

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 10, 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

Absent; Councilwoman Gail Rayfield; Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Administrator; Lt. Rick Taylor; Jimmy Charles, Public Works Director; D.J. Parkinson, Public Works Supervisor; Richard Crumbaker; Bill Brown; Paul Hanyok; Arnold Ajello; Sara Rayne and Cameron Drew, Coastal Association of Realtors.

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DIZE, OPENING PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mayor Dize requested approval of the Minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular and Closed Meetings of March 27, 2019. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

APPOINTMENT – SARA RAYNE, COASTAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS – STATUS OF THE CRISFIELD REAL ESTATE MARKET

Sara Rayne and Cameron Drew, Coastal Association of Realtors, reviewed a power point presentation pertaining to the Real Estate Market status in the City of Crisfield.

FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No public input was offered at this time.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, reviewed the quarterly financial report by department, noting expenses and grant funds. She advised that the next Budget Workshop meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24th at 5:00 P.M.

Lt. Rick Taylor reviewed the Police Departments quarterly report, highlighting its contents. He noted that Chief Tabor was on vacation.

Council Vice President Johnson commented about the upcoming Opioid Basketball Benefit Tournament on May 18th at CHS and advised that Crisfield Police Department versus the Somerset County Sherriff's Department. She advised that admission is \$5.00.

Mayor Dize noted that all proceeds will go toward Opioid Awareness.

Dean Bozman, Codes Administrator, reviewed and highlighted the Building Permit report.

Jimmy Charles, Public Works Director, reviewed and highlighted activities in the Public Works Department.

Councilman Sheppard made reference to a traffic cone in a hole on North 1st Street, where a drain cover is broken. Mr. Charles advised that he would look into the matter.

Dennis Parkinson, Jr., Public Utilities Director, reviewed the Public Utilities Department report and presented pictures of items pulled out of the by-pass pump, including rags and a mop head. He advised that he is waiting for notification from Davis, Bowen, and Friedel, and the State, about removing the pump on Somerset Avenue. He noted that the CCTV job is doing what it is supposed to. Mayor Dize advised not to remove the pump until notified. Council Vice President Johnson advised that she had heard Mr. Parkinson was doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Pollitt noted that the pump on Somerset was requested by Mr. Randy Denny, MDE. He advised that Public Utilities is also working under the license of Mr. Earl Ludy, of the Somerset County Sanitary District. Mr. Pollitt noted that Mr. Parkinson is close to getting his water and sewer operator's license, and new hires are required to commit to obtaining those licenses.

Mr. Pollitt advised that there was an issue on Somerset Avenue involving raw sewage and the State has the ultimate word on when to remove the pump. He also noted that the State could have implemented fines concerning the matter, but has worked well with the City.

Mayor Dize advised that in the future, the City will make sure we have licensed workers to be covered.

Mr. Parkinson advised that he hopes to have his license in 6 months, after taking his test at the end of April.

Mrs. Morgan suggested that Mr. Crumbacker do a story on items that were found in the bypass pump.

Mr. Rick Pollitt, City Manager, presented his bi-weekly report. He made reference to an upcoming meeting with a member of the Governor's cabinet and staff, scheduled for next Tuesday, and noted that this may have to be postponed due to funeral services for Speaker of the House of Delegates Mike Busch. Mr. Pollitt also advised that he would like to attend the funeral out of respect for the late Speaker's support for Crisfield and Somerset County. The Mayor and Council gave a nod to Mr. Pollitt to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 112 NEW SECTION 112-71.1 RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS- FOR FIRST READER

Mr. Pollitt advised that this Ordinance was recommended by the Planning Commission to restore a land use previously permitted by the City's zoning code but which was inadvertently omitted from the recent zoning ordinance update.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the Planning Commission recommended the Ordinance to restore RV Parks as a use of land in the Tourist Maritime zoning district, with developmental criteria as part of the subdivision process. He advised that the 2nd reader of this Ordinance would be held during the first meeting in May with a Public Hearing scheduled for the same time. Mr. Pollitt noted that this Ordinance has nothing to do with any specific project that has been discussed.

He advised that any potential developer will then have to come in and start from the beginning of the process.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

FINAL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Paul Hanyok asked Mr. Bozman for a summary of his meeting with the RV Park Developers. Mayor Dize noted that our rules only provide an opportunity for the public to comment on City matters but that no responses are given in this setting. Instead, he advised Mr. Hanyok to contact Code Enforcement Officer Bozman after the meeting.

Rick Taylor commented about the atrocious condition of the road on Minden Avenue. Mayor Dize advised that he would get back with him concerning the matter.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ford had no comments.

Councilwoman Ward commented that she appreciates all that is being done in the City.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the Mayor and Council have discussed working on the street list.

Mayor Dize commented that the City will be lucky to pave one street with the HUR money that we receive.

Councilman Sheppard commented on the sewer projects.

Mayor Dize commented that Mr. Ken Holt, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, is interested in the ways the State can assist the City meet its needs and priorities. He stated that comments are made about what the City needs; restaurants, hotels, etc., but we have a tight budget and rely on grant funding. Mayor Dize advised that we need to focus first on improving the services that we have, before adding in other business, etc., that need those services. Mayor Dize went on to say that we need to get to the level that we can handle what we have.

Mayor Dize noted that he is not there for publicity; he and the Council are working hard to make things happen.

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to get the Armory operational for various events, and noted that he would like there to be a place for Basketball Coach Andre Collins to offer basketball camps, but there is no suitable location for him.

Mayor Dize advised that he wants to help all of our citizens and residents and closed by saying that as elected officials, the Mayor and City Council will decide the direction that the City will go.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary