

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and 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; Kate Finucan, Grant Writer; Rick Taylor, Chief of Police; Jason Loar; John Wunder; Billie Jo Chandler; Ramona Evans; Betty Horsey; and Richard Crumbacker.

INVOCATION, LORD’S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order. She asked that anyone speaking, speak up, so those listening to Facebook could hear.

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 22, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS – BILLIE JO CHANDLER RE: BIKE TRAIL SELFIE AREA

Ms. Chandler reviewed plans for the various selfie areas at the Beach, Small Boat Harbor and Oyster shell pile. She requested approval from the Mayor and Council to move forward with these areas.

Councilwoman Scott referred to putting a selfie area at the Ward Brothers studio. Ms. Chandler advised that this is not in City limits, but an arrow could be indicated for their location.

Ms. Chandler also noted that the timeline for finishing the bike trail is September 30, 2022.

Mayor Taylor reviewed that phase 1 & 2 has been approved and we need approval for phase 3.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve phase 3, contingent upon finding the funding. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Lankford and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she, along with Pastor Johnson and Cindy Freeman, would like to see the garden next to City Hall named the Doug Swift Memorial Garden, in honor and memory of Doug Swift, who had helped work in the garden and was always there to lend a hand. She inquired if there were any restrictions and if any changes made in the garden would need approval. She also noted that the Arts Council has painted totems in Doug's honor and want to put them in the garden.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the property is owned by the City and there are many good volunteers helping to make it work and she supports it 100 %. She suggested an overall plan just to run ideas by the Mayor and Council and Mr. Wunder.

At this time, Councilwoman Jonson made a motion to approve the naming of the Doug Swift Memorial Garden and that the founders would contact City Hall concerning any changes. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously 5-0.

Councilman Banks commented that he is ok with written plans as it is City property and approval of changes could be contingent upon plans.

Mr. Wunder advised that the Mayor and Council could approve any structural plans but he is ok with aesthetic improvements. Councilman Goldsborough advised that he agrees.

Councilwoman Scott noted that structural changes would be approved by the City and Mayor and Council. Mayor Taylor added that any fixed structure would be reviewed by the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Baldwin noted that as the City owns the property, we must stay within City guidelines for example religious images. Councilman Goldsborough made reference to another group wanting to be included. Mayor Taylor advised that another group would need to come to the city with plans as well.

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PRIORITY

Mayor Taylor noted that she had wrapped up speaking with the Council and various members of the community and all concur that the 21 empty store fronts are a top priority. She advised that she will have a plan of resources and will be assessing the buildings to see what can be done with them. She noted that the second item of new business she is addressing is the Community Engagement Forum in order to obtain citizen input to re-imagine Crisfield. She advised that she will need a facilitator for this forum, whether it be someone from Salisbury University or somewhere else.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to Main Street being either uptown or downtown. Mayor Taylor advised that she is referring to the City Hall area as uptown.

Councilman Banks advised that we need to do this ASAP.

Councilwoman Johnson referred to a group that met with the Mayor and Council when the city was organizing the Crisfield Economic Development Commission and suggested using them.

Mayor Taylor advised that she would be calling on those who had offered their support.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTER – CORRECTION OF RESOLUTION NUMBERS

Mrs. Morgan noted that Borrowing Resolution Number 449 which was adopted on June 8, 2022, was numbered incorrectly and the correct number should be 466, and Recycling Resolution Number 450 which was also adopted June 8, 2022, was numbered incorrectly and should be 467.

Councilman Banks made a motion to accept the correction of the number of Resolution 449 to be 466. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Lankford commented that this has been a good first meeting and starting point and he is ready to move forward.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he is excited to see the next four years noting that all have the same goals.

Councilman Banks commented that he has an office full of information and studies and suggested looking at the SRP for the City. He also made reference to looking at additional Sandy money.

Councilwoman Scott stated that she is glad to see how well we have gotten started and the one-on-one meetings was a great way to start as it is important that we work together.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that we have several plans and studies available already. She commented that people want to be heard and we need to work together. She advised that she is excited about the energy in this meeting.

Councilman Banks commended Chief Taylor on his hard work and extended his appreciation to the Department. Chief Taylor thanked him for his support.

Mayor Taylor noted the air of excitement. She commented that she is blessed with a great staff who are doing so much with so little. She also thanked the citizens for their support.

Mayor Taylor presented an American Flag presented to her from the Navy boat in the Marina and urged everyone to visit this boat. She also noted that that group will be participating in a parade in Baltimore and will be flying a Crisfield flag.

Mayor Taylor noted that she met a Kayak Club from Baltimore who were visiting Crisfield and was addressed by a citizen about a parking issue, but he prepared a map to show people where to park.

Mayor Taylor commented that we may agree to disagree, but we will still move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary