

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio & Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President
Eric Banks, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer
Mac Baldwin, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Janet Johnson, Omnitech; LaFabian Marshall; Richard Crumbacker; Jason Loar; Gena Brown; Betty Horsey; Vanessa Jones; Pearl McCready; Cindy Freeman; and Rev. Emanuel Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD’S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from the July 13, 2022, closed and regular meetings.

Councilman Banks made reference to a correction on page 3 and advised that the correction would be “an office containing the SRP and additional studies funded with Sandy funds.” He then made a motion to accept the two sets of minutes with the necessary corrections. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

Motion carried 4-0 with abstention by Councilwoman Scott, who had not had time to review the minutes as she was in the hospital.

Mr. Baldwin, City Solicitor - Service Agreement for the Operations and Maintenance of the Wind Turbine

Mr. Baldwin reviewed the new service agreement from Associated Energy Developers, for the wind turbine, considering all the operational issues that had occurred in the past. He noted that they will provide \$18,350 in compensation annually.

Mayor Taylor inquired how the City will know how well the turbine is doing. Mr. Loar advised that they will provide a report.

Mrs. Morgan noted that if the turbine runs all month, the electric bill for the treatment plant is \$4,000. If not, it runs around \$12,000.

Mayor Taylor commented that \$18,350 is not really a lot and inquired when that starts. Mr. Baldwin advised that it starts when we enter into the agreement.

Councilman Banks inquired when the warranty runs out. Mr. Loar advised that it is the end of June.

Mrs. Morgan advised that we have budgeted \$50,000 for the warranty and also have to put away money for the decommissioning in 15 years.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to having a major issue with the lightning strike and stated that we will have to keep some of the money for parts.

Mayor Taylor noted that unscheduled service is not covered, or equipment needed.

Council Vice President Lankford inquired that if during a regular service, if an item is not covered, is the City responsible. Mr. Loar advised that this is correct.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to accept the service agreement. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

Request from the Crisfield A & E District for a letter concerning the relocation of one of the 6 bike racks from the Heritage Museum to the Pocket Park on 9th Street

Following review and a brief discussion, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the letter for the Crisfield A & E District regarding the relocation of one of the 6 bike racks to the Pocket Park on 9th Street. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Davis, Bowen and Friedel for Norris Harbor Drive Engineering and Stormwater Study

Mrs. Morgan read aloud information that was provided by Kate Finucan, Grant Writer, information regarding proposals that were opened on July 21st for the engineering and stormwater study for 4th to Cove, including Norris Harbor Drive to Jersey Road.

Mayor Taylor noted that Ms. Finucan had briefed her concerning the bids, and that the low bid was selected by the team that reviewed them, though there is no funding available at this time.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the job was put out for bids so that the Grant Administrator would know how much money to apply for.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Council could approve the award of the contract to Davis, Bowen, and Friedel and to move forward to find the necessary funding.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the discussion was started in November concerning streets that need to be paved and that we needed a study before paving Norris Harbor Drive due to the shape of the road.

Councilwoman Scott then made a motion to approve the bid for the study, not awarding the money at this time. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Lankford.

Discussion –

Councilman Banks inquired if we are approving the money. At this time, Councilwoman Scott amended the motion to approve the bid of Davis, Bowen and Friedel, and request that the grant writer seek funding to award the project. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

Community Garden Update – Rev. Johnson, Cindy Freeman

Reverend Immanuel Johnson and Cindy Freeman, appeared before the Mayor and Council to provide an update on the Community Garden. Rev. Johnson advised that the garden got started by him coming to City Hall and being directed to Mrs. Freeman. He advised that currently there are 10 people who volunteer their time. Ms. Freeman noted the trailer in the back which is full of books and the buddy benches. She reminded everyone about the dedication of the garden to Doug Swift this Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Johnson noted that there are plans for a fall harvest dinner.

Mrs. Freeman encouraged other groups to come in as it is open to the community.

Reverend Johnson thanked the City for providing the water.

Councilwoman Scott commended the gardeners.

Mayor Taylor advised them to continue to stop by City Hall.

Discussion – Putting Public Input Back on the Agenda/Council Vice President Lankford

Council Vice President Lankford opened a discussion about putting Public Input back on the Agenda. He advised that there would be no back and forth

discussion, just people expressing their concerns, which can be addressed at the next meeting. He suggested giving 2 minutes to speak, with 5 people per meeting, which should take up 10 minutes.

It was determined that Public Input would be held before Council Comments.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she wanted two sessions but will take one.

Council Vice President Lankford also noted that people can email the Mayor and Council with their concerns.

Councilwoman Scott noted that it can be a suggestion, compliment on what we are working on, and we can follow up.

Councilman Banks advised that we don't need a motion because this was dropped during the Covid years, and it is the Mayor's call to put it back on.

Mayor Taylor advised that public input is part of our Charter.

Project Restore – Mayor Summary

Mayor Taylor reviewed information from DHCD concerning Project Restore, which is a development grant to build back from the pandemic, in the amount of \$25M. She reviewed the power point slide providing the criteria and provisions.

Mayor Taylor noted that it allows new and existing businesses to expand, with 50 or less employees, and must have been vacant for 6 months.

The two types of grants are property assistance, which can provide up to \$30K in rental assistance for a year, and a business operation grant.

Mayor Taylor asked that the information be placed on the City's website and Facebook page.

Mrs. Marshall noted that that this is the second time that the State had initiated this program.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about technical assistance. Mayor Taylor advised that the contact number is on the web page.

Council Reports

Councilwoman Scott noted that she is happy to be here. She noted that she broke her hip and was recovering. She thanked everyone for their prayers.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked everyone for coming. She advised that she is excited to be here and feels a good energy. She also thanked that Crisfield Gardening Club.

Councilman Banks also commented that there is an energy in the room. He made reference to the downtown waterfront, which is his passion, and noted that he will have some items to present.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that this has been a great meeting and the Garden Club is a huge thing. He agreed that the building to the rear needs painting.

Council Vice President Lankford commented that he is inspired and is happy that people are interested in Crisfield again.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Taylor thanked all who came out to support the City. She advised that she has met with a lot of people and the City has priority projects. Mayor Taylor

advised that she has reached out to the Community Foundation for help in finding a facilitator for the community forum, which is a priority.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their support. She commended the Community Gardeners on their great work.

Mayor Taylor noted that Kim Hopkins from Long Term Recovery would be at the next meeting with an update on the houses that are being built.

Public Input

Mr. Norris Howard, in the audience, commented that he is impressed with the talent and the interest of the Mayor and Council and wished them success.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary