

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also, in attendance; Andrew Illuminati; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; LaFabian Marshall; Jason Loar; Richard Crumbacker; Larry Prettyman; Troy Ward; Liz Van Dolah; Joe Gallaraga; George Friedley; Norris Howard; and Vanessa Jones.

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 last meetings.

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of September 1, 2022, and the Closed and Regular Meetings

of September 14, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Introduction by Chief Taylor of CPD Part Time Employees

Chief Taylor advised that he would defer this item until the next meeting when department head reports are presented.

Introduction by Mayor Taylor of new Planning Commission Members

Mayor Taylor presented Troy Ward and Larry Prettyman, noting that they had both completed training and received certificates. Mayor Taylor had both members sign the Swearing In book.

Introduction by Mayor Taylor of new City Solicitor

Mayor Taylor introduced the new City Solicitor, Andrew Illuminati followed by administering the oath of office and having him sign the swearing in book.

APPOINTMENT – LIZ VAN DOLAH and JOE GALLARRAGA RE: UPDATE ON NOAA-FUNDED FLOOD ADAPTION FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECT IN CRISFIELD

Mayor Dize introduced Ms. Van Dolah and Mr. Gallarraga. Ms. Van Dolah presented and reviewed a power point concerning flood mitigation strategies for the City. She noted that this is a huge project. She noted that a survey concerning nuisance has gone to the paper, with an option to do on the phone.

Mayor Taylor encouraged those listening in on Facebook to do the survey.

Mr. Gallarraga advised that he would share the graphics with the city to put on the website and facebook page.

Mr. George Friedley commented that there are issues with flooding because the tide gates that don't work here.

The Council thanked Ms. Van Dolah and Mr. Gallaraga for the wonderful job they are doing.

Mayor Taylor noted the importance of tying all projects together.

FIRST READER – ETHICS ORDINANCE – CITY SOLICITOR

Mr. Illuminati read into the Record for First Reader, An Ordinance of the City of Crisfield Amending Chapter 44 of the Crisfield City Code, Entitled "Ethics" by Amending the Provisions Thereof for the Purpose of Incorporating Amendments Enacted by the Maryland General Assembly Pursuant House Bill 363 – Chapter 252, Acts of 2021; and House Bill 1058 – Chapter 425, Acts of 2021.

Councilwoman Scott noted that on Page 15, (9)(a) (1) The University of Maryland Medical System, and noted that during the reading, the word Medical was omitted, and she wanted to correct this for the public. She also noted that on page 16, G (2)(d) the word "*though*" should be "*through*".

With no further comments, Councilman Banks made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

UPDATE CES – JASON LOAR

Mr. Loar reviewed the process that CES has been following for a month as they investigate sewer lines. He noted that they are 1/3 done and have run into some major issues, but Pine Street, Main Street and 4th Street are done. He advised that they have found holes from the size of a pinhole to 12". Mr. Loar advised that they are trying to avoid digging up the sewer and there is nothing extremely bad so far. Mayor Taylor noted that they are only doing the investigation. Mr. Loar advised that any lining of pipes is subcontracted.

Councilman Banks made reference to being 1/3 done. Mr. Loar advised that this is correct. Councilman Banks inquired where the 36 sewer is located. Mr. Loar advised Pine Street, Main Street, Locust Street, N 4th Street and downtown in the condo area. Councilman Banks inquired how the manholes will be repaired. Mr. Loar advised that there would be spray on liners.

RFP DESIGN FOR SOUTHEASTERN PIER DEPOT – JOYCE MORGAN

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the DNR Grant information regarding funding for the Southeastern Pier at the depot.

Mayor Taylor noted that we had \$90K of which \$15,300 was needed from a prior application for the Davis, Bowen and Friedel RFP. She

advised that the City had two days to get a grant application submitted for the amount of \$160K. Mayor Taylor advised that approval is needed, for her to sign the grant application. She added that there is a huge issue with the depot and this is for the southeastern pier only.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve Davis, Bowen, Friedel's proposal for Mayor Taylor's signature. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

HEBRON BANK – MODIFICATION – JOYCE MORGAN

Mrs. Morgan briefed on the Hebron Savings Bank I & I loan, which is ready to go to closing on Tuesday. She advised that documents have been reviewed today as follows; Debt Modification maturity one time draw, General Certificate Bond, Tax Certificate Bond, IRS Form. Mrs. Morgan advised that Mr. Illuminati has reviewed the documents and authorized the Mayor to sign the documents.

Mayor Taylor noted that this is a change of maturity date and name change.

ITAV EXTENSION – JOYCE MORGAN

Mrs. Morgan made reference to a request from the City for a one year extension for It Takes A Village CDBG Grant MD 17-CD-22, to change from June 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the extension. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

BRIC MOU – MAYOR TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor made reference to the BRIC program, which is through FEMA. She advised that this is a grant opportunity; not for funds, but for technical assistance from FEMA for 36 months.

BEACON UPDATE – MAYOR TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor noted that she had received information from Beacon about the Community input session. She advised that it will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Crisfield High School. She said there will be a limit of 50 people and the topics are Business Development, Housing, Infrastructure, Youth & Recreation.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is concerned about the group being limited to 50 people and would like others to be able to attend.

Councilwoman Scott opened a discussion about thinking things through further on ideas.

Councilwoman Johnson referred to engaging with the survey.

Councilman Banks commented that 50 people is good, but feels nobody should be turned around and can send in email, etc. He commented that we need smart, thoughtful, growth.

TRICK OR TREAT DISCUSSION OF HOURS, LOCATION – MAYOR TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor noted that Trick or Treat would be observed on Halloween with pedestrian friendly trick or treating on Somerset Avenue and Main Street to Potomac Street closed to through traffic. She also noted that

Carvel Hall will not be available for parking for those who trick or treat at Cullen Parkway.

CHRISTMAS IN CRISFIELD, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022 5:00 TO 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Taylor noted that the annual Christmas In Crisfield/Miracle on 10th Street will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2022 with various Christmas themed activities and entertainment.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Taylor noted that Public Input was limited to 2 minutes.

George Friedley, Chesapeake Avenue resident, made reference to implementing Citizens on Patrol, and noted that the ditch on his property is working now, since it was dug out, but noted that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the drain pipe is in mud. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their work.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to the BRIC program, which is encouraging. He addressed Mr. Loar concerning the leaking meter

Outside the Marina fence. Mr. Loar advised that it should be able to be isolated. He advised we are looking at getting additional valves. He noted that the leak is behind the meter and the Marina is to make the repairs.

Councilman Goldsborough also noted that the tide gate at Woodson School is jammed open.

Councilman Banks addressed Mr. Loar concerning the depot design plans and asked if they could be embellished later. Mr. Loar advised that this was correct.

Councilman Banks addressed Mr. Loar concerning the Norris Harbor Project. Mr. Loar advised that the study is pending a funding source.

Councilman Banks noted that he feels we need to hold work session meetings. He thanked Chief Taylor for his hard work and department's relationship in the Community.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked the Nature Conservancy for their much needed assistance.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the November and December meetings and suggested an extra meeting in October; then start back in January with work sessions.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she wants to meet twice in November and figure out December.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that Mayor Taylor will be honored at the upcoming NAACP Banquet this Saturday.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that for everyone who asks what there is to do in Crisfield, On The Edge is playing at the Marina this Saturday from 6-9.

Councilwoman Johnson addressed Mr. Loar concerning water on Pine Street. Mr. Loar advised that he would check with Mr. Bozman.

Councilwoman Scott commented that Crisfield is on the rise. She made reference to having Ms. Merritt coming back, a new lawyer, and Mr.

Bozman, commenting that change is good, with a new Mayor and working Council and there is momentum and push. She added that she is excited.

Council Vice President Lankford offered congratulations to City staff. He noted that Mayor Taylor is working overtime, but staff is keeping her straight. He also noted that he is observing good Facebook comments and things are positive. He noted that people on Facebook are still saying they cannot hear. Council Vice President Lankford urged everyone to pat each other on the back as they are doing a good job.

Mayor Taylor thanked city staff and department heads. She advised that she has learned so much and staff has done so much with so little. She advised that she would like to triple the budget. Mayor Taylor thanked the Council for their support and the public as well.

Mayor Taylor thanked Tidal Health for their upcoming public comment forum to be held on October 18th.

Mayor Taylor thanked all in attendance and the presenters. She thanked Mr. Ward and Mr. Prettyman for serving on the Planning Commission. She also noted that the Heritage Festival is coming up this Saturday. Mayor Taylor noted that the Clam Bake was a great event. She also thanked Council VP Lankford for volunteering to attend the DAR ceremony on Saturday, October 22nd, as well as Councilwoman Johnson. Mayor Taylor noted that she attended a Murder Mystery Theater here at the A&E gallery this last Saturday and it was a great event. She also noted that she had recently toured the Janes Island Park and was impressed. She noted that 100K campers go through there a year.

Mrs. Morgan noted on two Facebook comments that the On The Edge event is free and also the Fire Department will be doing a vehicle rescue training.

Mayor Taylor expressed her concerns about the recent arsons in Crisfield, noting they are actively being pursued.

Mr. Friedley commented that he had observed a neighbor's door kicked in and CPD is investigating.

Mayor Taylor noted that the promotional ceremony for CPD officers will be held tomorrow.

Councilwoman Johnson apologized for not mentioning the Heritage Foundation event to be held this Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary