

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 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 (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent; Councilwoman Gale Lankford

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift; Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Jason Loar; Jody & Kevin Soukup; Frankie Pruitt; Charles Cavanaugh; Erik Emely; Brandon Austin; Erin Walbert; David Smart; Katy Smart; Rhonda Hill; Bernice Evans; Kyle Noll; Jordan Lankford; Wendy & Rich Noll; Tammy Hunt; Robert Hunt; Tyler Manchin; Lonnie Luedtke; J.P. Parkinson; Mark Hoover; Rick Taylor; Dennis Taylor; Tyler Gillespie and William Taylor.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order 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 the last meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 3-0 (Councilwoman Ward had not yet arrived).

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No public input was offered.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICER – TYLER MANCHIN

Mayor Dize introduced the City's new police officer – Tyler Manchin.

APPOINTMENT

CRISFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT – REQUEST PERMISSION TO PLACE A GARAGE ON CITY PROPERTY TO HOUSE OLD STEAM ENGINE

Crisfield Fire Department members Erik Emely, Charles Cavanaugh and Keith Ward, appeared before the Mayor and Council. Mr. Emely read CFD Performance Stats, suggesting they may be one of the best departments in the State. He also reviewed the proposed plans for the garage and price information. He asked the Mayor and Council for permission to allow the Fire Department to place a garage on a portion of City property adjacent to the Crisfield Fire House.

Mr. Cavanaugh indicated the building would straddle the property line the City shares with the fire department.

Mr. Emely advised that the Department would be holding a \$60,000 mailer fundraiser and also asked for a donation from the City, noting that the Department still needs an elevator.

Mr. Cavanaugh advised that the number one focus is to display the antique steamer-engine that was used to help fight the Great Salisbury Fire in the late 19th Century. Mr. Ward noted that other historical pieces would also be displayed. Mr. Emely advised that steamer will be displayed in the first bay facing the road.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Mayor can direct him to prepare a two page agreement and no action is necessary at this meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ATHLETE, KYLE NOLL

Mayor Dize presented Crisfield High School student Kyle Noll, a Certificate of Achievement for accomplishments in Hurdles, Track, and Academics. Mr. Pollitt read the Certificate aloud.

UPDATE ON CARVEL HALL PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

Dr. Kristi Shaw, on behalf of Bright Spot Energy, formerly Spangler Strategic Advisors, LLC, presented and reviewed a Power Point presentation updating the status of the Carvel Hall property, and Brownfield Remediation plans. Council Vice President Johnson commented that she had been concerned about the handling of the pond.

Following the presentation, Dr. Shaw requested a 12-month extension on the existing Option to Purchase Agreement to March of 2020.

Mr. Pollitt commented that last year the community showed interest in the building with concerns about it being used for a poultry waste-to-energy facility. He advised that it will not be used as this type

of facility, but the Spangler team still believes the property has potential, and there has been no other interest expressed in the property over the past year. Mr. Pollitt noted that the building has been approved by the State for environmental safety, but the soil must be tested in the event of any disturbance to the grounds. Dr. Shaw's information suggested the environmental remediation could cost \$1.5 million or more.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He noted that the mystery water leak on 7th Street has finally been solved, as a leak was found on an abandoned water line, most likely caused by an excavation project performed by the State in the summer of 2018. He also noted that the hole in the street at the depot will soon be repaired.

Mr. Jason Loar, City Engineer, provided an update on the current sewer project involving television inspection and repairs for designated sewer lines. He advised that there had been no major issues found, but there is still no accounting for the reason for the sewage overflows at the intersection of Chesapeake and Somerset Avenues.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO EXTEND THE CARVEL HALL "OPTION TO PURCHASE" FOR AN ADDITIONAL 12 MONTHS

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the 2nd Amendment to the Option to Purchase for an additional 12 months. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES – YEARS OF SERVICE

Mayor Dize presented years of service plaques to Joyce Morgan; Valerie Swift; James Parkinson; Bernice Evans; Robert Hunt; Rhonda Daum; Mike Cannon and certificates to Chief Mike Tabor (absent due to illness) Lonnie Luedtke; Katy Smart; Rick Taylor; Rick Lord (absent) Jody Soukup; Kent Schadler, Nicole Dodson (both absent); and Mark Hoover.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ford commented that it was nice to see everyone in attendance.

Councilwoman Ward had no comments.

Council Vice President Johnson also thanked those in attendance.

Mayor Dize noted that after almost one year of service, the Mayor and the new City Council had accomplished a lot, though some things could not be physically seen. He reaffirmed his pledge that

there would be no chicken manure processing plant coming to the Carvel Hall building, noting that the extension is not about that, but also that the City has to move Carvel Hall forward.

Mayor Dize noted that he had spent some time in Annapolis recently. He advised that City government is the elected body of the City and will dictate the direction which the City goes. Mayor Dize noted that the City will take help and give help, but there will be no last minute, spur of the moment requests granted. He advised that City government is working for the citizens, but there will be no 11th hour miracles, insisting that prospective projects must start at City Hall.

Councilman Sheppard commented that he feels the City is on a positive roll and is building momentum.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the basketball tournament to benefit Opioid Awareness has been scheduled for May 18th at Crisfield High School. Mayor Dize added that there will be an old-timers game as well, but the focus is entirely on the purpose of the event with all money going toward the Opioid Awareness program.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he has contacted the Health Department and is working with them on how to structure the money received. Mayor Dize added that he would like to see all of the money stay in Crisfield.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

There being no further discussion in the regular session, Councilman Sheppard made a motion as per Subsection 3-305(b)(1)(i) & (7) of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland, to adjourn into a closed session. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary