

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:10 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall following a Public Hearing held at 6:00 p.m. concerning the Golf Cart Ordinance.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker

INVOCATION

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of October 26, 2017. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott with abstention by Councilman Konapelsky, who was not present at that meeting. Motion carried.

Council Vice President Johnson announced the winners of the Halloween Decoration contest; First Place – Mike Headley – Commercial, for decorating the entrance of the town and Katie Smart and family, for decorating their home on Myrtle Street, and honorable mentions to Harvey Linton, Wanda Marshall, Dawn Harris and Fredia Douglas.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report. He also presented Chief Tabor with two blue candles to be placed in the Police Department windows this Christmas Season for Project Blue Light, which honors fallen law enforcement officers.

Chief Tabor described a lifetime facing mortal danger as a police officer and advised that this was the first time he had felt appreciated for the risks involved in police work and thanked Mr. Pollitt for his recognition.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she appreciates the department and everyone does a wonderful job.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he has the deepest respect for the police department and advised he will also be putting blue lights in his windows.

Councilwoman Ward advised that she also appreciates the department's work adding that there is danger that can be faced here as well as any other town.

Councilman Konapelsky also thanked the dispatchers for the work that they do.

Councilman Emely welcomed new officer Edward Vogt on board.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the monthly report and the Housing Authority report, noting that there was no more crime there than in the rest of the City.

Councilman Emely noted that he had met with Chief Tabor concerning the need for police protection for ambulance calls outside of the City, citing a recent call where it was needed.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Councilman Emely's concerns are valid and legitimate, but the County needs to offer the protection for those calls.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she does not receive a lot of police complaints, but if she does, she sends them to Chief Tabor. She stated that she was sad that Chief Tabor hadn't felt appreciated until now, with the implementation of Project Blue Light.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson made reference to 2nd Reader of the Golf Cart Ordinance #666. Mr. Sullivan noted that no changes had been made since it was introduced.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve Ordinance #666 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READER – FLASHING SIGN ORDINANCE PER REFERRAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Lawson reviewed the Planning Commission's changes.

A discussion followed concerning the cost of a permit for having "open" signs in windows.

Councilman Emely advised that he is against a fee for an "Open" sign. Councilman Konapelsky

agreed, noting that these small signs can be purchased at Walmart and other retailers, not a large sign company.

Mayor Lawson urged the Council to read the Sign Ordinance. He advised that if the Ordinance was strictly enforced, signs at some businesses would have to come down.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that the original conversation began due to the previous code officer's strict enforcement of the Code.

Mr. Pollitt advised that we need to define "sign". An "Open" sign is not a matter for a fee.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that there should be no fee for an "Open" sign unless it presents a health and safety issue.

Councilwoman Scott advised to exclude "Open" signs.

Mr. Sullivan advised that he would bring the Ordinance back in December and advised the Council to table First Reader for the Ordinance to go back to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Emely made a motion to table First Reader of the Sign Ordinance. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she will get information on the standard sizes of "Open" signs.

REVIEW OF LOT CONSOLIDATION ON HALL HIGHWAY PER PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

At this time, Mayor Lawson recused himself from this portion of the meeting due to a conflict of interest. At this time, Council Vice President Johnson was in charge of the

meeting.

Mr. Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer, advised that there are two lots, owned by Sterlings on Hall Highway, lots 5 and 6 and they would like to consolidate them into one parcel. He advised that lot 5 was not buildable. Mr. Bozman advised that this meets

Critical Area requirements and buffer management does not apply, but the 10% rule does.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the lot consolidation as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A

Councilman Konapelsky noted the Christmas in Crisfield is quickly approaching. He noted that the parking lot downtown would need to be closed the middle of next week.

Councilwoman Scott noted that the Young house on Pine Street had been scheduled for demo. She advised that the Community Legacy grant award is still out.

She also advised that three locations have been cited for garbage cans; the new library, the park gazebo, and by the bus stop at the Crab Place.

Councilman Emely noted that three new cans were found in storage at Public Works.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the status of the demo of Whittington Primary. Councilman Konapelsky advised that the bids have not been done yet, possibly this Tuesday.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the Ryan Johnson Memorial Basketball Tournament will be held on November 26th at Crisfield High School. She advised that benefits will go to the Salvation Army and Help our Children.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that there would be several Christmas activities held on December 10th at this end of the City.

She also advised that she is concerned that the Chief had felt unappreciated.

Councilwoman Ward offered her assistance with anything going on in the City in any way possible.

Councilman Emely advised that he had several matters to address;

1) he advised that he would have a demo of a gas powered golf cart

2) he made reference to surplus property and he made a motion to advertise in the next two weeks, the white GMC dump truck, white Chevrolet pick-up GMC Sonoma, Green Crown Vic and old garbage truck. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Mr. Pollitt must declare it as surplus and suggested a motion to direct Mr. Pollitt to declare the items as surplus at the next meeting, with VIN numbers.

Councilman Emely also advised that he would also like declared as surplus the old Charter building and the lot on Cove Street where the burned house was torn down. He also made reference to property on 7th Street that Marlene Adkins was promised she could purchase according to a letter from Mayor Scott. Mr. Sullivan advised that this property would fall into

an anticipated Overlay District now, due to proximity to the wind turbine.

Mr. Pollitt made reference to the surplus vehicles and advised that we would need to get input from Mr. Bozman first and establish a minimum price. Councilman Emely advised that he would like this done by the next meeting.

Councilwoman Scott inquired who would prepare the list and prices, etc. Mr. Bozman advised he would prepare the list and noted that some are worth at least the salvage price.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about restriction on the 7th Street property. Mr. Pollitt advised that we would be getting some information from the Department of Planning concerning the Wind Turbine overlay.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Council that the lots were acquired for the turbine property.

Councilwoman Scott requested that Mr. Pollitt determine if the property is in the overlay.

Mr. Pollitt noted that if the City has no plan to dispose of the property, there is no discussion.

Councilman Konapelsky advised on backing off of this discussion, until the research of the overlay.

Councilman Emely advised that Ms. Adkins should be advised about the restriction.

Councilman Emely made reference to the implementation of the Drug Testing policy for employees and inquired if there had been a meeting advising employees of the policy.

He noted that hours had been spent on preparing and reviewing the policy.

Councilman Konapelsky noted that at the County, there is a policy in place if any issues occur.

Mr. Sullivan noted that we just have to notify employees.

Mayor Lawson advised that we also need to select a medical administrator and that that was the reason the policy had never been implemented.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that he does not want Dr. Atkins doing the testing.

Councilman Emely suggested using "Your Doc's In".

Councilman Konapelsky suggested sending employees a letter about the policy.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like an answer at the December meeting.

Councilwoman Scott and Council Vice President Johnson concurred to use McCready Hospital as the drug testing facility.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that she thought the policy went into effect after the last draft.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the City must notify employees that the policy was in place. He advised that he feels individuals should be notified directly through a meeting with employees.

Mr. Pollitt advised that this would be done.

Councilman Emely addressed Mr. Pollitt concerning the Kayak launch. Mr. Pollitt advised that Mayor Lawson has the contact.

Councilman Emely advised that Mr. Dean Goldsborough is ready to work with the City.

Councilman Emely advised that he would meet with Mr. Goldsborough and Councilman Konapelsky by the next meeting.

Councilman Emely also made reference to having a Take Home Vehicle Policy to know who uses them and where they are allowed to go.

Councilman Emely made reference to complaints about abandoned vehicles on City lots being addressed by complaint only and commented that there are many untagged vehicles in Crisfield. Mr. Pollitt advised that he would have Mr. Bozman do what the Council directs.

Councilman Emely commented that there is one in plain sight.

Councilman Emely commented that there has been 90 days since the meeting with GCAC and inquired about the status of the Ethics review.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the review has not happened and he has not heard from the Counsel that will be conducting the review.

Councilman Emely advised that he wants a work session scheduled with GCAC.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that there will be a meeting after the Ethics recommendation. Mr. Pollitt also noted that he had spoken with the attorney, but had not heard back.

Councilman Emely also advised that he would like to proceed with completing the rules concerning the use of the Depot.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that this depends on what happens with the Green Space.

He requested an email concerning the matter to do a work session in January.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the depot rules could be passed by Resolution.

Councilman Emely requested a report from Mr. Pollitt concerning his first year here and plans

for his accomplishments for his second year.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he is working on this report and plans to have it out before Thanksgiving.

Councilman Emely advised that he wanted the report. Mr. Sullivan suggested having a closed meeting.

Mayor Lawson noted that he had asked for a Council Evaluation on Mr. Pollitt and had only received one from Council Vice President Johnson and Councilwoman Scott, who had given Mr. Pollitt an "excellent" rating.

Councilman Emely noted that this was not an evaluation; it was a plan for the City.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that Mr. Pollitt said he would have the report before Thanksgiving.

Councilman Emely also commented that the Mayor had gone to Billy Wroten concerning some electrical work for the City, but told Mr. Wroten not to tell Councilman Emely.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she was aware, because she mentioned to the Mayor about their check.

ADJOURNMENT

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 8:12 p.m.

MC11916

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary