

MINUTES

The Crisfield Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio & Gallery.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor  
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice -President  
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman  
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman  
Jimmy Ford, Councilman  
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., City Manager  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer  
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; Dennis Parkinson, Jr., Superintendent of Public Utilities; David Barone; Matt Tomlins; Bill Landon; Phil Riggins; Terri Baker; Shannon Evans; Jeannie Thomas; Newell Volk; Darlene Pursley Gregg; George D. Tawes; Erik Emely; Richard Crumbacker; Daniel & Amy Somers and family

Absent; Councilwoman Gail Lankford

LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS

Mayor Dize presented Certificates of Appreciation to past Housing Authority Board members Jeannie Thomas and Daniel Somers. Absent was Matt Sneade.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, noting the recent water main break and the good work done by Public Utilities and Public Works.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READER

<sup>st</sup>  
1 Reader – An Ordinance of the City of Crisfield Amending Section 112-20 of the Crisfield City Code, Entitled “Definition of Terms”, to Add Certain Defined Terms in Connection with the Amendment to Chapter 112 Adding Section 112-71.1; Amending Section 112-56 of the Crisfield City Code, Entitled “Table of Permitted Uses:, for the Purpose of Establishing A Campground May be Permitted by the City of Crisfield Board of Zoning Appeals As a Special Exception for the Use of Property Zoned “TM Tourist-Maritime District”.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the proposed Ordinance, noting that this is a new Ordinance for First Reader, as there is one change from the original ordinance previously prepared to permit campgrounds in the TM District as a Permitted Use. Under the revised ordinance, campgrounds will only be permitted as a Special Exception, granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals after a public hearing. Mr. Sullivan then read the Ordinance into record. He noted that the Planning Commission will review site plans and forward their recommendation to the Board of Zoning Appeals for approval. He noted that this is the same Ordinance with the same standards as originally proposed.

After further brief discussion, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for first reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice-President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan noted that a Public Hearing and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader would be held on December 11, 2019.

#### DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

At this time, Mr. Pollitt read a declaration of surplus property, noting that once advertised, the property will remain as surplus until properly disposed. (see attached properties listed in power-point)

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to declare the referenced property as surplus. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES EQUIPMENT

Mr. D. J. Parkinson, Public Utilities Superintendent, reviewed a list of equipment needs, asking specifically for a new piece of equipment that would serve as both water jet and a sewer/storm-drain vacuum. Clerk-treasurer Morgan reviewed four options to address the need, explaining the funding needed for the combined unit.

Mayor Dize noted that he wants the equipment in storage, out of the weather when not in use. Mr. Parkinson advised that it would be covered and a wall put up. He advised that it can be put in the drying bed. Mayor Dize advised that he wants it inside. No action was taken at this time.

#### KAYAK PROPOSAL

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the funding proposal for the kayak launch, described at the last meeting. He reminded everyone that the Park Commission had recommended moving the site for the launch to

the City-owner pier adjacent to Wellington Beach and to split the cost overage from the \$27,500 approved grant between the City treasury and Park Commission reserve funds.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to re-apply for the kayak launch grant and split the additional cost of \$9,000 50/50 with the Park Commission. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried 3-0 with abstention from Council Vice-President Johnson, who is a Park Commission member.

#### PROPERTY DONATION – SOMMERS FAMILY GRAVESITE

Mr. Pollitt presented pictures of the Sommers Family grave-site located off Norris Harbor Drive across from Somers Cove Marina, proposed to be donated by the out-of-town owner to the City. Mr. Pollitt advised that the City would acquire, preserve and maintain the property which contains several graves of the Sommers Family, the earliest settlers of what became the City of Crisfield. Mr. George Tawes, caretaker of the property and descendent of the Sommers family, advised that he would love to see this done. Mr. Pollitt also made reference to obtaining a grant for cemetery restoration. He suggested a motion would be in order accepting the gift of the property in return for the City conducting an appraisal of the property and providing an acknowledgement of the value of the gift to the donor for his tax purposes.

After a brief discussion, it was decided by the Mayor and Council that the matter would be tabled until more information was obtained concerning the property lines.

#### MAYOR APPOINTMENT TO MARINA COMMISSION

Mayor Dize noted that he had received a letter from the Tom Schisler, Marina Director, requesting that Mr. David Mason continue as a member of the Marina Commission. Under his authority as Mayor, he has agreed to re-appoint Mr. Mason to a new term.

Council endorsement was so moved by Councilman Sheppard, seconded by Council Vice-President Johnson, and carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Phil Riggins apologized for his phone going off during the meeting. He noted that there may be local money available for the cemetery. In reference to the Campground Ordinance, he noted that the Legion sites are affected. He noted that acreage will govern whether or not they are permitted, and it is a two-step process. Campers will not remain there permanently. He noted that the Legion will apply and comply with the process.

Erik Emely noted that the Crisfield Fire Department is still not handicapped compliant as they do not have an elevator. He commented that the kayak launch is great, but there is still no place for indoor soccer or basketball.

Attorney Robert Benson noted that he appreciates the Mayor and Council changing the Campground Ordinance and asked if the previous Ordinance would be voted down. Mr. Sullivan advised that if that Ordinance is not passed within 60 days, it dies. He noted that the previous Ordinance could not be amended as two public hearing notices are required.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ford, Councilwoman Ward, and Councilman Sheppard advised that they had no comments.

Council Vice President Johnson wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. She stated that she hopes to see everyone at the December meeting and made reference to having a Main Street Commission.

She also noted, in light of comments that had been made, that the Main Street Maryland Group meeting was held at the only time available. Mayor Dize noted that the meeting was held at the group's discretion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Council Vice-President Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

