

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the Corbin Studio and Gallery meeting room.

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman via Zoom
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Laverne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce Morgan, Clerk Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance, Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon, Shanelle Haughton, Richard Crumbacker, Michele Nunnally, Diana Murray, Liz Warfield, and Vijay Singh.

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

At this time Council Vice President Banks requested approval of three sets of minutes from November 4, 2024, November 13, 2024, Closed session and the November 13 regular session. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

PILOT/ECA Solar – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati presented resolution number 490 for the PILOT with ECA solar LLC, which provides for a 25 year lease with two renewals with the amount of the PILOT being \$28,500. Council Vice President Banks made a motion to accept resolution number 490. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Deeding of Roadbeds to ECA Solar – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati made reference to deeding of the road bed by Resolution 491 to ECA solar. He explained that the roads were never created but marked in 1986 by the Planning Commission during subdivision of the property on Calvary Estates. He noted that the roadbed is on paper only. Mr. Illuminati advised that the resolution would declare the roadbed surplus and deed them to ECA Solar. Mayor Taylor explained that there is no existing roadbed. It's just noted on paper.

At this time Council Vice President Banks made a motion to an adopt Resolution 491. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Mayor Taylor noted that ECA solar is now called Crisfield Solar Initiative.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the recent death of Councilman Patel's grandfather and offered the City's condolences.

City Water Leak/Mr. Jason Loar

Mr. Loar advised the hydrant leak is fixed. Mayor Taylor also noted that the boil advisory has been lifted and also noted that properties outside of the city had lost water service. Mr. Loar advised he is researching the reason for this as it was unexpected.

Mayor Taylor noted that the isolation valves were successful within the city. She thanked Public Utilities, Public Works, Ryan Miller, and the county for getting this job done.

Agenda Amendment – Councilman Goldsborough

At this time Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to amend the agenda to add discussion about a food box. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and Carried unanimously.

Mrs. Michele Nunnally made reference to placing a food box in the city garden to help address the need for food in the city and surrounding areas. She advised that this blessing box is needed here.

She also advised that local churches will be helping maintain the box. She advised that the garden location will be an area that is accessible to everyone. Mayor Taylor thanked Mrs. Nunnally for her initiative.

Councilwoman Johnson also thanked her for the blessing box as well as providing free rides to people for doctors' appointments.

At this time council woman Johnson made motion to approve the blessing box to be placed in the Doug Swift city garden. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Miss Haughton presented and reviewed information concerning the DNR Gateway grant application request in the amount of \$2,416,262. She noted that there is no match required. Mayor Taylor advised that this grant is a good fit for the city. She also noted that the grant is due December 13, 2024.

At this time Council Vice President Banks made motion to move forward with the grant application. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

At this time, Mrs. Haughton presented and reviewed proposals she had received for roofing, HVAC, and technical assistance.

Sewer Line Update/Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar advised that bids had gone out on the city website for sewer line replacement. He noted that they are due next Wednesday, December 18 by email by 5:00 PM. He noted he is looking for three proposals. Mayor Taylor advised that this money would be coming from year two ARPA funds in the amount of \$441,019.10.

Mrs. Morgan advised that the sewer line repairs are coming from year one or in the amount of 260 to 330,000. Mr. Loar advised that he would know early next week about the cost.

Mayor Taylor advised that we need to review the bids so that a vote can be done to award them this time next week.

Following further discussion, Mayor Taylor requested that Council Vice President Banks and Councilman Goldsborough review the roof and HVAC proposals. She advised that she and Miss Haughton would look at the technical assistance proposals.

In reference to the ditching recommendation, Mayor Taylor advised that she can get an engineer right now to fix some of the problems and we put out a quick RFP for ditch digging, and tide gate installation. Mrs. Morgan reminded everyone that signed contracts are needed by December 31st to spend the money.

Mayor Taylor also made reference to the DNR match for the Somers Cove Marina improvements and DNR has advised that no matching funds are needed.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the outstanding invoice for the jazz festival which needs to be addressed next week. Councilman Patel noted that the tax rate needs to be adjusted.

Public Input

Liz Warfield thanked the mayor and council for the work that they are doing. She also inquired about the king tide and if the Incubator is part of the downtown business area.

Mrs. Warfield also made reference to the ARPA funding for economic development. She advised that she would like to be on the Main Street Improvement Committee.

Miss McMahon noted that this is her one-year anniversary working with the city of Crisfield and she is grateful to be here. Mrs. Morgan noted that Ms. McMahon has excelled in every area.

Council Comments

Councilman Lankford noted that the marina match is the best news he's heard

Councilman Patel thanked everyone for all of their prayers and also commented about the good news from DNR.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that this has been a productive meeting.

Council Vice President Banks thanked everyone and congratulated Captain Luedtke on becoming acting chief. He also made reference to the good news from DNR noting that the city is getting results. He advised he is looking forward to the new year.

Councilman Goldsborough expressed thanks for the state match. He also noted that we need to address the flooding on Wynfall Avenue off of Lori Quinn Drive. He gave a shout out to Ryan Miller for helping with repair of the recent hydrant leak and also made reference to the need for fixing the other leaks in town.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Taylor made reference to a thank you card from Mrs. Morgan for flowers following her recent surgery. She also noted that Mrs. Liz Brock, the Circuit Rider, had resigned. She advised that we still need

project management staff, a building inspector, and a public works director. She noted that 23 applicants had applied for the chief of police position, and she appreciates Captain Luedtke for stepping up as acting Chief. Mayor Taylor noted that the city Christmas party is December 20 from 2 to 4 at the Legion. She thanked Mr. Illuminati for his hard work.

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made motion to adjourn seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary