

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin A & E Gallery.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement/Public Works/Public Utilities; David Dalfonso, Chief of Police; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer/Administrator; Richard Crumbacker; William Berryhill, I.T.; and Mayor Kim Lawson.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of April 28, 2021 and the regular meeting of April 28, 2021. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried 4-1, with abstention by Councilwoman Scott, who noted that she had just recently received and had not had time to review the minutes from the regular meeting of April 28th. At this time, Councilman Atkins made a new motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of April 28, 2021. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

KIM LAWSON, CHAIRMAN PARK COMMISSION – RE: SEAFOOD WORKERS MURAL RECOMMENDATION AND OTHER PARK MATTERS

Mayor Lawson noted that Park Commission meetings had been put on the back burner last year, but had met recently regarding the location for the Seafood Workers Mural. He noted that the area in the park was where the former Lincoln Park was located, and presented a picture from 1954. He noted that this was where many African American seafood workers lived. He advised that the Commission agreed unanimously that this was the place for the mural, and it would be located so it can be seen if you are sitting in the gazebo and looking at the sunset – placed in front of water bushes. Mayor Lawson advised that Ms. Darlene Taylor was ok with the location. He advised that he would work with Mr. Dean Bozman to stake out the area. He also advised that we must adhere to MDE regulations and would work through Davis, Bowen and Friedel for permits. Mayor Lawson advised that there would be three stipulations regarding the mural; 1) MDE Permits must be adhered to, 2) there will be no lighting, per the dusk to dawn regulations, and 3) the red brick surround, which matches the other structures in the park, will be placed on the mural.

Mayor Lawson also briefed regarding the plans for continuation of sidewalk to the dock, using funds left from the park money. He advised that Mr. Bozman would be obtaining the bids. Mayor Lawson advised that he would be approaching the city grant writer, Kate Finucan, to apply to CP & P Project Open Space, for grant funds to complete the walking trail including an arch bridge for over the ditch to the wind turbine. He noted that the completion was 1/3 of a mile. Mayor Lawson also noted that the shrubs in front of the gazebo would need to be replaced and a plaque would be placed in the park composed of bronze on granite, (paid for by him) dedicated to former Park Commission member Tillie Doyle, for all of the grant work done by her for the park's inception. Mayor Lawson made reference to the historical signs at the depot/green space would need to be moved in the area of the wall of the Ice Cream Gallery along with the model Somers Cove Lighthouse. Mayor Lawson made reference to moving forward with the Splash Park that had been applied for and discussed previously. He advised that the approximate cost is \$300K, and a membership drive would be necessary in order to raise seed money to be able to obtain a grant. Mayor Lawson also noted that former Councilmember and Park Commission member, LaVerne Johnson, had been approached about a dirt bike trail in the City, but this would not be possible, due to the cost of liability insurance.

Mayor Dize thanked Mayor Lawson for his presentation concerning the park.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the proposed location of the splash park. Mayor Dize advised that it had been discussed to use the area in front of the Marina on 4th Street. He commented that maybe the Housing Authority would work with the City on this project.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the plaque for Ms Tillie Doyle, noting that they used 3 weeks of their personal vacation to write the grant for the park. Mayor Lawson noted that the first grant they got was for \$192K and the second was for \$154K. Councilwoman Scott inquired of Mayor Lawson as to what percentage of his park vision had been fulfilled. Mayor Lawson advised 65 to 70%. Councilwoman Scott thanked him for his work.

Council Vice President Banks thanked Mayor Lawson for his work and advised that he would like to speak with him concerning the splash park.

At this time, Mayor Dize requested a vote concerning the location of the Seafood Workers Mural.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the location of the Seafood Workers Mural in the Municipal Park, following the stipulations in Mayor Lawson's recommendations, location to be in the area of park that can be seen if you are sitting in the gazebo and looking at the sunset – placed in front of water bushes – area also known as Lincoln Park which was a residential subdivision many years ago, and which housed many seafood workers; MDE Regulations must be adhered to through permits obtained by Davis, Bowen and Friedel; Mural will not be lighted, per dusk to dawn regulations; and the red brick trim, which matches the other park structures, will surround the Mural. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor Dize thanked Mayor Lawson for his presentation.

FIRST READER WATER INCREASE ORDINANCE

Mr. Sullivan read the Ordinance aloud.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adopt for First Reader, Chapter 109 of the City Code establishing water rates for the City of Crisfield. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried with Councilman Atkins, Councilwoman Scott, and Councilman Ford in favor and Council Vice President Banks and Councilman Goldsborough voting Nay.

Mr. Sullivan advised that a public hearing would be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 regarding the water and sewer fee.

FIRST READER SEWER INCREASE ORDINANCE

Mr. Sullivan read into record the Sewer Increase Ordinance. At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the Ordinance for first reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman

Scott and carried with three in favor; Councilwoman Scott, Councilman Atkins and Councilman Ford, and two voting Nay; Council Vice President Banks and Councilman Goldsborough.

FIRST READER BUDGET ORDINANCE 2021-2022

Mr. Sullivan read into the record the Budget Ordinance for 2021-2022.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve for First Reader, the Budget for 2021-2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

2ND READER FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE #702

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve for 2nd Reader Food Truck Ordinance #702. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously 5-0.

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF EDU'S SUBMITTED BY MR. PAUL THORNTON FOR TRANSFER OF EDU'S FROM 347 W. MAIN STREET TO HIS OTHER PROPERTIES

Mr. Sullivan presented the document pertaining to the transfer of EDU's submitted by Mr. Paul Thornton from 347 W. Main Street to his other properties.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the request submitted by 30369 Pine Street, LLC to transfer and assign seven of the eight EDU's allocated for 347 W. Mai Street to the seven properties identified as 1 Heron Way, 5 Heron Way, 6 Heron Way, 10 Heron Way, 17 Heron Way, 19 Heron Way, and 25 Heron Way, subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Contract of Sale between the City and 30369 Pine Street, LLC for the conveyance of 347 W. Main Street to the City, as more particularly set forth in the Approval of EDU Transfer for the EDU Transfers requested by 30369 Pine Street, LLC, executed by the City Council on this date. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously 5-0.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the Agenda said 349 but it should be 347. She inquired as to what would happen with the last EDU. Mr. Sullivan advised that it would be returned to the City unless Mr. Thornton identifies another property.

APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD DRAINAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT AS SUBMITTED BY BAYLAND CONSULTANTS AND DESIGNERS, INC.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to accept the Drainage Assessment Report as presented on May 19, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

Discussion – Council Vice President Banks commented that he feels that we as a City know our priorities better, therefore we need to brainstorm on what is done first.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we need to make sure that approval of the report is a guide until further discussion.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that immediate change to the report was needed, as one of the streets that experiences flooding was not mentioned in the report, which was Myrtle Street.

Mayor Dize noted that Mr. Gary Pusey, Planning Director Department of Technical and Community Services was the lead on the study and would ask him to address the matter. He commented that he feels this may be an oversight.

Councilman Atkins commented that two areas of concern that may have been addressed, he might have missed, were the flooding on Myrtle Street, and the Somerset Avenue ditch to the Housing Authority, and he advised that he had addressed these concerns with Bayland. Councilman Atkins advised that Mrs. Barnea replied to him that clearing the Somerset Avenue drainage ditches to the Housing Authority would help with the drainage problem on Somerset and repairing the tide gate on 4th Street, would help with the alleviating the drainage problem on Myrtle Street.

Councilman Atkins commented that this report provides us with a roadmap and recommendation to move forward.

Council Vice President Banks commented that Myrtle Street has been brought to their attention and his motion was to accept the presentation, not the process. Councilman Goldsborough commented that he feels Myrtle Street should also be included in the study before it is approved.

Councilwoman Scott asked if the motion could be modified to address all concerns. Mayor Dize suggested tabling the vote until the June 9th meeting.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to withdraw his previous motion.

Councilman Atkins then made a motion to table approval of the Drainage Assessment Report until June 9, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary