MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 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 phone
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman

Also in attendance; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; LaFabian Marshall; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Elmer Barkley; Deneen Jones Ward; Tim Howlett; Angela Brittingham; Cindy Lunsford; Cindy Lunsford; Christopher Hall; Andrew Illuminati; Matt Tomlins; and Norris Howard, Sr.

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

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the closed and regular meetings of August 24, 2022.

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed and regular meetings of August 24, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor Taylor – Reading of Proclamation Wishing a Happy 108th Birthday to Mrs. Evelyn Violis Pasquella

Mayor Taylor read aloud a proclamation in honor of Mrs. Evelyn Violis Pasquella's 108th Birthday.

APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Deneen Jones Ward, Director of Continuing Education and Work Force Development, appeared before the Mayor and City Council and reviewed a power point presentation reviewing the continuing education and workforce training program provided at Wor Wic Community College.

Tidal Health Cindy Lunsford, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Chris Hall, Vice President, Strategy& Business Development, Angie Brittingham, Senior Director Emergency Department appeared before the Mayor and City Council to concerning the status of Tidal Health, McCready Hospital's Emergency Room and the need for primary care.

Mr. Hall reviewed the stats of emergency room visits and uses, and the various degrees of medical services provided for the visits.

He noted that 81% of the visits were evaluated as non-emergency in the period of a year. He advised that a free-standing medical facility cannot be built unless the hospital is closed. Mayor Taylor commented that there had been a plan to build one.

During Q & A, Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the plans were to close the ER. Mr. Hall advised that it is on the table. Councilwoman Johnson noted that keeping the ER open is personal to her, as she almost lost a daughter, but was revived. She made reference to using the 2nd floor for dialysis, 24 hour care, etc. She noted that Crisfield has an aging population, and the ER is a must. Ms. Lunsford commented that no decisions have been made.

Councilman Banks noted that knowing the ER is available relieves anxiety and is especially necessary for Smith Island and Tangier if they are not able to be flown off. He also commented that a person may not know if a condition is an emergency or not. He also commented that many people are moving to Crisfield because of the availability of the facility.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired why residents of Princess Anne and that end of the County don't come here, given there is a much longer wait at PRMC. Ms. Brittingham noted that some things can only be treated at PRMC.

Councilman Banks commented that if 5,000 people come in a year, it is needed.

Mayor Taylor noted that public input is necessary. Mr. Hall advised that COMAR requires it.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she has always had a positive experience at the ER and feels we need to make it work. She noted that we have lost population here, and any new residents need this service.

Mayor Taylor inquired what the numbers need to be and how to re-imagine the service. She advised that we are trying to bring retirees to Crisfield, and we need the ER to help with marketing. She advised that we want a free-standing facility and the ER is part of the draw.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about a cancer treatment center. Mr. Hall advised that this would be hard to staff.

(Council Vice President Lankford – phone died)

Mayor Taylor inquired how they to get to the step of decision. Mr. Hall advised that they will review the financials along with input and information. Mayor Taylor inquired how the City could provide them with input. Mr. Hall advised that they would put something together.

<u>Mayor Taylor – Beacon Proposal</u>

Mayor Taylor made reference to the Beacon Proposal concerning acting as a facilitator for the Community Engagement Forum, as discussed in the earlier Closed Session.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to accept the proposal from Beacon to act as a facilitator for the Community Engagement Forum, and the

providing of the necessary funding. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Taylor – Engagement of City Attorney

Mayor Taylor requested a motion from the Council for the appointment of the lawfirm of Webb, Cornbrook, Wilber, Douse, and Illuminati, with Mr. Andrew Illuminati designated as City Solicitor for the City of Crisfield.

So moved by Councilman Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Illuminati will become effective October 1, 2022.

Mayor Taylor – Selection of City Inspector

Mayor Taylor advised that she needs a motion to approve the appointment of the previous inspector, Dean Bozman. Approval so moved by Councilman Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Taylor – Crisfield Revitalization Initiative

Mayor Taylor made reference to 10 county owned properties that she would like to obtain and use for housing as part of the Crisfield Revitalization Initiative. She requested a motion as such. So moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, and carried 3-1, with Councilman Goldsborough recusing himself as he is employed by the County.

PUBLIC INPUT

Tim Howlett noted that the community is nervous about the status of the hospital and closing the ER will devastate the City and EMS. He advised that he looks forward to community input, but the writing is on the wall. Mr. Howlett also made reference to the need for repairs to the air conditioning units upstairs at the Fire Hall and the flooding issue the fire department experiences. He advised that he had obtained one a.c. unit from the Tangier School and he is working on a fund raiser to purchase another $8,000 unit.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Howlett and also thanked the person at the Tangier School.

Elmer Barkley advised that he has concerns with some flooding issues on his property. He advised that the County had cleaned a ditch near him, but had dug a channel, which is causing the flooding on his property.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that this is a County issue.

Mayor Taylor advised Mr. Barkley to contact the County. Mr. Barkley advised that he had contacted them and was told there was either no personnel, or that it was too dry. Mayor Taylor advised that she would reach out to Mr. Charles Cavanaugh at the County.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we need a plan for flooding issues. She noted that the plan had been in the works.

Mr. Loar advised that there is money for tide gates, etc. Mayor Taylor advised that we need to work on a regular maintenance schedule. She noted that the City had received a grant through B.R.I.C. through FEMA to provide technical assistance. She advised that she will brief in October.

Mr. Norris Howard commented about Calvary Estates and the City/County issue with run-off, noting that the flood gates are worthless. He commented that dredge materials covered the drain.

<u>COUNCIL COMMENTS</u>

Councilwoman Scott commented that this has been a long meeting with a lot of good going on through the Wor Wic and Tidal Health presentations. She thanked Beacon for the upcoming Community Engagement Forum, and noted that the new attorney and the new/old inspector is a good change. She also commented that she is excited about the 10 properties.

Councilman Banks commented that we need synergy to get things accomplished, adding that we are here to address issues. He advised that he was glad to see the

Tidal Health presentation. Councilman Banks noted that this Mayor and Council is here to address problems, though it takes time.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he would defer to Mr. Loar concerning the Rubberset pump issues. Mr. Loar advised that the pump failed and was fixed today. He noted that the pumps shook themselves into failure. Councilman Goldsborough inquired about the cost. Mayor Taylor noted that she heard the cost was exorbitant. Mr. Loar advised that this was similar to the Cove Street situation.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she enjoys public input and reminded about the 2 minute limit. She thanked Mrs. Ward for her presentation concerning Wor Wic. She also thanked Tidal Health, noting that they are a staple in the community and asked that the community participate in the informational forums. Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is ok with long meetings as they are needed to move forward.

Council Vice President Lankford, who was now available on his phone, apologized for his absence from the meeting. He noted that he is excited about all that is going on.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone in attendance, the presenters, and for the input. She also offered her condolences to Mrs. Morgan on the loss of her Aunt. Mayor Taylor reminded everyone about tomorrow's LESMA dinner, which will showcase our community and will also feature a ferry update from the County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary