

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Captain Lonnie Luedtke; Sgt. Mark Hoover; Kristie Eberly; Grants Administrator; Anthony Jackson; County Commissioner, Randy Laird; Lamont Potter; Shawna Kearsley; Stedman Friedley; Linda Singh; Bill Brown; Jen Merritt; Andy Haynie & Alyssa Revell from PKS & Company; Richard Crumbacker; Julio Dominguez-Trejo; Elmer & Josefine Barkley; Erik Banks; Mary Sue Sloan and Starr Mister.

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DIZE

OPENING PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2020, the special meeting of January 15, 2020, and the Work Session of January 22,

2020. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, with abstention from Councilman Atkins for the January 8, 2020 set.

PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. Pollitt read aloud a Proclamation declaring the month of February 2020 as Black History Month.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO JULIO TREJO

Mayor Dize presented a Certificate of Appreciation and gift card to Public Utilities Employee Julio Trejo, in recognition of him providing outstanding customer service on Christmas Eve.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT BY MR. ANDIE HAYNIE AND ALYSSA REVELL OF PKS

Mr. Haynie noted that he had met on January 15th with Mayor Dize, Mr. Pollitt, and Mrs. Morgan and given them an in depth review of the Budget and this evening he will present the Mayor and Council with a highlight of various items.

Mr. Haynie noted that the City had received an unqualified opinion. He noted that the budget is in compliance with Government Audit Standards.

Mr. Haynie also noted that the City had more cash on hand at the end of 2019 as tax receipts were up.

Councilman Atkins inquired about the increase in compensated absences. Mr. Haynie noted that employees gained more vacation time and Chief Tabor retired. Councilman Atkins also inquired about the increase in liability insurance. Mr. Haynie advised that this had to be reviewed by an Actuary and it had been two years since the last review.

Councilman Atkins inquired what makes up the Public Safety category. Mr. Haynie advised that this is Police, Fire, and Inspections.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his bi-weekly report highlighting its contents.

Sanitary District requests the City's consent to extend sewer service to the property of Mary Sue Sloan located at 26880 Old State Road. This property is not currently in the Crisfield Peripheral Area service area, so the installation of facilities is conditioned upon the County's approval of a revised service map.

Mr. Sullivan went on to review the request by Miss Mary Sue Sloan, noting that she also wishes to have water service. He advised that it is his opinion that the City of Crisfield should consent to the request for water and sewer, subject to the County Commissioners approval of the revision of the water and sewer service map to include Miss Sloan's property.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the request of Miss Sloan for water and sewer service, subject to the County Commissioners approval of the revision of the water and sewer service map to include Miss Sloan's property. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard.

Councilman Atkins commented that the City is motivated to grow, but it is not legal in this case. Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Sanitary Commission meets tomorrow.

Sub-Recipient Agreement – Crisfield Arts and Entertainment District

At this time, Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Agreement. He noted that Mrs. Jennifer Merritt was given the assignment by former Mayor Lawson of developing an Arts and Entertainment District, and she was extremely successful in accomplishing this assignment. He advised that there is also a \$25K operating assistance grant.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the CAED continues to grow and they need a coordinator and agreement, which is subject to the approval of DHCD.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the Sub-Recipient Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard.

Councilman Atkins inquired what the \$25K is used for. Mr. Sullivan advised that it pays Mrs. Merritt's salary. Mr. Pollitt noted that the City was contacted by Secretary Ken Holt's office, who offered the \$25K. Motion carried 5-0.

Award of Bid for CIP Project

At this time, Mrs. Eberly presented the bid results for the CIP Project. She advised that two bids were received; 1) Sabra and Associates - \$48,260, and 2) Davis, Bowen and Friedel - \$47,750. Mrs. Eberly recommended the bid from Davis, Bowen and Friedel.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the bid from Davis, Bowen & Friedel in the amount of \$47,750. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Public Input

Commissioner Randy Laird thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the request of Mary Sue Sloan.

Shawna Kearsley advised that she sits on the Advisory Counsel for the 2020 Census. She advised that the funding that the City receives from various agencies is based on the Census count. Ms. Kearsley advised that beginning April 1, workers will be going door to door. She asked that the City put the Facebook Page link for the Census on the City's webpage. Mrs. Morgan suggested setting a rep up at the water/sewer business office door. Mr. Sullivan inquired as to what the most unregistered area is. Ms. Kearsley advised that this would be the

Housing Authority. Council Vice President Johnson thanked Ms. Kearsley for the work she is doing to make sure everyone is counted.

Bill Brown commended the Mayor and Council on the outstanding way they handled Miss Mary Sue Sloan's request. He also commended Mrs. Merritt on the wonderful job she is doing for A & E.

Lamont Potter advised that he would like to purchase 308 Tyler Street. He was advised that surplus property is out for bid and he could submit a bid on the property.

Mayor & Council Comments

Council Vice President Johnson thanked Mr. Pollitt for the Black History Proclamation. She also thanked Darlene Taylor and Eric Banks for their work on the seafood workers mural.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the City Economic Development Commission Ordinance. Mr. Sullivan advised that this would be addressed at the next meeting.

Councilman Sheppard commented that the proposed mural is a beautiful project for the City of Crisfield; very interpretive.

Council Vice President Johnson thanked Ms. Merritt for the Black History Exhibit to run February 21st to 28th. Commissioner Laird commented about a dark time in Somerset County's history when a lynching occurred.

Mayor Dize noted that there had been three African American females on the Council at one time last year. He noted that he has never made a decision based on color; only qualification.

Mayor Dize made reference to the ceremony for Chief Tabor and the appointment of Acting Chief Taylor. He advised that so far, nine applicants had

been received, with the deadline being February 15th. He advised that all applicants will be interviewed through a fair and equal process.

Mayor Dize went on to comment that he is looking for the best fit for the City of Crisfield and does not take the selection of Chief of Police lightly.

Adjournment of Regular Session to be followed by a work session

Mayor Dize requested a motion to adjourn the Regular Session for a brief recess, to be followed by a work-session.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary