

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Corbin meeting room located at 4 East Main St.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President via telephone
Ivan Lankford, Councilman, via telephone
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman, when available by phone
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/ City Manager
Andrew Illuminatti, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift; Tiffany McMahon; George Friedley; LaFabian Marshall; D. J. Parkinson; Jason Loar; Jackie Collins; Peter Hirschhoff; Richard Crumbacker; Chief Lee; Brian Fowler; Alfred Bradford; Stephen Feliciano; Jennifer Merritt;

Call to order, Lord's Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order opening with the Lord's prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Taylor noted some corrections that had been made prior to the session.

At this time councilman Goldsborough made a motion to approve the regular minutes from March 25, and a special meeting of March 25, 2026, with the necessary corrections. motion seconded by councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Update on Ditch Maintenance – Mr. Bradford

Alfred Bradford presented an update of ditch maintenance in the city of Crisfield, noting that he is working on nine projects at this time, including floodgates on Seventh Street. He noted that the leak is fixed and the floodgates are replaced at the small boat Harbor.

He noted that the ditch on Wynfall Avenue next to Wayne Ward has been repaired and advised that he will also be replacing the outfall on Wynfall Avenue.

Mr. Bradford noted that he will be cleaning the ditch out on 7th Street by the wastewater treatment plant and will also be looking at the piping at southern connection.

Mr. Bradford advised that they will need to install three pipes at Southern connection.

Mr. Fowler noted that he will get plat numbers.

Mr. Bradford noted that he will also be cleaning out the ditch on Collins Street along the small boat harbor by the library.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired if cleaning out the ditch on Collins Street will affect the water overflowing on Wynfall Avenue.

Mr. Fowler noted that this will help.

Mr. Bradford noted that a catch basin is needed in Mr. Lawson's yard.

Mr. Bradford advised that the catch basin on Broadway will need to have the floodgate replaced.

Mayor Taylor advised coordinating that project with the marina. Mr. Bradford also advised that the project should be finished before June.

Councilman Goldsborough referred to there being debris in the gate. Mr. Bradford advised that he would be installing flap gates.

Councilman Goldsborough also noted that the tide gate by Woodson was installed the wrong way. Mr. Bradford advised that it will be fixed so that it cannot move.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to replacing the tide gate on Hall Highway. Mr. Bradford advised that he would have to get approval from SHA. Mr. Bradford also noted that Mr. Fowler handles the routine ditch maintenance.

Councilman Lankford had no comments. Council Vice President Banks advised Mr. Bradford that he is glad that he is back on the job.

Mr. Friedley had a few questions for Mr. Bradford and was upset that there could be no interaction.

Habitat for Humanity – Stephen Feliciano

Mr. Feliciano presented information concerning a Critical Home Repair program through Habitat for Humanity, which includes rent funding and 0% interest loans. He noted that this includes roofs, windows, doors, mold removal, pest control, plumbing issues, HVAC repairs, ADA compliant bathroom facilities, floors, tree removal, bathroom repairs, wells, septic, connection to City water and water quality. He advised that this is income based with a single person's income of no more than \$32,450 per year max. He advised that they also build homes and work with the financial aspects as well as offer credit counseling.

Ms. Sherry _____ noted that if you purchase a house from a builder, they will offer funding for a down payment up to \$20K.

Molly Hilligose also noted that they will offer \$17,500 for those who are not service workers through First Shore Federal. She also noted that Habitat offers up to \$80K for a down payment and they are taking clients now.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that Flood Insurance is a big deterrent for people who want to be home-owners.

Council Vice President Banks had no questions. Councilman Lankford requested that they leave packets. Councilwoman Johnson suggested holding a workshop.

Contract Award Lead Line Inventory – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt noted that we would need to postpone the award of the contract due to responses from bidders.

Mayor Taylor noted that she doesn't feel that we have enough money for the on-site verification.

Contract Award for Southern Crisfield Flood Mitigation Project Phase I

Mrs. Merritt advised that this would be postponed until April 22nd.

Chesapeake Gateway Nomination

Mrs. Merritt advised that Chesapeake Gateways is a national park service coordinated system of over 200 sites park sites across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed they are asking the City of Crisfield to nominate itself.

Councilman Goldsborough asked that we hold on voting until the 22nd.

Mayor Taylor advised that becoming a Gateway Partner would allow us to get assistance with Marketing.

After further brief discussion, Council Vice President Banks made a motion that the City of Crisfield nominate itself as a Gateway Partner. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Chesapeake Gateways Technical Assistance Application – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt advised that this is a non-financial grant application for Technical Assistance with Planning, Communications, Convening and Networking, Branding and Marketing.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the Chesapeake Gateways Technical Assistance Application. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously.

Business Incubator Roof – Ms. Collins

Ms. Collins reviewed the status of the roof and process. She noted that it was finished today with a couple of change orders; 1) repair the terra cotta; 2) the membrane line needs to be set and Mr. Fowler will be getting Tate here.

Resolution 500 PILOT with Crisfield Solar Initiative, Inc. – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati noted that they have paid the City the PILOT fee in the amount of \$28,500. He read aloud Resolution 500 for approval.

Approval so moved by Councilman Goldsborough, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Community Engagement through IWORKs Review – Mr. Hirschhoff

Mr. Hirschhoff advised that the portal is now on the City's Webpage and will be updated with Public Utilities and Public Works.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the person using the portal will get a response. Mr. Hirschhoff advised that it would.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if you can see if a property is active and inspected. Mr. Hirschhoff advised that this is correct.

Status of Low-Income Housing RFP – Mr. Hirschhoff

Mr. Hirschhoff presented a draft of the RFP for builders.

Councilwoman Johnson commended Mr. Hirschhoff on his work.

Cove and Rubberset Update – Mr. Loar

Mr. Loar briefed the Mayor and Council on the status of the Cove and Rubberset Pump project. He advised that they are requesting a 6-month extension, noting that there will be a cost savings of approximately \$300K. He noted that they should be finished mid-September.

Mr. Parkinson noted that he had spoken to Keller Williams who are getting ready to mobilize Cove Street first.

Public Input

Mr. Friedley commented that he was upset that he could not have any questions answered by Mr. Bradford during his presentation it was also not fair that the City did not have a public input before 2nd readers, and added that he was fed up about not being able to give any input in anything that was coming to a vote.

Mr. Friedley went on to say that none of the ditch issues go together though he had offered to help before with flood gate issues. He added that half of the Council don't show up and advised them to do better.

Mr. Barkley inquired of the status of the Asbury Avenue Property. Mayor Taylor advised that the City has not taken over the property but just cleaned it up.

Youth Council – busy with school activities

Council Comments

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he feels that this is the most frustrating, worse meeting. He advised that we have the hardest working Mayor but Council made a commitment to the City of Crisfield to be here. He addressed Mr. Illuminati about Council attendance rules – not via phone or zoom. He stated that we need a live quorum.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked staff for their hard work. She commented that this meeting has been frustrating due to lack of internet but is glad we can reach people by phone. She concurred that Mayor Taylor is one of the hardest working Mayor's and advised that she had wanted a public input session at the beginning of the meeting as well.

Councilman Patel offered no comments. He noted that he had joined the meeting when the PILOT discussion began.

Council Vice President Banks commented that he misses the meetings in person only due to illnesses and family issues and does not appreciate the finger pointing.

Councilman Lankford advised that he feels Council Vice President Banks frustration. He thanked Mr. Bradford for the ditch work. He noted that the City is still getting things done.

Mayors Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked those in attendance and who support the meetings. She noted that the purpose of City officials is to conduct city business. She noted that public input is left at the end so that work can get done rather than taking all the meeting up at the beginning. She advised that the public is kept informed and can always contact City Hall. Mayor Taylor advised that she is here to work for the City and will always do her best and move the city forward. She advised that she is proud of all of the Councilmembers. She noted that tonight there were a lot of technical difficulties. She noted that she is only be there if God allows.

Mayor Taylor noted that there is a \$300M proposal in Crisfield and it is the Mayor and Council's job to move the City forward.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary