

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; Kristie Eberly, Grants Administrator; 1st Sergeant J. P. Parkinson; Richard Crumbacker; Lamount Potter, Sr., Eric Banks; John & Frances Martinez Meyers; Jennifer Merritt; Richard & Susan Schneider; Suzanne Smith; Vijay Singh; Bill Brown; Sue Ranson; Linda Singh; Starr White.

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Dize requested approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes from the meetings on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 noting to the Secretary a correction on page 3 of the Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously.

Appointment – Starr White – Keep Somerset Beautiful Program

Starr White appeared before the Mayor and City Council to provide them with information concerning the newly affiliated Keep Somerset Beautiful Program. She went on to review the power point, noting that they are working to mirror Keep America Beautiful values.

Councilman Atkins inquired what the City could do to help.

Mayor Dize commented that there is no downside to partnering with the Organization and made reference to needing help with the Passive Park, the Kayak Launch, Brick Kiln.

Mrs. White noted that she would be happy to do presentations necessary to teach people how to have pride in their community.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to investigate a partnership with Keep Somerset Beautiful. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Kristie Eberly, Grants Writer – Water & Sewer Survey

Mrs. Eberly briefed the Mayor and Council on the upcoming survey mailing required by DHCD & CDBG to receive funding for water and waste water utilities. She advised that the City is partnering with Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) in the mailing and tallying of the surveys, using a control number for tracking, so no names and addresses will be used. She noted that it is crucial that surveys be completed and returned. Councilman Sheppard inquired about doing physical surveys. Mrs. Eberly advised that if the mailing receives a low amount of returns, door-to-door will be required.

Councilman Atkins made reference to a media push. Mrs. Eberly advised that there will be a press release going out which will be on the City's website, and Face Book.

Mrs. Eberly also made reference to the passive park, noting that the sign has been put up and a picnic table has been delivered. She advised that the ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, March 20th at 1:30 p.m. Mayor Dize noted that he would have a strong police presence watching over the area. He also advised that it is not for after-dark usage and commented regarding it being a link to the walking/biking trail and would be named the Crisfield Nature Preserve and Trail.

Linda Singh – Business Marketing Plan Presentation

Linda Singh presented and reviewed the Crisfield Business Marketing Plan. She noted that she has 181 businesses on the spread sheet so far. She advised that she would like to come back in two weeks to show the website.

Mayor Dize made reference to focusing on business owners staying open during their listed hours, rather than closing for bad weather, etc. Mrs. Singh advised that this will take continued reinforcement, email blasts, etc.

Councilman Atkins commented that the Plan shows a lot of work and good use of grant funds. He also commented that the Marina has a good website to link with and also suggested checking with Chincoteague and obtaining permission from the Crisfield Chamber of Commerce to use the Heart of Chesapeake video that was made a few years ago. Mayor Dize also suggested contacting Dennis Smith at Jane's Island State Park.

Mayor Dize Report

Mayor Dize noted that at this evening's meeting, they are short at the table. He advised that Council Vice President Johnson is absent due to illness. Mayor Dize also advised that he

received a letter from Mr. Pollitt tendering is resignation, and he accepted the resignation, therefore he is no longer employed with the City of Crisfield.

Mayor Dize went on to review and highlight several areas of his report.(see attached)

He also thanked Ms. Linda Singh for the Marketing Plan Report.

Airport Hangar Discussion

Mayor Dize made opened the discussion concerning ongoing plans for UMES to partner with the Crisfield/Somerset County Airport. He advised that plans are to house 4-5 hangars with 10 committed aircrafts. Mayor Dize noted that Governor Hogan has committed \$300K to the City and County to go toward the construction of the hangars.

Mr. Dean Bozman noted that they would like to do 8 hangars at an estimated cost of \$800K and have a verbal commitment of \$300K, so we need \$500K for 8 based hangars.

Councilman Atkins inquired if the current hangars can house 3 aircraft. Mr. Bozman advised that this is correct, but we have to have 10 based aircraft. He noted that UMES has committed to 4 hangar spaces for the first year.

Mayor Dize emphasized that it will cost \$800K for 8, and we must build two more or lose funding. Mr. Bozman advised we could apply for \$150K yearly.

Declaration of Surplus Property

Mrs. Morgan read aloud the City of Crisfield's declaration of surplus equipment, to be sold as a package, and one surplus dump truck. She noted that the items are located on 7th Street.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to declare the items as presented by Mrs. Morgan as surplus property, eligible for sale to the public. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Surplus Property Bids Received

Mrs. Morgan advised that the City had advertised seven pieces of property and had received one bid on each. She advised that bids were opened and read aloud on Monday, March 9, 2020 by Mr. Bozman, herself, and the one bidder present.

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the bids as received;

15 W. Main Street - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter

106 Cove Street - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter

329 Cove Street - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter

310 W. Chesapeake Avenue - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter
304 Tyler Street - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter
320/322 Locust Street - \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter
328 W. Main Street (bank building) \$5.00 – from Lamont Potter

Mrs. Morgan noted that as stated in the advertisement, the City reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Councilman Atkins commented that with regards to 328 W. Main Street, there should be a plan in place.

Councilman Sheppard inquired how the assessment is affected by the bids. Mr. Sullivan advised that there is no impact unless the property is sold, as it is owned by the City. He also advised that the City does not pay any of the closing costs and settlement must be within 60 days.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the condition of 328 W. Main Street and commented that we can't do anything with it if someone else owns it and there could be a repeat of the situation that exists with 333 W. Main Street, across the street from it.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that if we are concerned about the condition of the structure, we can award the bid subject to a request for demolition of the property.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to table the award of the bid for 328 W. Main Street. Councilman Ford advised that he would like to have all of the bids tabled. Councilman Sheppard commented that he is ok with tabling 328 W. Main Street.

Mr. Sullivan advised that there is no tabling; 328 W. Main Street can be declared as surplus and advertised with conditions. He suggested not passing up the other bids to put them back on the tax role as well as EDU's.

After further discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to reject the bid for 328 W. Main Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Councilman Atkins then made a motion to accept the bids from Mr. Potter for 15 W. Main Street, 106 Cove Street, 329 Cove Street, 310 W. Chesapeake Avenue, 320/322 Locust and 304 Tyler Street. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried 3-1, with Councilman Ford voting "nay".

Request from Heron Way Resident for 15 MPH Speed Limit Sign

Mayor Dize advised that he had received an anonymous request from a resident of Heron Way for a 15 MPH Speed Limit sign. Mr. Bozman advised that there is speeding traffic there all of the time as well as children playing.

Councilman Atkins commented that this is a safety issue. Councilman Sheppard suggested surveying residents, and if we get a majority, take action. Mayor Dize advised that this could be addressed at the next meeting.

First Reader – Crisfield Economic Development Commission Ordinance

Mr. Sullivan advised that this Ordinance for 1st Reader would establish an advisory board for the City Crisfield, with regulations.

Mayor Dize advised that the meetings will be held in the Corbin Studio and Gallery and the City Secretary will take the minutes.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the Crisfield Economic Commission Ordinance for 1st Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard.

During discussion, Councilman Ford noted that he does not like a four year term for everyone on the Commission. Motion carried 3-1 with Councilman Ford voting “nay”.

First Reader – Ordinance Amending §106A-5 Vehicle Impoundment Fee

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Ordinance which increases the impoundment and towing fees for vehicles.

After brief discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to amend the Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Lamont Potter inquired if the towing was for residents and made reference to the cost. Mayor Dize advised it is for unoccupied vehicles. Mrs. Morgan noted that the increase covers the cost.

Linda Singh inquired if this would result in vehicles being towed if parked over two hours in a 2 hour parking zone. Mr. Sullivan advised that the provision is provided in 106A for unoccupied vehicles.

Eric Banks commented that signs won't stop speeders and the area should be patrolled more.

Susan Snyder of the Somerset County Garden Club, made reference to the Gold Star Marker and advised that they have received money through the Legion and have received permission from Ed Goyda, Library Manager, to place the Memorial in front of flag to honor all those killed in action. She also noted that they will need a 4 foot circular wall to put behind the Memorial and would like to do the dedication ceremony on Veteran's Day. She advised that they are recognizing the names of those who died in action back to the war of 1812.

Councilman Sheppard questioned not placing the Memorial at the soldier's cemetery instead of the Library, as this is a prominent location.

Council Comments

Councilman Sheppard commented that a lot has been accomplished at this evening's meeting and thanked those who did presentations.

Councilman Atkins thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Ward noted that the Marketing Plan is a good idea. She also thanked Mr. Lamont Potter for his bids on the surplus properties.

Councilman Ford apologized for arriving to the meeting late. He commented that the Mayor's review was good for the City. He also urged residents to contact the City with ideas and concerns.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer