

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Library.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor (Via Zoom)
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Chief David Dalfonso; Director of Public Works/Utilities Dean Bozman; Kate Finucan, Grants Writer/Administrator; Richard Crumbacker, William Berryhill; and Valerie Swift, Secretary.

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

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of April 28, 2021, the Work Session from May 19, 2021, and the Regular Session from May 19, 2021, with a minor correction on page 2, paragraph 6, which should say "environmental" engineer. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

2ND READER – WATER INCREASE ORDINANCE

Mayor Dize read into the record Water Ordinance 703 and requested a motion for Second Reader.

Motion for Second Reader of Water Ordinance 703 so moved and seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

DISCUSSION

Council Vice President Banks advised that he would support 5,000 as the minimum gallon base rate, but does support the \$6.00 increase in water and sewer.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that he also supports the 5,000 minimum gallon base rate.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she checked on the cruise ship water usage and was advised that they are allowed to hook up and fill up, but are charged \$150 per visit, which she feels is adequate to cover fees.

She also commented that she feels that people on a fixed income would not be affected if the base rate was a 5,000 gallon minimum as they would have a lower water usage so the 4,000 gallon base won't affect them as well.

Councilman Atkins commented that in regards to the cruise ships, according to Ordinance 703, SS B, line 41, for all users other than a residential dwelling or small commercial customers, the first 15,000 gallons is \$3.79 per 1,000 gallons, if this would legally apply to cruise ships. We also don't have an accurate estimate of how much water they get, so if for example it was 5,000 gallons, the cost would be \$37.00, so the City is getting a fair deal.

Council Vice President Banks commented that we already have 25% using over 5,000 gallons and approximately 50 people using 10,000 gallons, so 25% will see a double increase, though some usage may be through leaks etc. He commented that this will make people understand the waste of water.

Councilman Atkins commented that like most things in life, an increase will give them the incentive to fix leaks, or a disincentive.

Mayor Dize added an additional comment regarding the cruise ship, noting that the City picks up their garbage, so the \$150 fee is fair.

Council Vice President Banks commented that some people thought that no fee was charged.

Councilman Atkins commented that the charge is more than the cost of the service, but we are trying to find a fair fee. He reminded that water and sewer should cover water and sewer.

Councilman Goldsborough commented about the Mariners Road leaks and if anybody pays for them.

Mrs. Morgan advised that the customers are metered but the leaks are lost. She noted that 38 customers are billed for the repairs. She also noted that there has been a lot of discussion about who should take over the line.

Councilman Atkins noted that as best as he could recall, engineering studies have been completed, there was a plan in place, and funding secured, the project was stopped because some of the water users in the area refused to allow new line to be placed through their front yard. Dean Bozman agreed that there were a few holdouts that stopped the replacement project.

At this time, Mayor Dize called for a final vote on Water Ordinance 703.

The motion carried, with Aye's from Councilwoman Scott, Councilman Ford, and Councilman Atkins, and Nay's from Council Vice President Banks and Councilman Goldsborough.

SECOND READER SEWER INCREASE ORDINANCE

Mayor Dize read aloud Sewer Ordinance #704 and called for a vote from the Council for 2nd Reader.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to adopt for 2nd Reader Sewer Ordinance #704. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried with an Aye from Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Atkins and abstentions from Council Vice President Banks and Councilman Goldsborough.

SECOND READER BUDGET ORDINANCE #705

Mayor Dize presented for 2nd and final reader Budget Ordinance #705 for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Mr. Sullivan read the ordinance into record, noting that there had been no modifications since the first reader on May 26th.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve for 2nd Reader Budget Ordinance #705. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Approval of the Deed from the City to It Takes a Village to Help Our Children, Inc. for the City's conveyance of the property at which the youth center is being developed by It Takes a Village

Mr. Sullivan noted that the City is ready to convey the property located at 6 Asbury Avenue, over to It Takes a Village.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve as written, the deed transfer of property from the City of Crisfield to It Takes A Village. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott inquired about the number of parcels in the deed. Mr. Sullivan advised that it is a plat of five parcels, as originally described by the County, when deeded to the City of Crisfield, and is not less than what the County originally gave the City and being in all respects, the same property. The motion was then carried unanimously, 5-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ford had no comments.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the amount paid by cruise ships, and give consideration to if they are paying enough, as he feels the charge should be increased, taking into account the cost of City labor when collecting garbage.

Council Vice President Banks noted that he is still working with the Downtown Waterfront group, with investors. He also noted that he is glad to see that the old Maryland Crabhouse was torn down as it was located next to a property he is working with. He thanked Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Bozman for any part they may have played in getting it demolished.

Councilman Atkins commented that it is never easy putting together a budget and what the public sees in open work sessions is just a tiny fraction of the work that is done, primarily by the Mayor and Mrs. Morgan, and he thanked them for their hard work in preparing an excellent budget for the upcoming year.

Councilman Atkins provided an update on the Military Tribute Banners, noting that he and Mrs. Morgan are in regular communication with representatives from Verizon and Delmarva Power concerning the City's permission for the display of the banners, as has been requested by the majority of the sponsors. He assured everyone that they are on top of the program and are waiting for the okay from Verizon and DP&L to proceed.

Councilwoman Scott commented about all of the new faces she is seeing moving into town from the bigger cities, and urged the City to take the opportunity to maximize on this.

Mayor Dize commented that he really appreciates the Council's hard work and understanding of the budget process. He noted that the City is understanding of residents, but an increase in fees are necessary to insure that water and sewer pays for water and sewer.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary