MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING M&C
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Ruthie Todd, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Jen Merritt; John Wunder; Richard Crumbacker; Jesse Drewer; Eric Messick; Michelle King; Athena Argiris; John Moss; Randal Bergen; David Barone, Sr., Agnes L. Waters; Lynette Cottman and

<u>Invocation -Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance</u>

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed and regular meetings of August 23, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Todd, noting one correction on page 2 of the Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Ethics Board and Election Board Members – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor presented Mr. John Moss and Mrs. Lynette Cottman, who she would be appointing to the Ethics Board and the Election Board, respectively and administered the oath of office accordingly.

Mr. Illuminati noted that Election Board training would begin in January.

Presentation from Jesse Drewer Director, Technical and Community Services – Somerset County Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Drewer and his colleagues, Eric Messick and Michelle King, from Smith Planning and Design, appeared before the Mayor and Council to present an informational Power Point regarding the County's Comp Plan update. Mr.

Messick reviewed the process to update the comp plan. He noted that the chapters are interdependent of one another. Mr. Drewer noted that it is easier to do a little at a time. He also noted that the public can take a survey if they go to plansomersetmd.org. Mr. Drewer advised that the last County update was in 1996.

Information Regarding Tri-County Council – Councilwoman Johnson & Mr. Alrey

Councilwoman Johnson reviewed information concerning resources provided by the Tri-County Council. Mr. Alrey noted that they can assist with regional planning and development.

Presentation from Emily Eisenhauer via Zoom - EPA and Crisfield partnership on resilience and natural infrastructure

After some brief technical difficulties, Ms. Eisenhauer and her colleague, Roxona Koshuloba, reviewed information regarding a partnership with the City for resilience and natural infrastructure.

Upcoming T N C Meeting on October 21- Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reminded of the upcoming TNC meeting on October 21st at the Crisfield Library. She also noted that the Sustainable Community update draft plan needs a vote for approval before October 21st.

Information/Update Isolation Valves

Mr. Wunder noted that 6 of the 9 isolation valves have been installed as of today and the work should be completed by October 23rd. Mayor Taylor noted that the valves will be tested prior to the installation team leaving.

Councilwoman Todd commended the group on working to solve a problem.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the repair of the areas where the work had been done. Mr. Wunder advised that the location would be paved once the gravel settles in.

Crisfield Small Business Retention Grant – A. C.

Mr. Alrey reviewed information concerning the Crisfield Small Business Retention Grant and requested a motion to approve submission.

Approval so moved by Council Vice President Lankford, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.
Mr. Alrey noted that the program begins on November 1st.

Approval of the Final Consent Order from MDE – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati made reference to the overflow violation

consent order from MDE due to sewer overflows experienced in the City, and requested a motion permitting Mayor Taylor to accept and sign the document. Council-woman Todd made a motion to accept and sign the consent order. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Public Input

Athena Argiris commented that the two year requirement for a business to stay open may be a struggle. She also noted that she had applied for a Façade grant, but could not get anyone to do work for her.

Council Comments

Councilman Goldsborough noted that next Saturday's meeting will be big.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that on October 23rd at 6:00 p.m., the Main Street Revitalization Committee will be meeting. She also congratulated Mr. Moss and Mrs. Cottman on their appointments.

Councilwoman Todd inquired if the flood gates in the City could be repaired to help with water flow, prior to receiving

the funding to elevate roads. Mayor Taylor advised that they could be repaired, but they don't stop water from coming in from the many other places. Mr. Wunder noted that the tide gates will be reduced. Council Vice President Lankford thanked Mr. Wunder and the others for the installation of the isolation valves.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor noted that we will be sending out the Code Red notices soon. She also urged everyone to complete the Flood survey.

Mayor Taylor offered her condolences to the families of Dr. Marvin Tawes, Flora Leatherbury, and Betty Coulbourne. She also asked that everyone pray for the world.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary