

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Ivan Lankford, Council Vice President via Zoom
Eric Banks, Councilman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Ruthie Todd, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor, Caitlin Cullotta; Tiffany McMahon; William Brown; Dennis Parkinson; Jason Loar; Jennifer Merritt; Betty Horsey; Charles Cavanaugh; Eric Emely; Frankie Pruitt; Scott McCauley; Will Holland; and Richard Crumbacker.

Call to Order, Lord's Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6 PM in the Corbin studio and Gallery meeting room. Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes Councilman Banks made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023, regular meeting. Motion second by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Swearing in of Betty Horsey to Housing Authority Board.

Mayor Taylor introduced Betty Horsey and swore her in as a member of the Housing Authority Board.

Presentation ref. Letter of Support for the Harbour Light Condominium Association breakwater, marsh-land erosion mitigation plan – Bd of Dir. Vice Pres. Scott McAuley

Scott McAuley, President of the Harbor Light Condo Assoc. appeared before the Mayor and council to request a letter of support for the Harbor Light Condo Association, break water marsh line erosion mitigation plan. He advised that no matching funds are required. Mrs. Merritt advised that we need to know which grant they are applying for. She noted that we can't apply for a grant for pilings. Mayor Taylor advised Mr. Macauley that we need to talk about the City's FEMA grant to align with your needs.

Earmarks Crisfield Fire Dept – Charles Cavanaugh

Charles Cavanaugh appeared before the Mayor and Council concerning the Earmark for the fire department. He introduced the building committee, Frankie Pruitt, Eric Emily, Louis Hickman (not present) Lance Marvel, and himself. He advised that the cost to bring the fire department up to standard, was over \$1 million, or build a new building past the ambulance squad.

Mr. Cavanaugh advised that they are applying for earmarked funding for the new building. He noted that they would like to have a one floor building which could be used for a shelter or cooling center. Mayor Taylor noted that Vickers is doing a grant for a study. She also noted that we need to look for money for basic repairs.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to annexing the property if they build outside of the City. Councilman Banks commented that he feels they need a new building and that he would support a new building.

Councilman Goldsborough made reference to redeveloping the current building for other purposes.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Crisfield Fire Department does an amazing job.

The Mayor and Council concurred that they are in support of a new building.

Resolution for an Easement between the City of Crisfield and the State of Maryland – Mr. Illuminati

Mr. illuminati presented a resolution for an easement between the City and the State of Maryland. He noted that this is for running electricity and underground utilities at the marina and read the easement aloud.

At this time Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution 484, seconded by Councilman Banks, and carried unanimously.

Earmarks Crisfield Armory – Mrs. Merritt

Mrs. Merritt addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the Earmark for the Armory. She noted that this is priority number two and the Crisfield fire department is priority number one. In reference to earmarks, she advised that this must be submitted by March 8.

Councilwoman Todd made a motion authorizing Mrs. Merritt to submit the armory Earmark as presented. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously. Councilwoman Todd also made a motion to submit the Earmark for the Crisfield Fire Department. Motion seconded by Councilman Banks and carried unanimously.

FEMA Leadership Site Visit Follow Up – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor briefed on the FEMA leadership site visit. She noted that FEMA has submitted a \$40 million application to construct the barriers to keep tide water out and prevent flooding. She noted that the city will not hear back from the application until August or later.

Mayor Taylor also noted that there is an online survey about the ferry for everyone to take part in.

Mayor Taylor made reference to an invitation for two-day bus trip, sponsored by Wandering Delmarva Waterways. She inquired if any of the Council would like to attend.

Mayor Taylor noted that Miss McMahon is doing a fantastic job. Mrs. Merritt also noted that new employee Dominique Parks, has been hired as the new housing coordinator for low-income housing.

Mr. Dennis Parkinson, Jr., presented an update on the Cove Street and sewer plant issues. He noted that on Cove Street the Godwin pump has been set up as a bypass pump. Mayor Taylor noted that the Volute had to be pulled out of the ground. Mr. Parkinson noted that the Volute needed repairs. Further discussion followed concerning the length of time and price to make the repairs.

Mr. Loar noted that he would be at the second meeting in March to make recommendation for the generator.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the work on Cove Street is caused low water pressure. Mr. Parkinson advised that this is not related. Mr. Parkinson also advised that Somerset Central has been notified about the lane closure on Cove Street. Mr. Loar advised that having two lanes can cause a liability issue and can be a risk of causing a sewer issue with people constantly running over the hoses.

Student government representative Will Holland advised that the survey is done and ready to send to the students. Councilwoman Todd noted that Abigail Wise had to resign due to school commitments.

Public Input

No public input was offered.

Council Comments

Council Vice President Lankford noted that he is glad the Cove Street issue is being addressed and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilwoman Todd inquired if the Fire Department needs a letter of support from the City. Mayor Taylor advised that Vickers is doing a template for others to offer letters of support.

Councilwoman Johnson welcomed the new employees and thanked Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Loar for the updates. She also thanked Mr. McAuley for his presentation.

Councilman Banks thanked everyone for their hard work. He noted that the Downtown Waterfront Commission met on February 27th and are just getting through the first steps of the Bond Bill grant. In the next work session, they will develop a conceptual site plan with a 3-D CAD rendering.

Councilman Goldsborough noted that he will meet with Mr. Brown concerning the five houses planned for demolition. He thanked the staff and employees and Crisfield Police Department.

Councilman Johnson noted that the next meeting of the Main Street Commission will be on March 12 at 6 PM.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone in attendance. She commented that we ask a lot of questions and continue to push forward, because there is a small window of opportunity. She also commented that this is a historical moment with four African Americans sitting at the table. She also reminded everyone about the Soul Food Tasting on March 14.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce L. Morgan Clerk- Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary