

## MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Corbin Studio and Gallery located at 4 East Main Street.

## PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor  
Casey Goldsborough, Council Vice President  
Ivan Lankford, Councilman  
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman  
Eric Banks, Councilman (via zoom & phone)  
Hitesh Patel, Councilman  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; LaFabian Marshall; Chief Lee, Sgt. Hoover; Ptl. Lazaro; Tracey Neilson; Brandy Abbott; David Thompson; Gabby Carr; Jennifer Floyd; Jennifer Merritt; Janet Johnson; Brian Fowler; Peter Hirschhoff; and Richard Crumbacker.

### **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.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Vice President Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford and carried.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that the Special Meeting of 8/12/2026 needed a correction made. Approval of this set of minutes was deferred to make the corrections needed.

### **Approval of Schedule Change as follows;**

*September 9-The public meeting limited to urgent matters only. Then Council will go into closed to discuss the current sanitation agreement.*

*September 23-No meeting due to Clambake.*

*September 30-M&C meeting for regular City matters*

Mayor Taylor made reference to a meeting revision for the September 9th meeting. She advised that we would hold a short meeting to address any urgent matters only and then adjourn into a closed session. She also noted that there will be no meeting on September 23, due to the clambake and that meeting will be held on September 30. Council concurred with Mayor Taylor.

### **Departmental Promotions – Chief Lee**

Chief Lee made reference to the promotion of Sergeant Mark Hoover to Lieutenant. He went on to review all of Sergeant Hoover's history of awards and other notable mentions. Chief Lee advised that as of August 23, Sergeant Hoover is now a Lieutenant and oversees the patrol division. Chief Lee noted that there will be a reception dinner for Lieutenant Hoover next week.

Mayor Taylor advised that she is grateful to Lieutenant Hoover for his support and the city is lucky to have him as a member of our staff.

Councilman Patel thanked Lieutenant Hoover for being loyal to the city of Crisfield.

#### **MARYLAND ENTERPRISE ZONE APPLICATION – Mr. Hirschhoff**

Mr. Hirschhoff provided an update concerning the enterprise zone and advised that two public hearings will need to be held and then a resolution will be adopted after the hearings.

Ms. Marshall noted that some businesses get tax credits through being located in the enterprise zone. Mr. Hirschhoff noted that public hearings will be held on September 9 and September 30, and after that time the resolution will be adopted

Mr. Hirschhoff also noted that the county approved the resolution yesterday

At this time Councilwoman Johnson made motion to approve the submission of the enterprise zone application in accordance with the county. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford and carried unanimously.

#### **Sponsorship, Crisfield Heritage Foundation – Mayor Taylor**

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Heritage Festival which will be held at the customs house this year on Saturday, October 10th. She also noted that the city will provide sponsorship at the same level of \$500 as last year.

Councilman Patel made a motion to approve the sponsorship level for the Heritage foundation same amount as last year of \$500. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Motion carried with abstention from Council Vice President Goldsborough, who is a member.

#### **Project Updates – Mayor Taylor**

Mayor Taylor referred to information concerning FEMA sending out RFI for the second phase of Flood Mitigation. She also noted that we are still working on Gerald Ditch funding.

Mayor Taylor noted that she was a keynote speaker at today's Coast Smart meeting.

Councilman Patel requested an update on the various funding changes from Mrs. Merritt.

#### **Update on RFP for Operations, Project Update – Mr. Loar**

Mr. Loar Loar, thanked the City for their concern during the death of his mother. He noted that he had been with the city for 22 years.

Mr. Loar made reference to the RFP for the wastewater treatment plan and noted that four parties showed up for the pre-bid meeting. He advised that the due date has been extended to September 16.

Mayor Taylor noted that this is the RFP for the wastewater treatment plant maintenance. She advised that we are looking at all options such as maintenance or sale; whatever makes sense.

Mr. Parkinson a reference to Cove and Rubberset and advised that Cove Street is now tied into the force main.

Mr. Loar added that we will be moving forward with Cove Street.

#### **Updated WWTP – Mr. Parkinson**

Mr. Parkinson made reference to the excessive flushing of non-flushable items and advised that he will be meeting through the county to see if any of it is coming from outside of the city from the county line. He noted that this type of item is wreaking havoc on the sewage pumps.

Mayor Taylor noted that the new lift stations will have a grinder to help with any materials such as this that are introduced into the sewer system.

Mr. Parkinson noted that air Relief valves are being installed on 413 for Sherwin-Williams/Rubberset.

He also noted that there have been some issues on Hudson Street where sheet pile had to be installed.

Mr. Parkinson noted that he's waiting on the contractors concerning the issue with the turbine. Mr. Loar noted that the fluctuation of Delmarva power is part of the problem.

Council Vice president Goldsborough made reference to a water leak on 10th St. Mr. Parkinson noted that there are various leaks in the same places. Mayor Taylor made reference to the leak on Wynfall Avenue. Mr. Parkinson advised that he is waiting on Mr. Bozman, contractor.

#### **Street Weed Spraying Proposal – Mr. Fowler**

Mr. Fowler made reference to the issue concerning weeds being cleaned up in various parts of the city, curb, gutter, and sidewalk, noting that this is due to the lack of anyone having a herbicide applicator license, but they will have one soon. He advised that someone will be spraying for us in the next two days and advised that he needs approval to spend \$6,978 through Classic Lawn.

At this time Council Vice President Goldsborough made a motion to approve spending the \$6,975 for the spraying. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

#### **Public Works Update – Mr. Fowler**

Mr. Fowler advised that he has been focusing on the depot area planters for the upcoming Festival and events i.e. crab derby boat, docking, etc.

Mayor Taylor advised focusing on inside streets to the Marina.

Mr. Fowler noted that there will be a temporary repair done to the storm drain on Mercury Drive and nothing structural will be done until October.

### **Public input**

Mr. Craig Tawes noted that he would like to volunteer to adopt a side street in order to clean weeds, help out, and not complain.

Mr. Tawes also made reference to the black lamp post that is laying down by Chesapeake Steak House. Mayor Taylor advised that the city owns this pole on ninth Street and would be taking care of the matter.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Tawes for his comments and coming in person to discuss solutions.

Council Vice President Goldsborough thanked Mr. Tawes for his interest in keeping the city clean, noting that he loves the Adopt a Street idea.

Mr. Tawes advised that he was not there to receive any accolades, he just wants to help the city.

### **Council Comments**

Councilman Lankford noted that this has been a good meeting adding that it seems slow to get things done, but we are getting there.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked city staff and department heads. She also thanked Mr. Tawes for offering to help, adding that we need all the help that we can get. She also wished everyone a happy Labor Day holiday.

Councilman Patel thanked all the staff present and workers. He also thanked Mr. Tawes for stepping up to make the city a better place. He noted that both the budget and the staff is short. He also noted that the crab Derby is manned with all volunteer staff as well.

He noted that there will be a large crab at the fairgrounds this year for people to look at. He added that people can call the Chamber office to volunteer. Councilman Patel also asked that parents monitor their children at Crab Derby events.

### **Mayors Comments**

Mayor Taylor also thanked city staff and department heads.

With regards to the issues of weeds in the curbs and sidewalks, Mayor Taylor noted that most towns require that citizens be responsible for their own sidewalks.

Mayor Taylor noted that September is a busy month for the city with the Crab Derby, Clambake and hosting the Lower Eastern Shore Mayor's Association, all falling in line.

Mayor Taylor noted that the pageants will be held at Woodson Middle School this year due to the work that is being done at Crisfield High School. She added that there is a church boat cruise that is going on the same time as the Little Mr. & Miss Crustacean beauty pageant.

Mayor Taylor noted that there will be a meeting for the façade grant information this Friday at 6 PM here at the Corbin studio and gallery. She also noted that next Tuesday the Citizens Academy will be learning under the direction of Mr. Hirschhoff.

Mayor Taylor noted that upcoming sessions are with the Crisfield Police Department and the Clerk Treasurer. Mayor Taylor also thanked Miss Johnson and Attorney Gabby for attending the meeting tonight.

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary