

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 13, 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  
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., City Manager  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer  
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Malory Serman & children; Richard Crumbacker; Sarah Rayne; Matt Heim; Peck & Patti Miller; Donnie & Betsy Drewer; Frances Martinez Myer; Hitesh Patel; Tom Ausherman; Erik Emely; Eddie & Sue Heath; Steve Flaherty; Jay Tawes; Charlotte Scott; Jeff Schoelkopf; Carolyn Neal; Sue Ransom; George Friedley; Bill Brown; Jack Tawes and Darlene Taylor

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

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meetings. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 5-0.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO MALORY SERMAN FOR HER HUSBAND, PFC. CHARLES SERMAN – CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

At this time, Mayor Dize presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Malory Serman for her husband, PFC Charles Serman, for assisting with patient care on January 1, 2019. Mayor Dize read a letter from a member of the Lower Eastern Shore Ambulance Squad commending Pfc. Serman for assisting with two ambulance calls.

He also requested prayers for the Serman family, as he is currently deployed in Kuwait.

BID AWARD – RMC GRANT PROJECT FOR SEWER LINE EVALUATION AND REPAIR

Mr. Pollitt advised that two bids were received for this project and were opened at the Salisbury office of Davis, Bowen and Friedel, on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

Mr. Jason Loar, City Engineer, advised that he is recommending Clark Environmental Services in the amount of \$124,860. He noted that they carried out a similar project previously and are familiar with the job.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to accept the bid from Clark Environmental Services. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

CRISFIELD ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT – USE OF CORBIN LIBRARY

Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider, reviewed a power point presentation of a summary of the draft CAED Memorandum of Understanding for the Corbin Library.

She noted that the west wing will be used for City meetings, and the east wing will be for A & E use and events and office space. She also noted that the arts show will be held there May 17 and 18.

Mr. Pollitt noted that volunteers have been cleaning up the library.

Mayor Dize advised that the City hopes to begin holding meetings there in three or four months so we can renovate the meeting room in City Hall for use as city offices.

MATT HEIM FROM OCEANA, RE: SEISMIC TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC

Mr. Heim appeared before the Mayor and City Council concerning the campaign against Seismic testing in the Atlantic which is a threat to the Chesapeake Bay for oil spills and extreme loud repetitive noise caused by a seismic airgun. This causes a 64% reduction in plankton mass, an 80% reduction in commercial fishery catch and has affected 100,000 marine mammals. He noted that this information is not public. Mr. Heim also made reference to the potential for oil spills, which are inevitable, and possible deaths, due to oil rigs and drilling. Mr. Heim asked for a Resolution from the City in opposition to the drilling and seismic testing.

GCAC – RE: UPDATE ON HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER

Mr. Donnie Drewer, vice-president of the Greater Crisfield Action Coalition, made reference to the meeting on January 4, 2019 when a proposal was addressed for a hotel/conference center and park in the downtown area of Crisfield. He presented Mr. Peck Miller, an Ocean City-based architect/developer, who made reference to the distressed properties in Crisfield and presented a proposal for the redesign of downtown Crisfield. Mr. Miller advised that GCAC hopes to receive State

funding for continued planning and design work through a grant and asked for the City's blessing to move forward with the grant application.

Councilman Sheppard inquired about the time frame for the project. Mr. Miller advised that they are planning on being done three springs from now, and will go to settlement on the properties on October 31<sup>st</sup>. He advised that he would like the State to be paying; GCAC just needs the City of Crisfield's backing on the grant application. Mr. Drewer emphasized that they cannot do the project without the City of Crisfield.

Mr. Jay Tawes commented that he did a lot of research on Peck Miller, and found that he is successful with impeccable credentials.

#### FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mayor Dize noted that Public Input is to hear public comments of no more than 1-2 minutes, and no off the cuff answer will be given at that time. If a person wants an issue to be addressed, they should call or come to City Hall for help or to request to be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda.

Erik Emely commented about the holes on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in front of Captain Tyler's. He also advised that the flood zone signs downtown need to be taken down and also commented that the Council should have voted on the GCAC presentation of Peck Miller.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report, highlighting its contents. (see attached on Power Point)

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS

An Ordinance to amend Section 112-56 to add Accessory Dwelling Units as a permitted use of property within C-1 zoning district to be included in the table of permitted uses as "PC", and also amending Section 112-57 to add a new subsection establishing supplemental use regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units located on property zoned C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District.

Mr. Sullivan presented an Ordinance for First Reader to amend Section 112-55, 112-54 and 112-57 of the Zoning Code in the C-1 District.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

At this time, Councilwoman Lankford made a motion that the City Council consider the grant application to the State of Maryland for GCAC. She inquired about the name of the grant entity. Mr. Miller advised that he did not have the name of the entity or even which grant program would be applied to at this time. Councilwoman Lankford then withdrew her motion.

Councilman Sheppard inquired what GCAC was looking for today. Mr. Pollitt advised that Mr. Drewer's request was to make the presentation for information on the Hotel/Conference Center, not ask for a motion for support of the grant application.

Mr. Miller asked that the Mayor and Council consider the grant request when he gets the information concerning the entity for the application.

#### FINAL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Mr. Hitesh Patel commented on several items; 1) he is not a terrorist, 2) his businesses have never been exempted from taxes in the 19 years they have been here, 3) there have been negative comments about the Somers Cove Motel on Facebook, and 4) he is not against GCAC's ideas.

Mr. Patel advised that he is the owner of Big Willey's and the Somers Cove Motel. He commented that since the condos were built, taxes have gone up, property values have gone up, and people can barely afford to pay their taxes. He advised that he has paid \$70K on the Motel and \$66K on Big Willeys. He noted that there is land behind the Motel that can be used to construct a conference center, and offered to manage it for free. Mr. Patel commented that we first need to be concerned with fixing roads and flooding.

Mr. George Friedley suggested constructing a moat around the City with flood gates.

Mr. Richard Crumbacker inquired if there will still be a library included in the Corbin Library. Mayor Dize advised that it is provided in the draft MOU.

#### MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Lankford thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Councilman Sheppard commented that he is glad to see the turnout.

Council Vice President Johnson also commented that she is glad people came out. She thanked GCAC for their presentation and noted that she was familiar with Peck Miller's reputation.

She also noted that she had received comments about people wanting answers to questions and urged them to contact City Hall.

Councilwoman Ward thanked those in attendance and noted that GCAC has a good plan.

Councilman Ford commented that this has been an informative meeting.

Mayor Dize thanked GCAC for their presentation. He commented that we all love the City and that the Mayor and Council are charged with doing the right thing for the City. He commented that there are no spontaneous decisions and we will get back with them (GCAC).

Mayor Dize advised that the opioid basketball benefit games at the High School will be held in May. He noted that they will need food donations and there will be a donation box at the door. Mayor Dize advised that public works will be cleaning up the gym and there will be different games held.

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to adopt a proclamation at the next meeting for “Adopt Your Neighbor Day” encouraging everyone to check on their neighbor.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

So moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilman Sheppard, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary