

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 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 Via Zoom
Casey Goldsborough, Councilman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Andrew Illuminati, City Solicitor

Absent due to illness – Councilwoman Ruthie Todd

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Rick Taylor; Richard Crumbacker; Frances Meyer; Donnie Drewer; Dorothea McDaniel; Jennifer Meritt; Jason Loar; Lee Still; Tracey Gordy; Len Jorlin; Paul Ellington; Elmer Barkley; Savannah Hall; Abigail Wise.

Invocation

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

Approval of Minutes

Council Vice President Lankford made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 25, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried 4-0.

Swearing in of Housing Authority Board Member – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Laverne Sterling as Housing Authority Resident Board Member.

Birthday Proclamation for Evangeline Coulbourne 104th Birthday – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor presented and read aloud a Birthday Proclamation for Ms. Evangeline Coulbourne for her 104th Birthday.

Certificate of Appreciation Sustainable Community Renewal Application – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Tracey Green Gordy Taylor for all the assistance and guidance she had provided in the preparation of the Sustainable Community Renewal Application.

Optimize Solutions Information – Len Jornlin, Paul Ellington

Mr. Len Jorlin, Optimize Solutions, reviewed information and slides concerning a grant he was working on for the City for \$100K. He also reviewed his background and noted that the City does not pay for his services. He noted that the deadline to submit the grant is February 1, 2024. Mayor Taylor advised that the City would make a decision at the 12/13/23 meeting.

GCAC Update – Frances Meyer

Mrs. Meyer presented an update from GCAC concerning the projects that they are working on. She noted that they need an MOU with the City to develop cohesiveness and understanding and avoid duplication of projects.

Mrs. Meyer also reviewed GCAC's proposal for their "Call It Home" Program.

Mayor Taylor noted that we need to come up with a plan that suits everyone.

Councilman Banks thanked GCAC for the update.

Second Reader – Cannabis Ordinance #720– Mr. Illuminati

Mr. Illuminati presented a quick review of what had been discussed at the 5:00 Public Hearing.

Mayor Taylor made reference to a zoning issue with a small area at the Small Boat Harbor, which would require a Special Exception.

Council Vice President Lankford commented that he does not want Cannabis sales in Crisfield but knows that it is a State Law.

Councilman Goldsborough inquired if a zoning map was available to the Planning Commission when reviewing the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Illuminati reminded that anyone applying would first need to obtain a State License.

Councilman Banks noted that he is ok with doing a 2nd Reader and then amend if necessary.

Student Council members Ms. Wise and Ms. Hall both concurred that they feel it would be wrong to sell in a residential area.

Mr. Illuminati reviewed the measurement requirements in the permitted zones.

Councilman Banks inquired about the use through a Special Exception. Mayor Taylor noted that it is not in the current Ordinance.

Mr. Illuminati advised that the Council can vote, but needs to amend the Ordinance that was presented for First Reader.

At this time, Councilman Banks made a motion to amend the Cannabis Ordinance to include a Special Exception requirement for the uses in I-1 and I-2. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Illuminati also advised that a vote needs to be taken on how the buffer will be measured from the location of a Cannabis Business.

At this time, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to accept option 1 for measurement of the buffer; THE DISTANCE SHALL BE MEASURED FROM THE FRONT DOOR OR MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CANNABIS BUSINESS, WHICHEVER IS NEAREST THE STREET ABUTTING THE SITE, TO THE PARCEL BOUNDARY, IN ALL DIRECTIONS, OF THE PUBLIC PARK OR PLAYGROUND. Council Vice President Lankford noted that he accepts the Ordinance as amended. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

It Takes a Village Bid Review – Mrs. Merritt

At this time, Mayor Taylor recused herself from discussion.

Council Vice President Lankford requested review of the bids for It Takes A Village.

Mrs. Merritt presented and reviewed a power point of the bids received. She noted that the ITAV review committee recommended JBC.

Council Vice President Lankford requested a motion from Council. Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to accept the bid from JBC. Motion seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Request from Kim Hopkins ESLTR for Waiver of Building Permit Fees-206 Cove Street & 17 Wynfall Avenue – Caitlin Cullotta

Ms. Cullotta noted that Ms. Hopkins was not available in person and was presenting the request on her behalf. She advised that the fees are \$232.80 for 206 Cove and \$287.60 for 17 Wynfall Avenue. After a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsborough made a motion to grant the waivers as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried.

Land Offer – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor made reference to an offer from Mr. John Riley for a land donation of property he owns near Charlotte Avenue, Parcels 502 and 505, which can be used as a match for mitigation purposes for our flood management project to lower our loan cost.

After a brief discussion, Council VP Lankford made a motion to accept the land offer. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Upcoming City Events – Mayor Taylor Christmas Parade Friday, December 1st 5-7 PM

Mayor Taylor noted that the Mayor and Council would be participating and recognized Tawes Brothers for supplying a golf cart any time the city asks.

“If I Were Mayor Contest” – Mayor Taylor

Mayor Taylor noted that this is info from MML for 4th grade students.

Public Input

Donnie Drewer noted that this was his first meeting under this administration, and he has been given renewed hope. Mayor Taylor advised

that she is glad that the administration can work together toward common goals.

Mr. Alrey made reference to the first annual agritourism event UMES is sponsoring in December and Reviewed info pertaining to the event.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Johnson thanked Mr. Illuminati for the hard work on the Cannabis Ordinance and Resolutions.

She also thanked Ms. Cullotta for presenting for ESLTR, noting they do a lot of amazing work and noted that they are a great asset to community.

She also thanked the presenters and City staff.

Councilman Goldsborough thanked the presenters and staff. He also commented that Ms. Evangeline special & blessed.

Council Vice President Lankford noted that he is glad to be there in person. He commented that this has been a good meeting and presentations, and also thanked Mr. Illuminati for his hard work on the cannabis ordinance. He noted that he is very happy for ITAV and is pleased that everything going well and moving in right direction.

Councilman Banks thanked everyone for their presentations and noted we are all working toward the same goals.

Student reports –

Abigail Wise presented feedback from youth – 8th grader – more activities 12th graders car washes (bigger) road imp. She also advised them improvements are planned.

Savana Hall received feedback about having a bowling alley, skating rinks, and students would like the M&C to visit.

Mayor comments

Mayor Taylor noted that Senator Corroza had gotten the bond bill passed for Dock plans Banks to address the planning phase for depot area. The Waterfront committee has been established and will meet before the end of year.

Mayor Taylor gave a shout out to Margaret Young on her 90th birthday. She also offered thanks to all in attendance. She noted the that projects are moving forward per Jason Loar.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldsborough and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan
Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by,
Valerie Swift, Sec.