

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the meeting room of the Corbin A & E gallery.

Present

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

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Tiffany McMahon, I.T., Eric Lee, Chief of Police; Brian Fowler; D. J. Parkinson; Jason Loar; Cheryl Hires; Pia Johnson; Margie Lane; Tyrese Lane; Vestina Davis; Troy Brittingham, Jr., Angela Brittingham; Trenton Brittingham; Michael Taylor; Jennifer Merritt; and Richard Crumbacker.

Invocation, Lord's Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Taylor called the meeting, too order and opened with the Lord's prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the last meetings. At this time Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of March 12, 2025, regular and closed. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Introduction and Swearing in of Youth Council

At this time, Mayor Taylor introduced members of the Youth Council for the City of Crisfield and called them up to be sworn in. The members are Kate Coleman, TaLia Lane, and Trenton Brittingham. At this time, Mayor Taylor administered the oath of office to the three youth council members.

Miss Lane, a Junior at Crisfield High School, advised that she will be studying at Salisbury University majoring in Psychology and her main goal is to help others. Mr. Brittingham advised that his main goal is also to help others and he is planning on attending Wor Wic Community College enrolling in the welding program. Miss Coleman advised that as a sophomore, her future goals are to study Anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins and as a council member, she wants to help improve the city.

Mayor Taylor thanked the student government council members. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is proud of all of the students and commented "welcome to our world". Councilman Patel welcomed the youth on board advising that he is looking forward to different ideas and a different way of thinking. Councilman Goldsborough commented that he is glad he is not the youngest person in the room

anymore. He commented that this group is the future of the city, and we need their perspective. Councilman Lankford welcomed them and advised that he looks forward to working with them and looking for ways to keep the youth in the city. He noted that since these students are juniors and seniors, they will be able to stay on board longer.

Council Vice President Banks welcomed the Youth Council on board.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Youth Council and also thanked Crisfield High School staff for allowing them to participate.

Circuit Rider MOU and A&E Information and Briefing – Mrs. Hires

Mrs. Hires, Circuit Rider for the City and the A and E District, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation describing what the A and E District does in the city. Mayor Taylor commented that people need to know about our A and E district and what goes on. Mrs. Hires commented that this is her second month on the job. She then spoke about the various information that people need to know about our A & E District and what goes on. Mrs. Hires commented that this is her second month on the job. She then spoke about the MOU and various projects. She noted that she has a grant application which will be submitted to the Maryland State Arts Council, in the amount of \$25,000, which is due on Friday. She also highlighted information concerning the oyster planters, noting that seven artists were chosen to paint the planters which would be displayed in various areas of the city. She advised that they would be filled with dogwood and scarlet strawberry plants. She also noted that Mrs. Heck. and Mr. Fowler will be meeting concerning placement and planting. She went on to review upcoming events with A&E. Mayor Taylor thanked her for her report. She noted that the MOU is significant. Mrs. Hires advised that the A&E district promotes funding, jobs, and tax breaks. Mrs. Merritt noted that there are three tax incentives in the A&E district. Mayor Taylor also advised that the A & E District runs from the armory to the dock.

Solar Simplified Presentation – Ms. Danna & Ms. Lukovenko

Ms. Danna and Ms. Lukovenko reviewed a PowerPoint presentation concerning Community Solar's program and benefits.

Mayor Taylor advised that the city would have to see if the program would work in Crisfield and also work with ECA solar. Mayor Taylor advised that the Council needs to review the materials presented and go over them at another meeting.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the subscription fee. Ms. Lukovenko advised that you pay \$90 for a \$100 discount.

Councilman Patel inquired how to apply the 10%. Ms. Lukovenko advised looking at the bill amount for the last 12 months.

NOAA Grant Application

Mrs. Merritt reviewed information concerning a grant application for up to \$6 million from NOAA to conduct a feasibility study to improve great point and long point. Mrs. Merritt noted that the grant application is due April 16, 2025.

After further discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to move forward with the grant application for the feasibility study for both great point and long point. Motion seconded by Councilwoman, Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Merritt also made reference to Crisfield Resilience Day to be held on April 26 at the Crisfield Public library. Mayor Taylor advised that she would have them present a briefing at a city council meeting.

Mrs. Merritt also made reference to the film On Waters Edge, which will be broadcast on MPT.

Center for Watershed Protection Presentation - Miss Pollack and Ms. Wilkins

Ms. Pollock reviewed the presentation concerning the Center for watershed protection and what they do for the city of Crisfield as far as technical support. Miss Pollack reviewed the Crisfield projects which are the Southern Floodgate Mitigation BRIC, the City Dock, the Stormwater and Ditch Maintenance Program, and the Lead Service Line Replacement Project.

Street Sign Project – Mr. Fowler

Mr. Fowler reviewed the street signs that would be replaced, starting with 60 signs. He advised he wants to start as soon as possible. He noted that the signs will feature the crab logo and will be done by Mason Graphics.

Council Vice President Banks inquired about 60 streets in Crisfield? Mr. Fowler advised that he went by the condition of the sign. Mayor Taylor added that we are focusing on damaged and missing signs.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the proposal for replacement of street signs. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Wind Turbine Update - Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar advised that we are waiting on two filters for the turbine which are two weeks out and should be here by the next City Council meeting.

WWTP Update – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted that clarifier number two is up now and functioning. He made reference to the air compressor noting that they had gotten a new one, but it blew up and it will cost over \$33,000 for another. He also noted that the Cove Street pump is not on back up.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the Crisfield Lions Club has been holding a Christmas Lights Initiative to replace the pole light Christmas Decorations. She noted that they had received sponsorship for all but three lights and advised that the City of Crisfield has purchased one of the crab lights.

Public Input

Mrs. Margie Lane inquired if a **Slow-Children at Play** sign could be placed on Tyler Street as it is missing.

Mr. Lamont Potter thanked the city and Mr. Fowler for the ditch work. Mr. Ty Lane also commented that the ditches on Tyler Street have been draining and thanked the City and Mr. Fowler as well.

Mr. Richard Crumbacker made reference to the situation brought up at the Tuesday meeting of the County Commissioners regarding Crisfield High School improvements and the cash flow problem. He noted that they need letters of support to increase their Capital Improvement funding.

Council Comments

Councilman Lankford welcomed the Youth Council on board.

Council Vice President Banks made reference to the Student Council survey from last year, which was administered by the previous students and inquired if it was finished.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked Mr. Fowler for his work on clearing out ditches noting the praise he is receiving from the community. He advised that he is glad to see the Christmas lights are going to be upgraded and happy that the city sponsored a crab light decoration. Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the old windmill behind Crisfield high school and advised that it needs to be decommissioned, and the tipping fees waived.

Councilwoman Johnson welcomed the Youth City Council on board. She also thanked Mr. Fowler for his hard work getting a jumpstart on cleaning out the ditches.

Councilman Patel commented that he is glad for all of the positive comments. He offered congratulations and thanks to everyone and also made reference to the flush campaign. He noted that he is glad to see a large crowd in attendance.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their hard work and noted that at the next meeting, there would also be youth council comments. She asked that the youth bring in anything that they are hearing from the students at the high school. She also advised that the finding of the survey was that Students most wanted to see a waterpark. Mayor Taylor advised that she went to SIS career day yesterday. She also noted the upcoming Townhall meeting on April 1 at the Crisfield library. Mayor Taylor made reference to the low-income housing initiative, and the fact that people are paying too much rent. She advised that the city would try to find homes for qualified people. Mayor Taylor made reference to ITAV noting that the ENOUGH Grant was awarded to the local management board.

She also reminded everyone that Little League opening day is Saturday, April 5 at noon. Mrs. Morgan added that they will need volunteers to man the canteen.

They're being no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager