

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6 PM in the meeting room of the Corbin studio and gallery.

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council VP via ZOOM
Eric, Banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Laverne Johnson, Councilwoman
Ruthie Todd, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, treasurer.
Andrew, Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance, Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police, William Holland, Kim Hopkins, Richard Crumbacker

INVOCATION, LORD’S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of January 24, 2024. So moved by Councilman Goldsborough, second, by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.

SECOND READER ORDINANCE 721 – SHORT TERM RENTALS – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati reviewed Ordinance 721 amending chapter 112 and adding short term rentals. He noted that HOA determines if short term rentals are permitted. After a brief discussion Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve Ordinance 721, second by Councilwoman, Laverne Johnson, and carried.

REQUESTS FOR WAIVER FOR ON STREET PARKING AT 232 BROADWAY – MS. HOPKINS

Ms. Kimberly Hopkins, Construction Manager, ESLTR, requested a waiver from the Council for the on-street parking requirement at 232 Broadway.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough, made a motion to approve this request, seconded by councilwoman Johnson, and carried.

LIH - Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt reviewed project restore 2.0 noting this is a \$300,000 grant with the application due April 24 Mayor Taylor noted that Mrs. Merritt is asking for permission to apply.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if we can manage this grant right now. Mayor Taylor advised that we can.

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to apply for this grant, second by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Mrs. Merritt also provided the mayor and council with an update on what Mrs. Parks is working on.

PUBLIC UTILITIES UPDATES – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted the pump is ordered and is coordinating with contractors of Godwin pump. He noted that all three pumps are working at the plant Mayor Taylor inquired if we are back to normal levels. Mr. Parkinson advised that this is correct and noted that all three pumps are operational. Mayor Taylor inquired about the Cove Street levels, and Mr. Parkinson advised they are normal.

UPDATE ON DOCK REPAIRS – MR. LOAR

Mr. Loar advised that the depot should be done by the end of next week and is on budget.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION – CHIEF TAYLOR

Chief Taylor advised that there are two divisions at CPD: The administrative and patrol division, and now the Community Outreach Division. He noted that Corporal Parkinson handles youth events, along with officers Sermon, Shupe, and Verdiana. Councilman Banks commented that this is a great idea. Chief Taylor noted that it was the mayor's idea.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Chief for his initiative.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Will Holland noted that at this time the survey was prepared, and they are still waiting for permission for it to be sent out.

PUBLIC INPUT

Tracy Bayne, 80 Maryland Ave. referred to flooding issues at his property preventing him from being able to flush the toilet. Mayor Taylor advised him to call City Hall for a work order.

Elmer Barclay, 28 Asbury Ave. referred to a problem concerning derelict property, specifically the duplex beside him.

Mr. Will Holland also referred to sewer issues at his residence on Somerset Avenue.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Goldsborough, thanked everyone for their presentations, noting that he will be working with the new Inspector, Mr. Brown, to revamp the city code.

Council VP Lankford thanked everyone in attendance.

Councilman Banks thanked Mayor Taylor for a short agenda. He also thanked Chief Taylor for the new division.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Taylor gave a shout out to Lamont bell, scholarship winner for Youth in Congress Day. She also reminded everyone about the upcoming soul food sampling and about the water and sewer meeting in the County in April.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce, L Morgan,
Clerk-Treasurer.

Prepared by
Valerie Swift, Secretary