

Minutes

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday May 22, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Corbin studio gallery meeting room.

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor, via zoom
Ivan Lankford, Council vice president via zoom
Eric banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce Morgan, Clerk Treasurer
Andrew, Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance, Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon, Rick Taylor, Richard Crumbacker, Jennifer Merritt, Sam Davis, George Friedley,

Councilman Banks call the meeting to order opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Banks requested approval of the minutes from the May 8 work session and regular session So approved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough, and carried unanimously.

First Reader, Ordinance Number 725, Number 726, Number 727 and Number 728

Mr. Illuminati read into record Water Ordinance, number 725 into record for first reader.

Mr. Illuminati read into record Sewer Ordinance number 726 for first reader.

Mr. Illuminati read into record Garbage Ordinance number 727 for first reader.

Mrs. Morgan read into the record Budget Ordinance 728 for first reader.

Stephen Skeritt-Davis and members of the Maryland State Arts Council appeared before the Mayor and City Council to present a discussion about the importance of the Arts and Entertainment District.

Mayor Taylor inquired if they work with the arts syndicate. Mr. Skerritt advised that they do.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if there is money for start-ups for local artists. Mr. Skerritt Davis advised that there is money.

FEMA, BRIC, DTA Discussion Concerning a Stormwater Maintenance plan

Alex Landry, of CDM Smith, and John Aldrich of CDM Smith, presented and reviewed a PowerPoint concerning stormwater maintenance management Mr. Aldrich noted that maintenance will cost

approximately \$332,000 per year. Mr. Aldrich also made reference to imposing a storm water utility fee for impervious areas associated with a residential area. He suggested that a flat fee be established. Councilwoman Todd inquired about wetland areas. Mr. Aldrich noted that they are not considered impervious.

Mayor Taylor made reference to a residential fee of \$8.25 per month.

Council VP Lankford inquired if the impervious area was the same for every residence. Mr. Aldrich advised it will be a single flat fee or a couple of tier fees. Councilwoman Johnson noted that ditch tax fees are encouraged, as she learned at the Delmarva waterway tour.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that adding another fee may make it hard to solicit for annexation. Mayor Taylor noted that we have to maintain ditches, but don't want to overburden staff.

Youth City Council Report

Mr. Holland made reference to the high school survey and noted that the majority of the students wanted a water park. Councilwoman Todd noted that this is the last meeting of the high school student council. Councilwoman Johnson noted that she attended the high school award ceremony and advised that Will and Samantha received most of the scholarship money and awards. Councilwoman Todd suggested that the City provide \$500 for each of the Student Council Government members. She advised that she would also like to recognize their parents for the way they raised them.

Mayor Taylor commented that she is grateful for youth input.

Pines Motel Presentation – Gerald Shockley and Ken Shockley, and Attorney Mark Tilghman

Mr. Shockley introduced himself and noted that he has a proposal for the former Pines motel property. He advised that the plan is to provide affordable housing, converting the units to 12 one bedroom apartments with upstairs and downstairs where the former gray building on the right is located. For the group of buildings on the left, he is proposing to build a second floor to have two-story units so they will be 28 two-bedroom apartments, a laundry area and a community room, and also develop the same concept in the L shaped area with 13 apartments. He noted that the house on the right-hand side would be remodeled and would have one three bedroom and two 1 bedroom apartments. He noted that this would remove blight from the city, and they plan to have on-site management during the day. He advised that management would not live on the property. He noted that there would be security camera systems, parking passes, digital door locks, and protocols to follow. He noted he did a similar project in Cambridge. He advised that CPD could access the cameras as needed. He noted that to regulate who moves in, there would be background checks. Mr. Shockley advised that the units will be leased yearly. Mayor Taylor noted that the group would need to go before the Planning Commission.

After further discussion, Councilman Banks advised that he does support the project. Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the location of the swimming pool area. Mr. Shockley advised that he was required to cover the pool up.

Mayor Taylor noted that the City is looking to create affordable housing.

Request Approval for Housing Façade and Armory Grant Applications – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt noted that the grant application would be completed by Ms. Parks, who would be applying for \$150K, which will be awarded in October. Mayor Taylor inquired how this would work. Mrs. Merritt advised that DHCD has suggested targeting legacy homeowners – people staying in the community. She advised that the money could be spent on roofing, siding and windows. Councilman Goldsborough noted that in the County, the house has to be worth more than the grant funding.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the pay-back amount for five years drops 20% per year and must be paid back if the property is sold.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the Grant Application for the Armory is \$250K for HVAC and Mold Remediation. Approval so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Department Head Appointments – Mayor Taylor & Mr. Illuminati

At this time, Mayor Taylor requested the appointment Mr. William Brown, Building Inspector, and Mrs. Jennifer Merritt, Grant Writer/Administrator as department heads. Also, Joyce Morgan as Clerk Treasurer, Dennis Collison, Public Works Director, DJ Parkinson, Public Utilities Director, Joyce Morgan as City Manager, and Chief Rick Taylor. At this time Councilman Banks requested a motion to approve all of the Department Heads as titled, as a group. So moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Council Vice President Lankford, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to amend the agenda to add First Reader of Chapter 14. Motion second by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Illuminati reviewed Ordinance Number 729 amending Chapter 14 – Pertaining to salary per year for Mayor and City Council, which goes into effect after the next election. Mrs. Morgan noted that this is a housekeeping matter from 1980, not an increase in Mayor and Council salary. Mayor Taylor noted that the 10% reduction in salary that was taken a few years ago has now been put back in. Mr. Illuminati advised that this clears up the Code Book with an Ordinance. Mrs. Morgan added that this also corrects what they are being paid.

Public Input

Kathy Kissel referred to questions about the ditch fee and commented that businesses are needed in Crisfield and flooding prevents them from locating here. She commented that paying the ditch fee is an investment in the community, as a stakeholder.

George Friedley commented that revamping the Pines Motel is a plus, but retired baby boomers also need small scale housing.

Mr. Dean Goldsborough, member of the Marina Commission noted that the Sky-High Parasailing owner will be holding a ribbon cutting tomorrow at 4 PM at the charter boat area. He also commented that he is not opposed to paying flood taxes as a business owner. He also commented that he is totally against any improvements to the Armory.

Richard Crumbacker inquired about money for flood protection. Mayor Taylor advised that this is to maintain our ditches today.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Todd made reference to the condition of the road on N. Harbor Dr./Jersey Road. Councilman Goldsborough advised that we need to check with Mr. Loar concerning the status of the project to make the necessary repairs to the road.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to highway user funds. Mrs. Morgan noted that after it was reinstated, it has been increasing every year and is noted as an \$80,000 line item in the budget work sheets.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that GCAC wants to hold an Investor Day and would like to come in the first meeting in June to do a presentation.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked everyone for coming and congratulated Mrs. Morgan on her appointment as City Manager.

Council Vice President in Lankford also commented on the condition of the roads. He congratulated the student City Council on their future plans and noted that having them onboard was a good program and they offered good perspective. He also congratulated Mrs. Morgan on her appointment as City Manager.

Councilman Banks noted that three years ago, Council started working to address the road issue at Jersey and we need Mr. Loar to revisit that matter, which also involves the Marina. He advised that five streets were selected for paving at the time, but the situation with the 36 sewer prevented it. He thanked all the department heads and staff and congratulated Mrs. Morgan on her appointment as City Manager.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Taylor noted that the soft-shell festival will be held this Sunday. She also noted that on June 1, Crisfield Police Department will be holding their first annual basketball tournament. Chief Taylor advised that 41 students have signed up and they have eight teams. He advised that trophies and T-shirts will be given out. Mayor Taylor added that this is a drug-free event. Chief Taylor advised that he has received a lot of help with this event, and the rain date would be the following Saturday.

Mr. Alrey noted that on June 1, the Janes Island Park will be holding the paddle fest.

Adjournment

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Todd, and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce L Morgan Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

