

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Corbin Studio and Gallery.

PRESENT

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
Eric Banks, Council Vice President, via zoom
Ivan Lankford, Councilman, via zoom
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Hitesh Patel, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer/City Manager
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Also, in attendance; Valerie Swift, Tiffany McMahon; Chief Lee; Rich Benedicto; Keith Lackie; John Slaughter, Via Zoom; Dennis Parkinson, Jr., Peter Hirschhoff; Dan Kuebler; and Brandon Ebaugh; LaFabian Marshall; Drs. Roxolana Kashuba and Emily Eisenhauer.
Absent – Councilman Goldsborough/Bible School Event.

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

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the meeting room of the Corbin studio and gallery

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

Mayor Taylor requested approval of the minutes from May 29 and June 25. She noted a correction for June 25 of attendance. Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections. Motion seconded by Councilman Patel and carried unanimously.

Jackson Patient Care Service

Mrs. Jackson spoke about her background in patient care and reviewed information concerning Jackson Patient Care Services which she has recently opened. She advised her office will be located at 940 W. Main St. She noted that she takes care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients. She noted that her service is paid for by private pay and next month she will be established to accept Medicaid waiver.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that she had asked her to come and speak about the service she provides

Council Vice President Banks welcomed her to the city.

Drone Medical Delivery Presentation

Keith Lackie from MDOP noted that he has been the grant manager for the Drone Medical Delivery pilot program. Mr. John Slaughter, via Zoom, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation concerning the Medical Delivery

Drones.

Mayor Taylor inquired if the program will be starting this summer. Mr. Slaughter advised that it will start in August.

Mr. Lackie also advised that he was on the public outreach committee and there will be a meeting on July 22 at 2 o'clock at the library on Collins Street

Council Vice President Banks inquired about requirements for being a volunteer.

Mr. Rick Benedito, UMES School of Pharmacy, noted that he had forms there to be completed, surveys and volunteer information.

Mr. Slaughter also noted that the drones do not land; they hoist the item down to the recipient.

EPA Presentation

Drs. Roxolana Kashuba and Emily Eisenhower reviewed slides concerning coastal resilience and infrastructure showing ways that erosion can be reduced to prevent flooding.

Public Utilities Update, Moonshot Site Visit

Mr. Parkinson noted that the nitrogen levels look good and he's working on getting them lower with the use of the press to remove old solids faster.

Parkinson noted that Moonshot was there yesterday and reviewed the entire plant. He noted that each area of the plant was labeled to develop an Asset Management Plan. Mr. Parkinson also referred to using the Spin method to get samples quicker.

Mayor Taylor noted that Moonshot also documented the age of the equipment. She noted that members of the group were there from all over the country.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the turbine issue. Mr. Parkinson advised the main breaker had tripped again. He also advised that there needs to be 3 to 5 mph winds for it to rotate and it shuts down at 50 mph winds.

Earmark for WWTP – Mayor

Mayor Taylor referred to the Earmark funding for wastewater treatment plant repairs. She advised that the cost for these improvements is \$1.9 million, which will include the belt press and drying beds.

Mayor Taylor made reference to the leak by the marina and Big Willies. Mr. Parkinson advised that he had contacted Ryan Miller to schedule repairs.

Mayor Taylor referred to a request from the Heritage Foundation asking us to be a sponsor. Councilman Patel noted that the Gold Level is \$500. Mayor Taylor advised that there is a budget allocation for donations. Mrs. Morgan noted that last year the city allocated \$3500 for crab Derby and boat docking. A discussion followed about the amount to give to the Heritage Foundation. Councilwoman Johnson suggested \$500. Councilman Lankford advised he is also OK with \$500.

At this time Councilman Lankford made motion to repeat the donations for the Crab Derby and Boat Docking events and add \$ 500 for the Heritage Foundation. Motion seconded by a Councilwoman Johnson, and carried with three in favor as

Councilman Patel abstained due to a conflict of interest and Councilman Goldsborough was absent from the meeting. motion carried.

Public Works Update

Mayor Taylor requested that the agenda be amended to add a brief report from Public Works. So moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Patel, and carried in unanimously, three to 0.

At this time, Mr. Brandon Ebaugh from Public Works and noted that the Kubota is still down for repairs and the new street signs are almost completely installed. Mayor Taylor inquired about the tide gates. Mr. Ebaugh advised they are trying to do work at the Marina. He also noted that the sewer jet is not finished and we need a new lawnmower.

Vaping Discussion

Next order of business pertained to discussion regarding vaping. Mayor Taylor advised that the city needs to know the restrictions as far as location, etc. Mr. Illuminati noted that the cannabis regulations were set by state law. He advised that if there will be a vaping dispensary we need to know where it will be sold therefore it would have to go before the planning commission in order to determine setbacks, etc..

He advised that they may be able to mimic the cannabis ordinance, but a public hearing and ordinance for first reader and second reader would be needed as well

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is OK for the planning commission to review. Councilman Patel advised that he will be abstaining from any comment as he sells some of this product. Council Vice President Banks commented that he knows of two locations that already sell items for vaping.

Councilman Patel also commented that the State of Maryland is still not sure about vaping regulations. Mayor Taylor commented that this is unclear and she needs to know the proximity of the location.

Council Vice President Banks advised that he is in favor of having the planning commission review vaping regulations. Councilman Lankford advised that it should follow the alcohol rule as far as location if THC should fall under the marijuana regulations.

After further brief discussion council woman Johnson made a motion to direct this issue to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Banks and carried unanimously 3-0.

Public Input

No public input was offered at this time.

Councilman Patel thanked city office workers, Chief and staff. He also thanked the Nature Conservancy for their report.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that a Main Street review commission meeting was held last night.

She also thanked Mrs. Jackson for reporting on her healthcare facility.

She also noted that Mrs. Athena Argiris had advised that she came here because of a Crisfield cookbook she had purchased.

She noted that Inspiration Health Services will be open on August 1.

Council Vice President Bank had no comments.

Councilman Lankford thanked city staff and departments and also thanked Miss Jackson for opening this business.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Taylor noted that some good information had been presented at this meeting. She also noted that Miss Marshall posts information and helps people know about projects and upcoming events.

Adjournment

With no further business for discussion Councilwoman Johnson made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Lankford and carried unanimously 3 to 0. Meaning adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Joyce Morgan Clerk Treasurer/City Manager

Prepared by Valerie SWIFT Secretary