

## MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. following a Closed Session that began at 5:00 p.m., in the meeting room at the Corbin Gallery and Studio.

### 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  
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer/Administrator; David Dalfonso, Chief of Police; Brian Waller, Director of Operations; Lee Brumley; Richard Crumbacker; and Valerie Swift, Secretary.

### **INVOCATION - LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special, Regular and Closed meetings of February 9, 2022 and the Special Meeting of February 15, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 5-0.

### **APPOINTMENTS – LEE BRUMLEY, CANDIDATE FOR SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Mr. Brumley introduced himself and noted that had 44 years in law enforcement. He advised that if elected, he has many ideas and he plans to be the "people's sheriff".

Councilwoman Scott inquired of Mr. Brumley what his top strengths were. Mr. Brumley advised his top strengths were fairness to all across the board, working with schools, and doing his best for the deputies and the County.

Mr. Baldwin also noted that the other candidate for Sheriff had been invited to attend the meeting and would be in attendance on April 13th.

### **PAVING DISCUSSION/UPDATES**

Ms. Finucan reviewed the paving process for 5<sup>th</sup> Street, noting the increase in costs.

### **WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FOR ARMORY**

Ms. Finucan noted that we are in the process of bidding the remediation work at the Armory and cited the building permit fee. She advised that it must be approved by the City Council, noting that the fee will take away from the grant money.

Councilwoman Scott inquired the cost of the fee. Mr. Waller reviewed the fees that could be associated with the permit.

Council Vice President Banks commented that the contractor would build the cost into his fee schedule.

Ms. Finucan advised that it has not gone out for bids yet, but we have listed the work to be done.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the fee range. Mr. Waller advised that each utility fee is \$30.00; the renovation is not clear, but we are looking at 20 cents per square foot.

Councilman Atkins advised that he doesn't remember a request like this. Councilwoman Scott asked the reason for the waiver. Mr. Waller advised that the fee would come out of grant money.

Councilwoman Scott asked the reason for the waiver. Mr. Waller advised that it was due to it coming out of the grant funding. Councilwoman Scott commented that it could be included in their proposal.

Mr. Waller also made reference to a letter from Kim Hopkins, of Long Term Recovery, requesting that the permit fees be waived for the two homes they are building in the City one on Maple and one on First Street.

Councilwoman Scott commented that Long Term Recovery is a non-profit group but the company that bid on the Armory renovation is a licensed contractor, which are two different groups.

Councilman Atkins commented that it's not fair to those who must pay for permits.

Mrs. Morgan noted that after Hurricane Sandy, building permits fees were waived.

Councilman Goldsborough referred to a program in Salisbury to reimburse permit fees if requirements are met. Mr. Baldwin also noted that water and sewer fees are reimbursed.

Mrs. Morgan advised that we are hesitant to waive EDU fees because we ask for grant money and our impact fee was waived.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to waive the building permit fees for Long Term Recovery, but not for the Armory. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough.

During discussion, Councilman Ford inquired why not waive it for both. Councilwoman Scott reiterated that the company doing the work for the Armory is for profit, whereas Long Term Recovery is a non-profit.

The motion carried 4-1, with Councilman Ford voting "nay".

#### DEPOT – STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

Mayor Dize advised that he had requested that Mr. Loar evaluate structural issues at the depot a while back. Mr. Waller noted that he had discovered some other issues. Mr. Loar advised that Davis, Bowen and Friedel can do the assessment for \$14K. Mayor Dize commented that summer is quickly approaching, with several events scheduled at the Depot, and if we bid out the project, we will lose time. Mr. Loar advised that as the City Engineers, DBF is trained to do this and the City has the money to do the repairs. Ms. Finucan advised that there is \$90K in Waterway Improvement funds for construction only and a \$5K grant if Mr. Loar writes the RFP.

Councilman Atkins inquired if there are safety issues. Mr. Waller advised that this is correct; the boardwalk on the left side has loose decking boards.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to instruct Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., to prepare a structural assessment and RFP for repair of damages at the Depot. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Loar advised that he would prepare contract documents for bidding of repairs.

Mayor Dize inquired if \$14K would cover the inspection. Mr. Loar advised that this was correct. Councilman Goldsborough inquired if the \$5K would cover part of the RFP. Mayor Dize advised that it just can't be used for engineering.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Atkins noted that the March Madness RCR event was held this past Saturday and Sunday, with a smaller crowd in attendance.

Councilman Atkins noted that Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> is Vietnam Veterans Day.

Councilman Atkins also referred to the Military Banner program and advised that the torn banners will be replaced.

Councilwoman Scott commended Mr. Waller on the work he has done. Mayor Dize commented that he was the best interview in the group.

Council Vice President Banks thanked Mr. Johnson for the RCR event and also thanked any non profit who holds events. He also thanked Chief Dalfonso for the routing of the cars and safety procedures in place. Council Vice President Banks also thanked Mr. Waller.

Councilman Goldsborough also thanked Mr. Waller and Ms. Finucan for the work on getting 5<sup>th</sup> Street paved. He also referred to the issues with water bills due to unreadable water meters and thanked Water/Sewer/Tax Department Head, LaFabian Marshall, for fantastic customer service. Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the status of the new reader. Mr. Waller advised that the new meters will tell how much water is used every hour. He also noted that some undetected leaks have been identified. He noted we are waiting on one part and commented that there are many infrastructure challenges with water and sewer, adding that 300 meters did not read today.

Council Vice President Banks addressed Mr. Loar concerning the cost for Norris Harbor Drive.

Mr. Loar advised that the City has decided to go out for RFP's. Ms. Finucan advised that the RFQ is due back on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Dize noted that the other candidate running for Sheriff has been invited to attend then next meeting to introduce himself.

Mayor Dize noted that he was honored to have spoken at the recent Chamber banquet. He noted that Mrs. Stevie Ritchie is the new President. He also congratulated Danny Thompson on the award he received. Mayor Dize thanked Mr. Johnson on the great job done with the recent RCR race.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift