

MINUTES

The mayor and city Council held their regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6 PM in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

Present

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, council Vice President
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, Eric Lee, Chief of Police, DJ Parkinson, Brian Fowler, Peter Allen Hirsch, Richard Crumbacker, Dennis Marshall, Sonia Marshall, Mike Atkins, George Friedley, Matt Tomlinson, Addison Bruce, Jenna Bruce, Kim Hopkins, via Zoom, Shanelle Houghton via Zoom, and Cheryl Hires.

Invocation

Call to Order, 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

Council Vice President Banks presented three sets of minutes for approval; January 8, 2025, closed session, January 8, 2025, regular session and January 22, 2025, regular session. With no corrections noted, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Request for Waiver of Building Permit Fee Home Elevation – Ms. Hopkins, SCLTR via zoom

Kimberly Hopkins, Construction Manager for Long term Recovery, appeared before the Mayor and Council via Zoom to request a waiver of fees for property located at 201 Myrtle St. for the process of elevating the home. The total amount she was requesting for waiver was \$385. After a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion that the fee be waived. Motion second by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

Fire Department Roof Repair – Mr. Fowler

Mr. Brian Fowler, Director of Public Works, made reference to the fire department roof repair and presented three bids he had received from Dynamic General Contracting. The lowest bid was for the seams on the roof in the amount of \$23,000. He noted that he could not obtain any additional quotes. Council Vice President Banks noted that if this is an emergency it needs to be repaired. Mr. Fowler

advised that this is an emergency. He also noted that there is no warranty on the seam repair and noted that they did a free repair on the roof right before the Fireman's banquet.

At this time Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to spend \$23,000 for the roof repair at the Crisfield Fire Hall. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

Wind Turbine Update – Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar presented good news about the wind turbine, noting that the third-party repair company found a blown fuse and a dirty filter. He advised that the turbine is now spinning, and it looks promising.

Water Leak Update – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson presented an update on the water leaks in the town. He advised that the city will be doing the repairs on Norris Harbor in front of the Red Shell Shanty on Wednesday. He noted that we cannot do Seventh and Broadway due to movement of the fire hydrant and this will possibly be done in March. He advised that the city will be doing the repair on Seventh Street by the treatment plant. He also advised we will be repairing the leak on Somerset Avenue where the house was hit.

In reference to the sewer plant, Mr. Parkinson advised that there has been an increase in total nitrogen due to the clarifier being down. Mayor Taylor inquired about what caused the spike in Nitrogen. Mr. Loar advised that he feels various situations could cause the spike. Mayor Taylor commented that this needs to be isolated. Mr. Parkinson also advised that he feels it could be due to the extra flow we have had from recent rain.

Introduction of new Circuit Rider – Ms. Haughton

Ms. Houghton, via Zoom, introduced the new Circuit Rider, Mrs. Cheryl Hires. Mrs. Hires introduced herself to the Mayor and Council briefing them on her background and experience. She noted that she looks forward to working with the City of Crisfield and advised that she moved here last July.

Committee Information – Councilwoman Johnson

Councilwoman Johnson presented information about the various city committees; the Main Street Development Committee, whose members are Laverne Johnson-Co-chair, Mike Corbin, Billy Gene Swift, Anthony Jackson, Clarence Bell, Billy Jo Chandler, Timothy Howlett, Steve Raab, Vonetta Campbell, Ivan Lankford- Chair, Dan Nelson and Vernel Cottman, and the Park Commission whose members are Noah Bradshaw- Chair, Pat Carson, Lamont Potter, Sue Heath, Adrian Fitchett and Jamar Alexander.

She advised that the Commissions are open to suggestions and noted that the Park Commission had worked on a grant to develop a splash park years ago and had looked into a water park. Mayor Taylor requested that the committees present a report each month.

Councilman Goldsborough requested that any expense request of the committees be presented to the Mayor and Council. He then made a motion that the committees bring any expenditure requests to the City for approval. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

Vote on Payment of Jazz Festival Invoice – Mayor Taylor

Mr. Illuminati briefed those in attendance on the status of payment for the Jazz Festival for the outstanding balance. He referred to the Ethics Commission meeting and read aloud their findings. (See copy of findings attached) He advised that there is no evidence of a conflict of interest with Council Vice President Banks, therefore he can vote on the payment of the outstanding balance as there was no benefit to him or a conflict of interest.

At this time, Mayor Taylor requested a vote.

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to pay the \$1000 balance out of the Marketing Committee budget for the unpaid hotel stay with funding that is available. Motion seconded by Councilman Lankford. Motion carried 3 to 2, with ayes from Councilwoman Johnson, Council Vice President Banks, and Councilman Lankford, and opposed by Councilman Patel and Councilman Goldsborough.

Public Input

Matt Tomlins commented that the city should not use taxpayer money to pay the outstanding debt. This is irresponsible and he questioned what other money was spent that was not reported.

Mr. Dennis Marshall commented that he agrees and doesn't want any additional taxes.

Mr. George Friedley commented that he wants two sessions of Public Input; one before business is voted on such as ordinances, etc., and one at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for attending and for their comments, noting that questions cannot be answered at this time.

Council Comments

Councilman Goldsborough commented that we need to put out for bids for a snowplow. Mayor Taylor advised that she has asked Mr. Fowler to investigate the cost. Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the importance of city government being transparent.

Council Vice President Banks thanked staff and department heads.

Councilman Patel thanked those who participated in public comment and reiterated that committees bring their expense before the council for a vote. He also suggested meetings be broadcast on YouTube

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the old channel 19 that used to be operated by the cable company. She advised she reached out to Spectrum to see what was available. She also commented that we used to have a first and second input session.

Councilman Lankford thanked Mr. Loar and Mr. Parkinson for their hard work. He suggested that the public email the Mayor and Council with questions and also made reference to holding Townhall meetings. He advised that he welcomes inquiries and concerns.

Mayor Comments – Loss of Paula Tucker, Sherman Gregory

Mayor Taylor made reference to town hall meetings, noting that we will have a Public Information Officer to put out notices. Mayor Taylor advised that she is here to serve the community and always does the best she can for the city. She advised that the city is at the forefront of this administration and noted that the city still must pay bills. Mayor Taylor advised that she would be out of town tomorrow. She also noted the recent loss of Paula Tucker and Sherman Gregory.

Adjournment

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Vice President Banks, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary