

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President (via zoom)
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; LaFabian Marshall, I.T., Dean Bozman, Inspector; John Wunder, Public Works; Christina Carlson; Danny Thompson, Clint Sterling; and Richard Crumbacker.

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 meeting of October 26, 2022. Approval so moved by Councilman Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously 5-0.

CHRISTINA CARLSON – JANES ISLAND PARK MANAGER - INFORMATION
ABOUT VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND STATISTICS OF VISITORS/CAMPERS AT
THE PARK

Mrs. Carlson reviewed her power point presentation highlighting various areas of interest concerning the Jane's Island State Park. She noted that 97,756 visitors per year come to the Park in various categories.

Council Vice President Banks inquired if this is tourists or residents. Mrs. Carlson advised that it is both. She extended an invitation to all to visit the park.

Mayor Taylor noted the need for campers to have information concerning what the City has to offer and also transportation for visitors, since they are not allowed to use golf carts. Mrs. Carlson advised that when campers register, they are sent an email of activities, etc. going on in Crisfield the dates that they will be staying. She also noted that bikes are available. Councilwoman Jonson agreed that transportation is needed for campers.

DANNY THOMPSON, DIRECTOR SOMERSET COUNTY EDC AND CLINT
STERLING, DIRECTOR OF SOMERSET COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION –
UPDATE ON THE PASSENGER FERRY

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Sterling briefed the Mayor and Council concerning the status of the proposed passenger ferry, noting that the RFP is out now and will be released shortly. Mr. Thompson noted that we are far from the finish line and not in the lead, but is encouraged by the enthusiasm of those participating.

Councilwoman Scott inquired when the RFP results will be in. Mr. Sterling advised that they will be in within 30 days. Councilwoman Scott inquired about the number of passengers. Mr. Sterling advised that it could be a couple hundred passengers at one time on two boats.

JASON LOAR, ENGINEER – ISOLATION VALVE BIDS

Mr. Loar advised that he had received 5 bids and that the lowest bid was from Reynolds Excavating in the amount of \$233,788. He advised that this funding would come from American Rescue Funds.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the three pieces designated for funding were the 36 Sewer, the Isolation Valves and the large water meter valves.

Councilman Banks inquired that between 7 and 11 valves, can we still shut the City down. Mayor Taylor noted that we will decide.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to go with 11 valves. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

FIRST READER ORDINANCE #715 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD AMENDING CHAPTER 112 OF THE CRISFIELD CITY CODE ENTITLED ZONING BY AMENDING THE PROVISIONS THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSES OF INCORPORATING AMENDMENTS TO EXPAND ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF A SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM – CITY SOLICITOR

Mr. Illuminati presented for First Reader and read into the Record, Ordinance #715. He noted that a section on Decommissioning had been added to protect the City.

Mayor Taylor noted that this Ordinance was presented this evening for First Reader and called for any discussion. Councilman Goldsborough noted that he is glad to see the decommissioning fee has been added. He again noted the proposed HB 1039 concerning tax exemption of Solar Energy Systems.

Mr. Illuminati made reference to the tax exemption, which would include sale of electricity from 2 MW sites and that the system must be producing electricity for LMI areas at a reduced cost.

Councilman Banks commented that the project won't happen if we don't benefit.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the tax benefit to the City is important and the project can bring in workers. She advised that she hopes we can negotiate.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that we need an energy tax. Mr. Illuminati noted that we would need to look at the City Charter and work with the City Auditor. Councilman Goldsborough inquired if the City should delay the process. Mr. Illuminati advised that he will check.

After further brief discussion, Councilman Banks made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

BEACON UPDATE – MAYOR TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone about the Beacon Forum tomorrow evening at Crisfield High School.

CHRISTMAS IN CRISFIELD, CHRISTMAS PARADE – MAYOR TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor reminded everyone about the Christmas in Crisfield Event on November 26th and the Christmas Parade on December 1st.

PUBLIC INPUT

No Public Input was offered at this time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Lankford advised that he likes all the updates and is excited about the ferry.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she is excited and commended the good speakers tonight. She noted that she is also excited about the ferry and was on the original ferry committee.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is also excited about the ferry. She noted that people are saying our meetings are informational.

Councilman Banks advised that he would hold his comments.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he is glad to see things getting done.

Mayor Taylor commented that she is glad for the foundation laid by previous administrations.

She noted a conversation with the Cruise Boats about no places to eat.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Community Foundation for their donation toward the Beacon presentation.

Mayor Taylor noted that members of the Nature Conservancy will be attending the Beacon meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Taylor noted that there was food leftover from the Holy Pickers Union at Shiloh. She noted that they have been petitioning for an Historic Road Marker.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

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Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary