

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor

LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President

Barbara Ward, Councilwoman

Nelson Sheppard, Councilman

Gail Lankford, Councilwoman

Jimmy Ford, Councilman

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent: Mr. Rick Pollitt, City Manager (family obligation)

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Administrator. (see attached list of others in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dize requested approval of the minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular Session of May 8th, 2019. Approval so moved by Councilman Sheppard, seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously 5-0.

FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mayor Dize advised that he would allow 5 to 8 minutes of speaking time from one spokesperson for the two groups represented at this evening's meeting; the Hotel/Conference Center and the RV Park Ordinance.

HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTER

1) Frances Martinez Myers, Board of Directors of GCAC, appeared in support of the Hotel/Conference Center. She read a prepared statement in support of the proposal, and requested a formal, public endorsement from the Mayor and Council.

2) Darlene Taylor, speaking in support of the Hotel/Conference Center, addressed the Mayor and Council, noting that it would provide jobs and the opportunity for people to make a living. She also read aloud a letter of support from her Pastor, Pastor Wallace, and she asked that the people in attendance who are in support of the project raise their hands.

3) Phil Riggin, volunteer for several boards – Long Term Recovery, GCAC, Somerset County E.D.C., Tourism Commission, noted that he had attended 50 meetings concerning the Hotel/Conference Center and had previously presented a summary report at a City meeting to support the project. Mr. Riggin advised that the survey and report call for a mandate of action and asked for the Mayor and Council's support.

4) Jay Tawes advised that he is not here to protest, but to encourage and urge the Mayor and Council's support of the project in order to move the City forward. Mr. Tawes stated that he wants to see economic development and united groups in the City.

Councilwoman Lankford commented that the community feels the Mayor and Council are against them and advised that she would like to make a motion that the City endorse the Hotel/Conference Center and form a committee to seek funding. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

During discussion, Councilman Sheppard stated that there needs to be a steering committee to obtain funding and investors and advised that he would like to serve as head of the committee.

(the motion by was tabled temporarily to allow for Public Input to continue)

Dean Goldsborough made reference to the proposed \$5.6M to rebuild the Armory and advised that it should be demolished, citing that it was full of mold and the floors had fallen. Mr. Goldsborough commented that it is a "death trap" and that the City should "put the place to rest".

2ND READER ORDINANCE PERMITTING RV PARKS IN TM ZONE

David Barone, Property Manager for the Tangier Sound Condos, appeared before the Mayor and Council in opposition to second reader of the Ordinance. He commented that the taxes of surrounding areas would have to be lowered and he asked for postponement of the vote.

Charlotte Scott commented regarding the public being limited to speak and expressed her disappointment. She thanked the citizens for showing up, adding that they are not mad; just hopeful.

At this time, Councilwoman Lankford inquired as to when her prior motion could be brought up for a vote. Mr. Sullivan advised that the vote on her motion could be made at this time.

Councilwoman Lankford then made a motion that the Mayor and Council endorse the Hotel/Conference Center project and form a committee to provide support for it.

Councilman Sheppard amended the motion that a Steering Committee would be formed to seek funding, and volunteered to Chair the Committee.

Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, who added that she does support the project. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Following the vote on the motion, Buddy Ward, President of the Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Mayor and Council. Mayor Dize announced that Mr. Ward had agreed upon bringing the City and the Chamber back together, so that the City and the Chamber could collectively support projects.

Mr. Ward made reference to the formation of the Crisfield Economic Alliance – C.E.A., comprised of five people who would serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Mayor Dize directed Mr. Sullivan to prepare a Resolution designating the C.E.A. at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Lankford commented that Mr. Miller has investors. Mr. Miller noted that they are potential investors. A brief discussion followed concerning who should be included on the C.E.A. Councilwoman Lankford stated that she feels investors should be included as they are the driving force for the Hotel Conference Center.

OLD BUSINESS –

2ND READER –ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-20, 112-56, AND ARTICLE 1S OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS

Mr. Sullivan noted that he had not received any feedback from the Mayor and Council concerning any revisions to the proposed Ordinance, requesting that they consider the Ordinance as drafted.

Following discussion and instruction, Councilman Sheppard made a motion that Ordinance 684 NOT be adopted for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lankford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan noted that a vote to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reader would have been needed by June 10, 2019, which was prior to the next regular meeting; therefore the RV Park Ordinance will not be enacted.

AWARD OF BID FOR CORBIN STUDIO & GALLERY ROOF

Mr. Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Administrator, advised that he had sent out an RFP in March and had received 2 bids; 1) Ken Build - \$28,720 and 2) Strategic Consulting Alliance - \$24,750. Mr. Bozman advised that the low bidder meets all specs and requirements and he recommends accepting the low bid.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to accept the low bid from Strategic Consulting Alliance in the amount of \$24,750. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

At this time, Mayor Dize requested a 3 minute recess.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

2ND READER OF ORDINANCE 684 ESTABLISHING NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES AND SERVICE FEES

At this time, Mr. Sullivan reviewed Ordinance 684 into the record.

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 684 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

2nd READER OF BUDGET ORDINANCE 685 2019-2020

At this time, Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer reviewed into record Ordinance 685 establishing the 2019-2020 Budget in the amount of \$4,143,156.00.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt for 2nd Reader Budget Ordinance 685. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Engagement Letter with McKennon Shelton & Henn LLP – Authorizing Mayor to sign Engagement Letter for the law firm of McKennon Shelton & Henn LLP to serve as Bond Counsel to the City in connection with City’s financing of improvements to wastewater facilities

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the requirement from USDA for a Bond Counsel to assist with the City’s financing of improvements to the WWTP. He noted that McKennon, Shelton, and Henn LLP is a top notch firm and advised that a motion is necessary to approve the letter of engagement. Mr. Sullivan also noted that the associated fees for this service are \$8,500 and \$10,000, which is a reasonable rate for a Bond Counsel.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with McKennon Shelton & Henn LLP – Authorizing Mayor to sign Engagement Letter for the law firm of McKennon Shelton & Henn LLP to serve as Bond Counsel to the City in connection with City’s financing of improvements to wastewater facilities. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lankford and carried unanimously 5-0.

ESAM ELECTION RUN-OFF – VOTING DECISION

Mrs. Morgan read the email into the record from the Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities concerning the tie for Vice President between Charles Cephas and Jake Day.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to submit a vote for Jake Day. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Lankford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

FINAL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mrs. Sue Heath stated that they are involved in the Hotel/Conference Center initiative, but they do not want the City involved as the landlord or realtor for this project.

Mr. Dean Goldsborough made reference to a derelict building on Main Street that is getting ready to fall down, as well as some others.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Vice President Johnson thanked everyone for their comments and advised that she would like to address the comment about not being allowed to speak. She advised that if the City had been aware of the large number of speakers, we could have chosen another venue, but we need prior notification.

Mayor Dize advised that speakers can call to be placed on the agenda; it doesn't have to be done in Public Input.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Mayor and Council that the public has the right to attend meetings, but not a right to participate.

(Council Vice President Johnson left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.)

Councilwoman Lankford advised that she appreciates everyone's comments. She also advised that she would rather not have public input if everyone can't have a chance to speak.

Councilman Sheppard commented that this was a good meeting, with good ideas and involvement.

Councilwoman Ward commented that she feels encouraged, but it takes time.

Councilman Ford had no comments.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Councilwoman Lankford made a motion to adjourn into a closed session per State Government Article §10-508(a) (7) & (8). Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 4-0.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary