

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook Live.

PRESENT via Zoom

Barry Dize, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance via Zoom; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; David Dalfonso, Chief of Police; and William Berryhill.

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Vice President Banks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 2/10/21

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular work session meeting of February 10, 2021. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried 4-0, with abstention of Councilman Goldsborough.

DECISION REGARDING CARVEL HALL

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the proposal from Mary Franz.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the City received three proposals, and then made a motion to approve the proposal from Element MD. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks.

DISCUSSION

Council Vice President Banks commented that this has been a long process, and all have had time to review. He noted that this is a positive step.

Councilman Atkins commented that this doesn't make sense because the chances of Element getting a growers license is low and the property will go back to the bank. He commented that initially he felt that Mary Franz' proposal would be a fit. Councilman Atkins commented that we can't say we support a medical marijuana operation in the City and particularly concerning the risk to children. He added that he doesn't think they will become growers and the City will regret it in the future. Councilman Atkins stated that he feels a lucrative business will come and we won't have to "settle".

Councilwoman Scott commented that she was cautious in the beginning, but feels that Element are good people and will be able to help some people. She noted that they are in the top three to get their license. Councilwoman Scott noted that she received her medical marijuana today for her own chronic nerve pain, adding that prescription medicines did not help her. Councilwoman Scott noted that it was a long process to get her prescription with many steps. She noted that many users are older and this is not for adolescents. She advised that she is comfortable that this will help people and feels they will get their license.

Councilman Ford commented that he has worked with kids in the Boy Scouts for 10 years, encouraging them to stay away from drugs, and cannot support the proposal. He advised that he feels the City can find a better use. Councilman Ford stated that he does not want to be a hypocrite and just can't vote for it.

Councilman Goldsborough advised that he had one week of research and the consensus he came to is that the Mayor and Council shouldn't dictate what businesses come there; this will offer jobs, tax dollars, and is a legal business. He added that there is the possibility that they won't get the license, but there will be another round. Councilman Goldsborough stated that we need to take this chance and we need to go for it.

Mayor Dize called for a vote on the motion to accept the proposal from Element, as made by Councilwoman Scott, and seconded by Council Vice President Banks.

The vote was Councilwoman Scott, Council Vice President Banks, and Councilman Goldsborough in favor, and Councilman Atkins and Councilman Ford not in favor, with a motion of 3 for, 2 against.

Mayor Dize asked that everyone respect each other decision and don't dwell in the past. He thanked everyone for their hard work and added that this was not an easy decision.

LINE OF CREDIT INCREASE

Mrs. Morgan advised that this would modify the existing line of credit, to be used for emergency purposes. She noted that the City will be down \$20K in Highway User Revenue. Mrs. Morgan advised that the City never utilized the full amount. She advised that the Resolution increases the existing line of credit from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and read Resolution #463 into the record.

Mayor Dize noted that any expenditure over \$4,000 would go before the City Council.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve Resolution #463. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks.

DISCUSSION

Council Vice President Banks inquired if the current amount is \$100K. Mrs. Morgan advised that this was correct. He also inquired if this is paid as we use it. Mrs. Morgan advised that this was correct.

Councilman Atkins inquired how we determine an emergency. Mayor Dize noted that any cost over \$4000 will be come before the Council and it could be for a water emergency, Covid emergency, etc. He added that no interest is charged while the money is waiting to be used.

Council Vice President Banks inquired if this would be a yearly amount. Mrs. Morgan advised that this was correct. The motion carried 5-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Mayor Dize made reference to the Line Item in last year's budget in the amount of \$12,500 for Turn-Out Gear. He noted that their ladder truck has failed and they are able to purchase a used truck for \$25K and they would like to apply the \$12,500 to the truck. Councilman Atkins inquired if a vote is necessary. Mr. Sullivan advised that it was not necessary; just amend the item.

REVIEW – FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE

Councilman Atkins noted that the period for the Huckster’s License should be for 12 months, not the calendar year.

Mr. Sullivan advised not to consider this for First Reader unless adopted as drafted. He advised it could be held for discussion for the work session on March 24th.

Councilman Atkins suggested adopting it for first reader, as written, with the option to amend the time-frame in Section 83-16 to say “for a period of one year from the date of issue”. He then made a motion to adopt the Food Truck Ordinance for First Reader with the consideration of amending Section 83-16 “for the calendar year from which it was issued” to “for a period of one year from the date of issuance.”

Council Vice President Banks commented that he would to have any amendments to the Food Truck Ordinance discussed at the upcoming work session. The motion died for lack of a 2nd.

Mr. Sullivan advised the Council to send any other amendments to him prior to the next work session.

MOU BETWEEN SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT AND CRISFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Dalfonso made reference to the MOU and noted that in some areas, CPD is the closest responder for areas outside of the City, and this would cover the City’s liability if they responded. He advised that this is procedural to cover any action taken while on the scene for prosecution reasons. Chief Dalfonso advised that the MOU clarifies CPD’s role and protects them from liability issues.

Mr. Sullivan commended the Chief on the tremendous effort he has put in to achieving this as it has been attempted for many years, but was unsuccessful due to previous relationships with the Sheriff’s Department and police chief.

At this time, Council Vice President Banks made a motion to accept the MOU to take advantage of what is best for other areas outside of City limits. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott commented that she had spoken with the Chief about this as a benefit.

Mr. Sullivan commented that the City of Crisfield and our liability insurance are no longer at risk. At this time, Mr. Sullivan read the MOU into the record. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan advised Chief Dalfonso to forward the signed MOU to Sheriff Howard.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Banks made reference to the Carvel Hall process noting that we have to move forward regardless of our feelings. He noted that he feels this will be a benefit to the City and citizens. Council Vice President Banks advised that he will request ongoing information in order to learn what the process really is. He commented that he had used marijuana and saw both the good and bad.

Council Vice President Banks noted that he will be attending the March 18th Tri County Council meeting concerning Broadband and will be getting updates on where we are.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she is glad a decision was reached concerning Carvel Hall and that she respects the two other Councilmembers opinion. She commented that two months ago, she made a motion to have the three candidates rebid their proposals, but the motion failed. She commented that this has bothered her because it was voted down and didn't give bidders a chance to raise their bids. Those against the proposal said they voted against it because the funds wouldn't go to the City. She feels the state has been good to Crisfield and that the added funds, estimated at \$200,000, would go to the state, and that we should have tried to get as much as possible even though we wouldn't get to keep the funds. DHCD had loaned 1.3M for Carvel Hall in 2007 and we had a responsibility to repay as much as we could.

Councilwoman Scott commented that realtors are saying the market in Crisfield is hot, and with people coming out of the City, the market is higher than six weeks ago.

Councilman Goldsborough commented that he is thankful to be here and plans to bring more to the table. He advised that he reached out to the public concerning Carvel Hall and 97% of the people he spoke with were in favor of its use for medical marijuana.

Councilman Atkins noted that the online payment option for the Veteran's Banners is not available so purchasers may pay for the banners at City Hall. He noted that plans for the celebration of the banners will be forthcoming. Councilman Atkins also noted that businesses have been receptive to the marketing and support of these banners.

Councilman Atkins advised that he agrees 100% with Charlotte concerning her comments about not having the candidates rebid their proposals, regarding the sale of Carvel Hall.

Councilman Atkins commented that even though some may want to be high on marijuana, he wants to be high on the future of Crisfield.

Councilman Atkins also reminded that the Crisfield Economic Development Commission needs to be filled and asked everyone to bring in two names to the Mayor.

Councilman Ford advised that he had no comments.

Mayor Dize advised that he had received a text about the City being blamed for the cancellation of last year's Clam Bake and Crab Derby. He noted that Covid prevented these events, which are Chamber Events. Mayor Dize commented that in past years, the City has helped with Crab Derby and even sold steamed crabs there. He commented that he is ready to open back up.

Mayor Dize noted that the next work session was held on March 24, 2021 and the two items on the agenda would be reviewing the Food Truck Ordinance, and a review of the CIP by Mr. Jason Loar. He commented that the meeting should take no more than two hours.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously, 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary