

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council Met in regular session on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in the meeting room at the Corbin studio and gallery.

Present

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

Also, in attendance, Valerie Swift, Chief Eric Lee, Tiffany McMahon, Peterallen Hirschhoff, Bryan Fowler, Richard Crumbacker, Reverend Joyce Whittington, Joy Bretthauer, King Whittington, Jr.; Carolyn Bates, Christine Medina, Vance Rowley, Ke Shaia Wigenton, and several other family members of the late Mr. Tony Rolley

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the August 26, 2025, meetings. At this time Councilman Goldsborough made motion to approve both the regular and closed session meeting minutes from August 26, 2025. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor requested that the agenda be amended to include the posthumous recognition of Mr. Tony Rolley.

At this time, Mayor Taylor read aloud a plaque recognizing Mr. Rolley, noting he was a trailblazer as one of the first black paramedics on the Lower Eastern Shore Ambulance and Rescue Squad. His daughter Andrea Rolley accepted the plaque on his behalf.

EPA Presentation via Zoom

Mr. Ryan Hostak of Tetra Tech reviewed a PowerPoint presentation showing nature base solutions, most beneficial plans for our area, including artificial oyster reef, Sand dune restoration, living breakwater, marsh restoration, and edging, which are the top six proposed implementable nature base solution projects for the city.

Mrs. Merritt noted that the City applied for \$6M for the great point restoration. She noted there is another presentation tomorrow at 5 o'clock at the new library.

At this time, Mayor Taylor read a Certificate of Appreciation for the Nature Based Solution team that had been working so closely with the City of Crisfield. She noted that the office of research and development has been disbanded and thanked them for all their help.

Kei'shia Wigenton, Housing Authority Director, introduction

Ms. Wigenton introduced herself to the Mayor and Council and those in attendance and on Facebook. She shared her background as a licensed realtor and noted that she had become the Director of the Housing Authority with goals to bring back the Housing Authority community and change the mindset of the City. She noted that she has been working on getting units occupied, getting the community center reopened and noted that it now contains a media room in honor of the late Catherine Brown, and a gymnasium in honor of the late Evan Neil. She advised that she is restoring the Housing Authority for the City of Crisfield. Ms. Wigenton advised that she is working on fixing deteriorated units and has reformed and transformed 24 of the units. She advised that 10 of the units failed inspection and three have no access. She also advised that she is partnering with agencies, including the NAACP, the Somerset County Health department, and senior services. Councilman Lankford commented that he is glad to have Miss Wigenton on Board.

Recognition of City Gardeners

Mayor Taylor noted that none of the gardeners are present, but she wanted to thank them for a very successful few years tending the Doug Swift Garden. She thanked Cindy Freeman and Pastor Johnson for all of their hard work in starting and maintaining the garden. Mayor Taylor advised that the Holy Pickers Union will continue to tend the garden, and she will support their endeavor. She also noted that the Somerset County Developmental Center helps as well.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that the NAACP will be holding a Unity Day at the community center at the Housing Authority next week from 4 to 8 PM

Tangier Classic Fishing Tournament Request for Waiver to City Lease Regarding Alcohol.

Mr. Adam Corey, Mr. Bill Reynolds and Miss Ashby, committee member, came before the Mayor and City Council concerning the above-mentioned request. Mr. Reynolds requested an exemption for the alcohol consumption regulation hours between 4 to 12 PM on Saturday, September 27. Mr. Corey advised that this is the same request as last year for the fishing tournament benefit that is being held in Crisfield on the weekend of September 27. Mr. Corey advised that the plans had been to hold a tournament much like the Scorchy Tawes fishing tournament held years ago. He advised that the benefit would be for a little girl named Junia Stewart.

Mayor Taylor advised that the city would email him the completed waiver.

At this time Councilwoman Johnson made motion to approve the waiver. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried, with Councilman Patel disclosing that he helps with the tournament and therefore abstained from the vote.

Approval of 202 Laird Ave. New Housing Build by ESLTR

Ms. Kim Hopkins' long-term recovery project manager request requested that long-term recovery. Be able to build a home on 202 Laird Ave. which would be a three-bedroom two-bath home. Mrs. Hopkins advised that long-term recovery built 21 homes after hurricane Sandy and 12 homes just recently.

Mayor Taylor noted that the home on Tyler Street was part of the City's housing initiative.

After further brief discussion concerning the new build Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve construction of the home. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

USDA Grant – Chief Lee

Chief Lee made reference to a \$50,000 grant through USDA and advised that he would like to apply for this funding for the purchase of two new police vehicles. He also noted that a 25% match is required by the city. After a brief discussion Councilman Lankford made a motion to approve the application to USDA for \$50,000 for the purchase of two new police vehicles. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Chief Lee also noted that Berlin Police Department has donated Chevrolet Tahoe to Crisfield Police Department.

Council Vote on Grant Administrator

Mayor Taylor called for a vote concerning approval of the grant administrator. Councilwoman Johnson made motion to approve Mrs. Merritt as the City's grant administrator. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried, with abstention from Councilman Patel.

Mayor Taylor made reference to changing the next meeting from Wednesday to Tuesday due to the annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake.

Councilman Patel noted that he would not be able to make that meeting, but possibly through Zoom.

Public Input

Joyce Whittington made reference to the four properties that have been scheduled for demolition and expressed concern that she has neighboring properties.

Mayor Taylor thanked all of the public in attendance at this evening's meeting.

Council Comments

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the EPA presentation and noted that this is an important project that needs to be pushed.

Councilman Lankford thanked city staff for their hard work he also thanked long-term recovery for the housing construction.

Council Vice President Banks thanked all of city staff as well.

Councilman Patel thanked everyone for a successful crab derby. He also noted the Lifting Hands event to be held on September 20.

Councilwoman Johnson also thanked all of the staff.

Mayor Taylor noted that there would be a church service this Saturday at the depot from 2 to 6 PM

She also reminded everyone about the gospel program on September 20th in memory and honor of Jay Tawes.

Mayor Taylor noted that there are a lot of good things happening in Crisfield. She also noted that the speed humps are in the works. She advised that the city is looking for funding for paving city streets. Mayor Taylor reminded everyone that the Lower Eastern Shore Mayor's Association dinner will be held next Thursday with Crisfield as the host.

They're being no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made motion to adjourn, seconded by councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joyce L Morgan Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie Swift