

MINUTES

The mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Corbin Studio and Gallery meeting room.

Present

Darlene Taylor Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Ivan Lankford, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Laverne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance, Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon, LaFabian Marshall, Jason Loar, Eric Lee, Clint Sterling, George Friedley, Jim Peters, Dennis Parkinson, Jr., and Brian Fowler.

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order opening with the Lord's prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time, she requested approval of the minutes from the previous meeting of July 9, 2025. At this time Council Vice President Banks made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by a Councilwoman Johnson with abstention from Councilman Goldsborough, who was not present at that meeting. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Mayor Taylor noted that Ke'shai Wigenton would not be present at this meeting.

Maryland Special Olympics Kayak Event - Miss Klein

Miss Julie Klein, Maryland Special Olympics, Maryland Kayaking Championship representative, appeared via zoom and noted that the event would be held at the American Legion this year as the place that usually hosted it was not available. Ms. Klein reviewed the schedule of events for that day. Council Jackson inquired What ages participated. Miss Klein advised that participants are from age 8 to 99. She also noted that the deadline to register for the event was July 14. She noted that the event is usually held in Chestertown. She advised that there will be 100 athletes and 18 partners. Mayor Taylor inquired as to how many spectators would be present Mrs. Klein advised that it can be anywhere from 100 to 300 spectators. Mayor Taylor noted that in preparation for this event Brick Hill Beach will be closed that Friday.

Ferry update - Clint Sterling

Mr. Sterling briefed those in attendance on the history of the project, including the feasibility study and RFP as well as challenges along the way. He also noted that at this time, Crisfield is still in the lineup. Mayor Taylor inquired if a date had been pinpointed yet to make the announcement. Mr. Sterling advised that he does not have a date yet, but they are working hard.

Wind Turbine Contract- Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar presented and reviewed the contract with Power Grid Partners who will be in charge of maintenance for the wind turbine. At this time, Mr. Illuminati reviewed and read into record the contract with Power Grid Partners. He noted that they are now working on an as needed basis and we need to move forward and reevaluate what is needed. Mayor Taylor advised that she would like Counsel to review the contract and meet again next week for a vote.

Grants Awards – MDE, DNR,TNC, Army Corps of Engineers – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor advised that the city had received grant funding from the above referenced agencies and explained the different parts of the project. Councilman Goldsborough noted that the marina project will continue.

Critical Area Updates – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati advised that a revision is needed to the critical areas map, which will be addressed by the Planning Commission through ordinance and zoning text amendment. He noted that the city has control of the language in the ordinance.

K-9 Acquisition – Chief Lee

Chief Lee made reference to K-9 Diesel and noted that the handler, Officer Gillespie, owns the dog.

Chief Lee also made reference to the upcoming National Night Out which will be held on August 5 from 5 to 7 PM at the Somers Cove Marina and reviewed the list of participants for this year's event.

Surplus Vehicle Bid – Chief Lee

Mayor Taylor made reference to the bids for the three police vehicles and noted that two bids were received; Clarence Jones bid \$175 each for two vehicles and \$200 for the other vehicle.

Seth Taylor submitted a bid for all three vehicles in the amount of \$2000 for the total package.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Seth Taylor in the amount of \$2000 for the total bid package. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

Public Works Update – Mr. Fowler

Mr. Fowler noted that Public Works will be preparing for the Special Olympics event and following up with all departments of the city. He also noted that the police department is now responsible for contacting SHA for equipment such as signboards and traffic cones.

Mr. Fowler also noted that he had received the part for the Jetter and also advised that the Kubota tractor is almost done. He advised that 15 to 20 of the new signs have been put up and also noted that the new mower should be in in the next two weeks. Mr. Fowler also commented that there has been excess trash to be picked up around town.

Mayor Taylor also noted that SHA had patched the bump on Richardson Avenue.

Mr. Fowler advised that an additional pump is needed in the highway to handle influx of heavy rain tide. Councilman Goldsborough commented that this needs to be done before October.

Mr. Fowler also advised that he'll be working on getting curbs and crosswalks painted. He also noted that he is still waiting on the paving contract for S. Somerset Ave. by Woodson School. Mr. illuminati noted that this is a standard contract.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that there needs to be no parking on one side of Crisfield high school with the upcoming construction getting ready to start.

Mr. Fowler also noted that the sand at the beach would be dragged with chains two times a week. He noted that plans for the upcoming curb painting project have been scheduled for August 15 and 16th. He noted that he will be checking with Rubberset concerning getting paint brushes.

Mr. Fowler also noted that the airport hangar project is moving along.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to a military banner that is missing the bottom half. Mr. Fowler advised that he would be taking that banner down tomorrow.

Public Utilities Update – Mr. Parkinson

Mr. Parkinson noted that the plant is running well. He advised that he will be meeting with Moonshot next week. He also advised that Ryan Miller will be in to make the repairs in the marina in August.

Public Input

Mr. Jim Peters a resident of 309 Myrtle St. made reference to high weeds on the property located at 307 Myrtle St.

He also made reference to trash piled up in the back of a truck at 307 Myrtle St.

Safe Streets Program - Leslie Langel.

Miss Langle, a resident of 414 Myrtle St., made reference to the safe streets program. She also advised that she would be happy to help with trash grass, etc..

Mayor Taylor advised that we need citizens' help and thank Mrs. Langel for her presentation.

George Friedley made reference to having citizens on patrol in years gone by. He also commented that he feels you should not have to live inside city limits to vote, if you own property inside the City. He stated that he feels that the Charter needs to be changed with this respect.

He advised that he would also like to see an update from Design Collective for the depot.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that that this has been a great meeting. He noted that he has to get citizens together to work on getting the soldiers' cemetery cut and there are three places that have not been cut all year.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he's appreciative of all of the department reports adding that they are good updates

Councilman Patel addressed Mr. illuminati about reaching out to Jesse Drewer concerning the critical area map.

He also commented about the various activities that have happened or are coming up in the city, including the World's Largest Duck, the Wheels That Heal car show, and the upcoming Special Olympics Kayak Race on August 8 and ninth. He noted that the beach will be closed at five on Friday for setting up and all-day Saturday for the event.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she would like to see more participation in the Special Olympics event. She also noted that she would check with the Park Commission about helping with painting the curbs.

She made reference to a possible street festival before November. She also noted that they are discussing a dog park for Crisfield.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their hard work and all that they do. She also made reference to the need for public interaction for for various needs.

Mayor Taylor noted that the national fish and wildlife grant had been submitted.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the advisory order for Wellington Beach and noted that it had now been lifted.

Mayor Taylor also noted that she had been re-appointed to the Coast Smart Counsel.

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted Joyce L Morgan, Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by;

Valerie Swift Secretary