

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilman (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent due to illness – Councilwoman Charlotte Scott

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Jason Loar; Jennifer Rafter; Darlene Taylor; Elmer Barkley; John Dize; Lamont Potter; George Friedley; Richard Crumbacker.

INVOCATION, LORD’S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawson noted that Councilwoman Scott was still absent due to illness.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to accept the agenda for this evenings meeting.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of February 15, 2017 and the regular meeting of February 22, 2017. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously with three.

UNITED WAY PRESENTATION BY PAM GREGORY, IMPACT DIRECTOR

Ms. Gregory reviewed a power point presentation concerning the A.L.I.C.E (acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)Report.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that this is a way of life in Somerset County. He inquired what there is to help people in this category, as this presentation just breaks down the numbers.

Ms. Gregory advised that there are programs to help and individuals can call 211 for information and a data base for different types of assistance. She advised that this report is to get the information out there concerning this matter.

Mayor Lawson inquired about the date to re-visit information for a report. Ms. Gregory advised that this will be done in two years.

Mayor Lawson commented that United Way gives us hard and fast figures and inquired if there are plans for United Way to address needs as an Umbrella Organization. Ms. Gregory advised that there are plans and this will keep us in the forefront. She also noted that there are programs such as Telemon and Habitat in Wicomico County.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired if this information goes to HUD. Ms. Gregory advised that it does.

Mr. Pollitt thanked Ms. Gregory for her presentation, noting that these figures could be used by the City as leverage to obtain funding.

Councilman Emely noted that United Way is a great program and he is familiar with the assistance they have given to the Salvation Army.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report, noting that he would defer item #1 concerning the wind turbine,

to Mr. Jason Loar.

Mr. Loar presented an update on the turbine. He noted that it stops during maximum winds as determined by an anemometer. He advised that the wind gusts trigger an alarm for it to shut down.

Mr. Loar advised that the City has beneficial use of the turbine now.

Mr. Pollit asked Mr. Loar what type of endorsement is needed from the City.

Mr. Loar advised that Davis, Bowen and Friedel recommends conditional acceptance be granted to Bearing Construction and that the 12 conditions they have cited be satisfied before the project is considered complete. He advised that the section of the Minutes would suffice.

Mayor Lawson requested review of the letter and the 12 items to be completed.

Mr. Sullivan suggested a motion that the City declares the wind turbine project substantially completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the letter to the City of Crisfield from Davis, Bowen and Friedel, dated March 7, 2017, which summarizes the conditions to Bearing Construction that must be satisfied. So moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 1ST READER PARKING ORDINANCE – REPEAL OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CITY CODE 106-17

Mr. Sullivan made reference to an Ordinance done in 2015, that all further parking restrictions will be adopted by Resolution. He advised that to move forward, the City needs to adopt an Ordinance which repeals contradictory restrictions.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt the Parking Ordinance – Repeal of Certain Sections of City Code 106-17, for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

MC3817

At this time, Mr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed Parking Resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Lillian Stratton Corbin Library Building From County

Mayor Lawson briefed the Council concerning the acceptance of the building. He noted that the right hand side of the building would be maintained as an area for historical documents, as per the original agreement that a portion must be kept as a library. Mayor Lawson advised that the annual operating cost of the building is between \$5,000 - \$6,500. He also advised that the building is in good condition and has been surveyed by the County, who are waiting to see if we are going to accept it.

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to accept the library building as a gift from Somerset County. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward.

During discussion, Councilman Emely commented that the City already owns various sites and this is just another expense that we don't need when we can't afford to do necessary paving. He advised that he feels the County is just dumping one more debt on us and he is totally against taking on another piece of property with no plans for its use.

Council Vice President Johnson stated that she feels the property can be utilized. Councilman Konapelsky commented that it is a part of the history of Crisfield. Councilman Emely countered that we will be spending tax payers money.

Councilwoman Ward suggested looking into grant funding.

Councilman Emely advised that he wants to see a plan for the building.

Mayor Lawson advised that there is no final plan. He made reference to purchasing the Armory from the State and advised that the County has no purpose for the library building. Mayor Lawson advised

it could be used to expand various services.

Councilman Emely advised that he is not against history, but we need equipment, paving, etc.

Mayor Lawson advised that he feels we have to move on the proposal to keep it in the City's hands.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the deed at the County includes two restrictions from 1969 and 1930.

Mayor Lawson noted that the 1930 restrictions were to keep a memorial place for Lillian Stratton

Corbin's ashes and to use part of it as a library.

The motion carried 3-0. Councilman Emely voted "nay". Councilwoman Scott was absent.

Approval of Sub-Recipient Agreement "It Takes A Village"

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky recused himself from this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Darlene Taylor, Director of "It Takes A Village" presented a signed copy of the Sub-Recipient Agreement to the Council.

Mayor Lawson requested that copies be made for the Council to review before the next Mayor and Council meeting on the March 22.

Ordinance re: First Reader -Grass Clippings Management

Mayor Lawson advised that this Ordinance was generated at the level of the Planning Commission, noting that this is a diverse board who makes considerations and not a "Rubber Stamp" group.

Mr. Pollitt commented that many people don't consider blowing grass clippings in the street when cutting grass, but it causes drainage issues.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired who determines what amount of grass is citable.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he feels people should be responsible to clean up themselves.

At this time, Mr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed Ordinance.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Mr. Bozman, primarily, and Mr. Charles would make the judgement call.

He also advised you also have to take into consideration the effect of nature, wind, etc.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like a picture of the violation if a citation is issued.

He also noted that people have the right to express concern before the 2nd Reader.

Mayor Lawson advised that on March 27th at 6:00 p.m. at the Library, this, and several other issues would be discussed at a public meeting. Mrs. Morgan noted that this meeting started when there was a discussion about crosswalk safety. Council Vice President Johnson advised she was not aware of the upcoming meeting.

Councilman Emely advised that he is not going to vote for this Ordinance when there are other issues not being enforced in the City, such as abandoned vehicles. He noted that he does not disagree with the purpose.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that the Ordinance is needed as an enforcement tool for the City, but the City can never mandate all Ordinances.

Mr. Pollitt noted that Mr. Bozman is busy all day. Councilman Emely advised that he has not been addressing abandoned vehicles. Mr. Pollitt advised that these are handled on a complaint basis.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she agrees with Councilman Emely, but there is a storm water management concern. She noted that Mr. Bozman does two jobs, but we have to start somewhere.

Councilwoman Ward advised that she is also concerned with the drainage issue that is caused.

Councilman Emely advised that he had never heard Dennis Parkinson complain about grass clippings; only grease.

Mayor Lawson advised that the drainage issue on South Somerset Avenue was due to dirt, leaves and grass.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he believes public education will take care of a lot.

Mayor Lawson called for a vote.

Motion carried 3 – 0, with Councilman Emely voting “nay”.

Councilman Konapelsky urged the public to express their concern before the Ordinance is adopted for 2nd Reader.

APPROVAL OF MR. POLLITT TO MAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Pollitt advised that he had received an email from Carolyn Fitzgerald, Commission on Aging. He noted that he was previously involved with MAC in Fruitland and as County Executive. He advised that he would meet once a month in Salisbury.

Mayor Lawson commented that the City of Crisfield funds no program for the aged. He advised that this is an excellent opportunity for Mr. Pollitt and would like a motion to endorse Mr. Pollitt in this capacity.

No motion was needed, but all Councilmembers presented concurred with Mayor Lawson’s recommendation.

EVENT APPLICATION – PRIDE LODGE ORGANIZATION DAY PARADE – SUNDAY, APRIL 23

After review of the application, with all of the necessary documents, Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the Event Application request. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the planter boxes on the lot beside City Hall and expressed his concern about them being maintained, noting that he hadn't heard anything from SOMOS in a while. Councilman Konapelsky advised that the Friends of Crisfield have offered to take it over.

He advised that they have also offered to provide minutes of their meetings to the City of Crisfield.

Council Vice President Johnson congratulated Mr. George Friedley on his appointment to the Friends of Crisfield Board. She also made reference to public input procedures and would like to have more communication with the public.

Councilwoman Ward had no comments.

Councilman Emely inquired if the City had the contract with Safety Resources. Mr. Pollitt advised that it does.

Councilman Emely inquired if Safety Resources was asked to go to Carvel Hall to inspect. Mr. Pollitt advised that they were not; the property was to be taken as is.

Councilman Emely inquired if Mr. David Mason was told that Safety Resources could not inspect Carvel Hall. Mr. Pollitt advised that Mr. Mason had the same RFP; all were treated the same.

Council Vice President Johnson stated that she was told that Safety Resources was supposed to go to Carvel Hall.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the building was to be sold "as is", and explained the RFP process.

Councilman Emely advised that he was concerned because Mr. Mason was a local person that wanted a little help.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired if the City was obligated to have Safety Resources go there.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he knows how to conduct business process. He advised that he carried Mr. Mason an RFP and offered to review it with him.

Councilman Emely stated that at a meeting, Mr. Mason had requested that Safety Resources go through Carvel Hall and was told by Mr. Bozman that the Mayor had stopped the inspection.

Mr. Pollitt advised that Safety Resources has a Workplace Safety contract. Councilman Konapelsky stated that they weren't responsible to inspect Carvel Hall, adding that he is shocked that this conversation is taking place.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that she had met with Mr. Mason and directed him to Mr. Pollitt and advised that it was ok for him to talk to Councilman Emely as a liaison.

Mayor Lawson advised that no RFP on Carvel Hall was submitted in September. He advised that he is sick of being accused of impropriety. He stated that he was told that Mr. Mason wanted no conversation with him.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that he feels this is a personal issue and is inappropriate for discussion in this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

George Friedley commented that he never even considered blowing grass in the street an issue and suggested sending out fliers to make people aware. He also commented in reference to Carvel Hall, that you must check for every kind of safety issue. Mr. Friedley also commented that he feels we need public input before any vote for 2nd Reader.

Mayor Lawson advised that citizens can be placed on the Agenda and that the first session of Public Input that was part of the previous administration's agenda was removed due to the length of time it

took.

Mr. Pollitt also advised that a Public Hearing is always held before a 2nd Reader.

John Dize made reference to grass clippings and questioned why the homeowner is liable for what their lawn care service does. Councilman Konapelsky advised that the property owner is responsible

Sue _____ advised that she had owned property here, and had just moved in when she received a weed notice.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that absentee property owners are still responsible for keeping their grass cut and for the actions of their lawn care service.

There being no further business for discussion, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary