

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 27, 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
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker, City Solicitor; Paul Scott; Scott Laravea; Paul D' Agnese; Bruce Stasi; Carol Heck; Sarah Rayne; Jennifer Mrohs; Robert Mrohs; Annabelle Mrohs; Erik Emely; Eric Banks; Sue Ransom; Dave Brown; George Friedley.

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DIZE; 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

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of February 13, 2019 as written. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

Mayor Dize noted that Councilwoman Lankford was absent from the meeting, as she was traveling.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT TO ANABELLE ELIZABETH MROHS

Mayor Dize presented a Certificate of Achievement to Ms. Jennifer Mrohs, from the Mayor and City Council, in recognition of her outstanding achievements during her school career.

PRESENTATION – BREAKERS ON THE CHESAPEAKE R.V. RESORT AND MARINA CONCEPT PLANS

Mr. Pollitt introduced the owners of the Tangier Sound property; Paul Scott and Scott Laravea. He noted that their proposal for an upscale RV resort would require some zoning ordinance text changes that would be addressed by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Laravea advised that he wanted to start the discussion concerning upscale RV resorts and presented a diagram of the proposed layout of the resort which would be used by Class A RV's.

Councilman Sheppard inquired about the number of spaces. Mr. Laravea advised that there would be spaces from the mid to low 60's with water/sewer and electrical connections to each site.

Councilman Ford commented that he had the understanding, according to the Coast Guard, that the marina could not be dredged out for use. Mr. Laravea advised that the marina can be used, but would look into Councilman Ford's concern.

Councilman Sheppard inquired if the marina would be exclusive to the RV resort. Mr. Laravea advised that it is intended for the resort.

Mr. Pollitt requested that Mr. Laravea explain what a Class A RV is. Mr. Laravea advised that this is a larger unit, either pulled or driven, approximately 35 feet long.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the next step would be for them to go before the Planning Commission. He advised the gentlemen to reach out to Mr. Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Laravea advised that they would need to incorporate the use into the Tourist Maritime zoning district.

Mr. Scott advised that he feels this would be great for Crisfield. He also noted that there would be strict covenants that regulate the resort.

After further brief discussion, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to refer the proposal to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

FIRST SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

Sarah Rayne, Coastal Association of Realtors, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of adopting a Resolution against Seismic Testing.

George Friedley made reference to rocks in his water system on the hot water side, and presented some of what he had collected.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report, highlighting its contents (attached in power point).

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING

Per the presentation and request from Matt Heim of Oceana at the last meeting, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of the Opposition to Offshore Seismic Testing and drilling. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 4-0.

MOU CORBIN LIBRARY

Mrs. Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider, reviewed the changes in the MOU for the Corbin Library, and advised that it is ready for signatures.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the MOU between the City of Crisfield and the Arts & Entertainment District, for use of the Corbin Library. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

PROCLAMATION – ADOPT A NEIGHBOR

Mayor Dize noted the importance of checking on neighbors that may not have anyone else to look in on them, and read the Proclamation aloud, urging that people practice this all year long.

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adopt the Proclamation. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0.

AUTHORIZATION OF MAYOR'S SIGNATURE ON THE COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENT FOR \$100,000 IN BUSINESS FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Mrs. Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider, reviewed details of the grant.

Councilman Sheppard inquired if the applicant has to have a contractor or can they do the work themselves. Mr. Sullivan advised that they would have to carry Builders Risk Insurance.

Mrs. Merritt noted that Mr. Sullivan would be reviewing the application documents.

Mr. Pollitt commented that this grant provides a tremendous opportunity to address vacant buildings and put us back on the right foot in the business district. Mrs. Merritt also noted that we can apply several times for this grant. She also noted that there is no cash match required.

Mr. Sullivan also advised that 50% of the \$100K must be spent within one year of the acceptance date, and noted that he had been concerned that Exhibit C showed that the start date was January 2019, but DHCD will not hold Crisfield in default of the Grant Agreement for failing to complete the first activity by January 31, 2019 due to a lengthy delay in grant approval at the State level.

Council Vice President Johnson thanked Mrs. Merritt for her hard work on this grant.

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion authorizing the Mayor's signature on the Community Legacy Grant Agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

FINAL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Erik Emely commented that the A & E District is great, but he feels the City needs to address having a facility for our youth since the Armory can't be used and the Community Center is too small.

George Friedley inquired about businesses in the 100 year flood plain.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Sheppard advised that he agrees with Erik Emely about needing an area for youth.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the City recognizing Black History month. She advised that she had wanted to recognize African American First Responders, but couldn't find a way to do this without missing someone. She also commented that this had been a good meeting.

Councilwoman Ward commented that there is a lot to be done and we need to look at the whole picture.

Councilman Ford thanked Erik Emely for his comments concerning our youth. He asked for ideas and stated that he would do what he could.

Mayor Dize made reference to the Armory and advised that he would not risk the health of our children by putting them in an unsafe and moldy building.

Mayor Dize noted that there is still no date for the Opioid Awareness Benefit Basketball tournament. In reference to Black History Month, he commented that there was no better

representation than the three African American Women who are currently members of the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary