

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

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

Absent due to illness; Councilwoman Charlotte Scott

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Jennifer Rafter; Randy Laird; John & Jenny Tawes; Rev. Jim Riley; Jamie Byrd; Billy Colona; Mike Cross; Bill & Robin Ryan.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to accept the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Lawson presented the minutes from the special meeting of March 29, 2017. Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried

unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Lawson presented the minutes from the regular meeting of April 12, 2017. Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT – 1ST SESSION

Mayor Lawson noted that noted that no answer is given, just a two minute comment period.

Commissioner Randy Laird made reference to receiving water calls regarding the Old State Road water line. He advised that residents can't get a well because of the existing line, or get the existing water line fixed and he asked for help from the City in order to get grant money.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. Mr. Pollitt noted the loss of Captain Ed Charnock of Tangier, due to his boat sinking, and the loss of Governor Hogan's father. He noted there were cards on the table to be signed for each of them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – AWARD OF BID FOR GREENSPACE PROJECT

Mr. Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer, noted that bids were opened last Wednesday and two bids were received;

1) Nanticoke Masonary - \$267K and 2) Ken Build Construction - \$122,650. He advised that Davis, Bowen and Friedel are satisfied, and recommend the low bidder.

Councilman Emely commented that there is over \$100K difference between bids.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the money sources for the project; \$73K Green Space money, \$12K Hurricane Sandy money, \$31K landscape mitigation money, and \$60,500 – sidewalk project money.

He also made reference to selling memorial benches and financing picnic tables.

Mayor Lawson recommended that Council accept the low bid.

Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the bid from Ken Build in the amount of \$122,650. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously 4-0.

Mayor Lawson advised that the target completion date is June 15th, adding that we need to use the grant funding or we will lose it.

Mayor Lawson thanked Mr. Bozman for his hard work.

Ms. Jennifer Rafter, Circuit Rider, briefed the Mayor and Council concerning the results of the public meeting and meeting with the County Commissioners concerning the Arts and Entertainment District.

Mr. Pollitt briefed on the process to become an A. & E. District, noting that they are assets to the districts where they exist. He noted that 40 people attended the meeting in Crisfield and the presentation was met with good reception at the County.

Ms. Rafter noted that a state A & E representative will be here on May 24th.

Mayor Lawson noted that Ms. Rafter and Mr. Pollitt did an admirable job on the presentation.

He made reference to giving up taxes, but growing the district.

Ms. Rafter noted that in the most recent A & E statistics from 2014, no one claimed the property tax credit.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired about the number of properties that would be affected.

Ms. Rafter advised that it would be 23 total.

Mayor Lawson noted that he appreciates Ms. Rafter's stimulus on getting work done.

NEW BUSINESS – EVENT APPLICATIONS

SOFT SHELL FESTIVAL & CRISFIELD WELLINGTON BEACH SEASON OPENING

After review of the Event Applications, Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the Soft Shell Fair. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the Wellington Beach Opening. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Crisfield Community Beach to Bay Conservation is doing beautification and modernization at the beach, and welcomes donations.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the safety equipment that was purchased with grant money for the piers. He advised that at Brick Kiln, the fire extinguisher had been stolen and the life ring vandalized, which is very frustrating.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A AND DISCUSSIONS

Councilman Konapelsky commented that the beach is used all of the time and urged people to report any vandalism, as it a community beach.

Council Vice President Johnson agreed with Councilman Konapelsky. She stated that we have a nice beach that took a lot of early effort from Councilman Konapelsky and Ms. Billie Joe Chandler.

Councilwoman Ward noted that many things have been done by the City Council, but there is more to do and we must work together. She stated that she applauds Mayor Lawson and Mr. Pollitt for the work they do.

Councilman Emely inquired if Carvel Hall is now out of the City's hands. Mr. Sullivan advised that it is now being leased by Phoenix Solar, and the Option Agreement is in effect beginning March 29th. He advised that Spangler must exercise their option by March 28, 2018. Once they exercise their option to purchase, we will turn over the keys.

Councilman Emely inquired if the City still cuts the grass. Mr. Sullivan advised that Phoenix Solar is to cover the cost. He noted that with an Option to Purchase, Spangler doesn't have to maintain the property.

Councilman Emely made reference to repairs to the downtown parking lot. Mayor Lawson advised that the City has done nothing to move forward in light of construction to the adjacent building.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of taxes at the Customs House.

Mayor Lawson advised that it is still in Mr. Tawes' hands and has to be moved into the hands of a non-profit.

Councilman Emely thanked everyone for touring the fire department on Monday. He also noted that \$3,000 of equipment had been stolen off of the fire boat and also advised that the American Legion and Elks will be paying for re-purchase of the equipment.

Councilman Emely made reference to paving Hammock Point and a decision to put down Tar & Chip instead. He advised that he is against this, as we promised to pave the road.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she had spoken to the Mayor concerning this matter and asked him to share his response at this time.

Mayor Lawson advised that the cost to blacktop the 30' wide road, per Davis, Bowen and Friedel, would be \$144,000, and the cost to Tar & Chip would be \$20,000, but there are no companies on the Eastern Shore that do this. He advised that there is only \$ 70K in Highway User Revenues left until the City receives the Supplemental HUR in August. Mayor Lawson advised that this is not at a point of discussion for recommendation.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the fire department is also a priority.

Mayor Lawson noted that Anderson Fence moved the fence on 7th Street for open space at the turbine at a cost of \$6,000 paid for by Davis, Bowen and Friedel.

Mayor Lawson made reference to email concerning the Constant Yield Tax. He advised that the Council must decide on figures for the next fiscal year, to make the budget. He noted that decisions need to be made before moving forward.

Mayor Lawson made reference to Councilman Emely's impatience concerning projects to help

citizens, but hard dollar decisions must be made and there is a need to do a lot of other projects.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the need to demolish derelict properties, but there is no line-item in the budget for demo, and he noted that many more houses were abandoned this winter as can be seen by the un-cut grass.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Community Parks and Playground grant to do the 1/3 mile walking trail.

He made reference to Mr. Pollitt and Mr. Bozman working on the land for the kayak launch by the wind turbine.

He also commented that a tourist who came in the Chamber had requested municipal bonds.

Councilman Emely stated that he ran for office for the citizens and had received 9 calls today concerning the Old State Road water line. He commented that those residents spend money here and we are all "Crisfielders". He also noted that he didn't know anything about the discussion regarding the Tar & Chip.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she meant to send an email. She noted that she also receives a lot of calls.

She commented that the condition of the fire department is awful, but we don't have the money.

Mr. Pollitt advised the Council to direct calls to him and he will be able to share information.

Councilman Konapelsky advised adding these type of items to the Agenda before it is approved, noting that he won't get sucked into conversation.

Mayor Lawson noted that Circle Inn had been sold. He also commented concerning the new houses on Locust and Pine Streets and the new water/sewer hook-up on Hall Highway and Wynfall Avenue.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Visitor's center is now open and wished good luck to the waterman for their upcoming crabbing season.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the question of "How to fix Main Street".

Mayor Lawson made reference to the demo of Whittington Primary and the need for DP&L to remove the pole from the lot. He also made reference to the chunks of concrete on the lot preventing it from being cut and also being accepted.

Mayor Lawson commented that with his four year term drawing near, there is still a lot of unfinished business he has, as Mayor.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the show-mobile being 50 years old and the condition of the Marina bleachers, all of which cost. He made reference to the needs at the fire department, or if we need a new fire department.

Council Vice President Johnson apologized for the appearance of discord with the Council and suggested a re-wording of Mayor and Council Q & A and discussion. She suggested

addressing problems with Mr. Pollitt and the Mayor before the meeting. She noted that the Council never leaves mad.

Mayor Lawson commented concerning the Old State Road Water line, that no decision has been made, and there is a closed meeting following this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT 2nd SESSION

Billy Colona made reference to the Old State Road water line condition. He advised that he can't get a well because of the water line running in front of his property. He also commented about being strong-armed into annexation.

James Cross urged the Mayor and Council to make a decision on the water line. Mayor Lawson advised Mr. Cross that he would contact him in person to answer his questions. Mr. Cross advised that they need the help of the City.

BID OPENING – COLLINS STREET

Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer opened and read aloud three bids that he had received;

1) Worth Construction - \$7,492.18 – Playground to Dock, \$33,216.29 – Maryland Avenue to

Family Dollar

2) A & A LLC – \$7,960, \$33,520

3) Goldsborough - \$5,500, \$24, 250

After review and discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the bid from

MC42617

Goldsborough. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky read aloud the provision for holding the closed session.

Approval to adjourn the regular meeting, so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Council-

Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Upon completion of business in the Closed Session, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary