

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin A & E Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President via phone
Ivan Lankford, Councilman, via zoom
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Tiffany McMahon; Chief Rick Taylor; Dennis Cullison; D.J. Parkinson; Richard Crumbacker; Jason Loar and Jesse Drewer.

Invocation, Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the last meeting. At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the minutes from the Closed and Regular Meetings of September 24, 2024. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Proclamation – Jenna Drewer-Noll – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation declaring October 9, 2024, as Jenna Drewer-Noll Day in the City of Crisfield and recognizing the extraordinary life she lived.

Mayor Taylor noted that pictures had been taken earlier with her family and that Mr. Jesse Drewer, Jenna's brother, would be accepting the proclamation on behalf of her family, who had a previously scheduled commitment.

Surplus Property – Setting a Minimum Bid Amount– Mrs. Morgan

Mrs. Morgan noted at the last meeting, several items of surplus property (vehicles & equipment) had been declared as surplus, however, a minimum bid price had not been established.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to advertise the items starting at a minimum bid of \$300 each or \$2,500 for the lot. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Continued Discussion About Low Income Housing Initiative to Encourage Local Builders – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that 11 citizens had completed training on how to become a qualified homeowner. She advised that 4 lots had cleared with MDHT. Mayor Taylor noted that out of the 8 properties, two were going to Long Term Recovery, two were for Salisbury Neighborhood Housing, and four were designated for local builders, which we would need to advertise in the paper. Councilman Goldsborough commented that we would need the lot sizes for advertisement.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to continue with the plans for the other properties and advertise the 4 other lots in the local paper, for local builders. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Project Restore Update – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that the three properties selected for this funding are the vacant Subway building, the old liquor store, and the commercial space under the black-eyed Susan. She advised that the first year of rent would be paid, and there would be up to \$30K for inside renovation. Mayor Taylor advised that a detailed business plan must be provided that shows the business would be sustainable and is needed and wanted in Crisfield.

Mr. Illuminati noted that he has the contracts drafted.

Wind Turbine Update – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson advised that the tentative date for repair of the Hub is the last week of October. Parts are ordered. Councilman Goldsborough inquired if they know what the problem is. Mr. Parkinson advised that they are bringing parts for any problem.

Mr. Loar noted that we are looking at other options, but they won't get involved until the original company gets it running.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Updates – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted that ACES will be here next week to pull apart the 2nd clarifier. He noted that the quote for the Effluent Pump repairs is over \$54K and will take 10 to 12 weeks. A rebuild costs \$43K. He noted that we need to have it up and running for our MDE Permit.

Mayor Taylor noted that per the Moonshot report, upgrading and replacing critical components in the WWTP would cost over \$5M. She advised that we need the EPA Change Grant, and we need the plant to run optimally.

Wastewater Facilities Improvements General Obligation Bond Ordinance 731 2nd Reader- Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati noted that first reader was done at the last meeting, and we need to vote on 2nd reader at this meeting.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to adopt Bond Ordinance 731 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

EPA Change Grant Update – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that we are nowhere with the EPA Change Grant, which is due November 21st. She noted that she is meeting on Friday with Jeannie Haddaway Riccio. She also noted that we must have all the pieces in place.

Northern Flood Mitigation Project Expansion Update– Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that we are considering other areas that could be included in the Norther Flood mitigation project and that we are meeting with DNR at the end of the month to see what upgrades they will be making to the Marina. She advised that a few county roads have been proposed to be included for access purposes. The county roads that would be elevated are Stouty Sterling and Asbury Avenue.

Mrs. Merritt also noted that we are looking at extra City roads outside of the project.

Public Input

George Friedley made reference to posting on Facebook about stolen bikes and the fact that you cannot prosecute anyone under 15 years old, but this becomes an habitual way of life. Mayor Taylor noted that she will talk to the Chief, but there is a process now where we can refer juveniles. Mr. Friedley also commented about having Westover Vo-Tech participate in the Low-Income Housing Program.

Council Comments

Councilman Goldsborough commented that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is always the main issue needing costly repairs, and we need to spend ARPA funding on that. Mayor Taylor advised that she agrees, but we need to invest in our city also.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that her own bike was stolen. She also noted that she attended the Main Street Conference yesterday and noted that other towns have the same problems that we do.

Councilman Patel commented that Councilman Goldsborough made a good point. He also noted that the Halloween Parade is on Saturday, October 26th. Councilman Patel thanked Mayor Taylor for designating October 9th as Jenna Drewes-Noll Day. He also noted that the upcoming MML Fall Convention will be held in Cambridge in November.

Councilman Lankford noted that we need to get to work on the EPA Grant so we can get things fixed. He also commented that the wind turbine is a dead weight.

Mayor Comments – Rain Date for Trick or Treat

Mayor Taylor noted that we will discuss a rain date for Trick or Treat at the next meeting. She noted that James Parkinson's retirement dinner will be held tomorrow at 6 at the American Legion.

Councilman Patel added that the First Annual Crisfield Fire Department Gun Bash will be held on Saturday, October 26th after the Halloween Parade and events.

Mayor Taylor requested prayer for Florida and North Carolina. She also made reference to a possible King Tide on October 18th and advised that notices would be put out once information is received.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Beach to Bay Organization for the African American Mural, as well as thank you to all involved.

Mayor Taylor commented that she would like to see a Waterman's Mural, a Ward Brothers Mural and a Governor Tawes Mural.

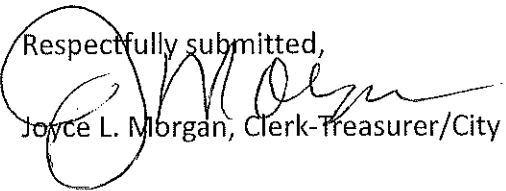
Mayor Taylor made reference to a Small Business Boost Opportunity, opening again. She also reminded the Council that the ARPA money must be allocated by the end of the year.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary