed from the Council. During further discussion, Councilman Goldsborough commented that he would like a closed meeting to discuss the matter with the City Attorney.

Water Leak Updates – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson advised that they had exercised the valves in the Marina and are able to shut down that area only.

He advised that he is getting quotes to repair Somerset Avenue. He noted that he had found 1977 paperwork that showed some lines there that had been installed in the 1950's. Mr. Parkinson also noted that he is going to try to shut down the hydrant only, if not we will have to coordinate with the hospital.

Mayor Taylor commented that she is not sure what the reason is for the leak. Mr. Parkinson advised that it is either due to the hydrant or the valve, and he will exercise the valve first. He noted that they will need to go slow, but he doesn't feel that we will have to shut down anything but the hydrant.

Mayor Taylor commented that we will need Ryan Miller to do the repair. Mr. Parkinson also noted that we will need to obtain a permit for lane closure from the State Highway Administration.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that there is a lot of sand coming out and expressed his concern that this could cause a cavity. Mr. Parkinson advised that there is still material under the sidewalk. He also noted that they will be trying to turn valves, if not they will do it after the holidays.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the leak on Broadway and 7th. Mr. Parkinson advised that they will have to coordinate with Metompink Bay Seafood as the shut off valves didn't work.

Councilwoman Johnson commended Mr. Parkinson for working hard to stay on top of these issues. Council Vice President Banks commented that it will be a blessing to get the leak fixed.

ARPA Funds Designation – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor reviewed ARPA Funds designation. She noted that from \$2.5M, \$1.3 was spent for infrastructure and the 2nd half for Economic Development. She advised that there are 20+ open projects with only two full-time staff to do the work. She advised that technical support is available. Mayor Taylor noted that there is \$75K for contracted support, with Mrs. Merritt working under contract with the City two days per week. She noted that we also need help writing RFP's. Mayor Taylor also noted that there is a lot to be done with the Low Income Housing Initiative.

Mayor Taylor made reference to designating \$80K for a Chief Infrastructure Engineer, who would determine which ditch to clean and would have the technical expertise for the tide projects.

Mayor Taylor noted that quotes are needed for HVAC repair in the city owned buildings (former Maple Shade). She also advised that the roof needs \$300K in repairs. Mayor Taylor made reference to \$25,000 for the effluent pump, which can be paid for by ARPA funds.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that we must do the work on the apartments for the tenants that are affected.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if the HVAC affects the tenants. Mayor Taylor advised that it does. Councilman Patel inquired if the HVAC would be for the entire building. Mayor Taylor advised that this was correct. Councilman Goldsborough commented that he feels the City needs to put out an RFP for the HVAC. Mayor Taylor advised that we must bid it out.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he is ok to use the funding for the building (tenant area and business incubator)

Councilman Lankford inquired about the timeline. Mayor Taylor advised that the contract for work must be signed by the end of December.

Mayor Taylor advised that we must move forward with the RFP for replacement/repair of the 7 sewer lines, which also must be under contract by the end of December.

Mayor Taylor advised that the \$330,000 for the seven sewer lines. Replacement and repair must also be under contract.

At this time councilman Goldsborough made motion to bid out the RFP for the seven sewer lines, the HVAC, and the roof for Main Street. Council Vice President

Banks added “contracts and proposals”. Motion second by Council Vice President Banks, and carried unanimously.

Public Input

George Friedly referred to installing storm drains in Florida to alleviate flooding. He also commented that a fire hydrant can leak for years underground and could result in a cave in.

Mrs. Merritt noted that on November 23 from 10 to 12 EPA and FEMA will be at the Tawes nursing home meeting room to discuss the northern flood mitigation.

Councilman Goldsborough reminded everyone to attend Mayor Lawson’s Memorial service. He commented that he is hopeful that repairs can be done for the turbine. He made reference to the leak on the corner of Seventh Street and expressed concern about getting an RFP. Mr. Illuminati noted that Mr. Loar will be fast-tracking this by December 15.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he grew up on Tyler Street where’re flooding was common. He noted that since Gerald ditch has been fixed, there has been no flooding on Tyler Street.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that the Main Street Commission met on Monday and reviewed application for the Main Street Affiliate designation. She advised the application was completed. She thanked Mrs. Merritt for helping out. She also advised she was glad to see Adrian Fitchett serving on the Park Commission. She inquired if the Main Street Designation needs to come before the Planning Commission. Mayor Taylor advised that she thinks that it only comes before city council but could be taken to the Planning Commission if necessary. Mr. Illuminati advised a resolution could be made designating the location.

Councilman Patel commented that he hopes to see many people at Mayor Lawson’s memorial service. He also made reference to an event downtown concerning small businesses this weekend. He commented that a lot of manpower is required to prepare an RFP and manage grants. Mayor Taylor commented that we are looking to grow the city, and we have to apply for opportunities and will have to hire staff as money is available. She noted that the EPA grant has \$2

million to hire staff, the FEMA grant has \$1.9 million to hire staff. She agreed with Councilman Patel that we need people in place.

Councilman Lankford commented that this has been a very informative meeting and he is happy to hear good news about the turbine.

Mayor Comments – One meeting in December 11th, Christmas in Crisfield, November 30th 5:00 p.m. between 10th and 11th Street, Crisfield Christmas Parade – Friday, December 6th (parade route line up on highway at 5:00 p.m. to depot)

Mayor Taylor made reference to upcoming events. She noted that the EPA Resilience Action Planning Committee needs an elected official to serve at zoom meetings. Council Vice President Banks advised he would serve.

Mayor Taylor advised Council about a recent zoom meeting, concerning expanding the historic district. Councilman Goldsborough commented that this makes state money almost impossible to obtain for grants and feels there are a better ways to preserve history. Mayor Taylor advised that she would revisit the proposal.

Mayor Taylor noted that this was the last meeting for Chief Rick Taylor. Chief Taylor thanked everyone for all of their help and for allowing him to serve the City of Crisfield.

Mrs. Merritt, who was leaving also, thanked everyone for their help noting that she loves the city, and this has been her favorite job.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary