

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 24, 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; James Parkinson, Crisfield Police Dept.; Mayor Kim Lawson; Sue & Eddie Heath; Richard Crumbacker; Sam & Mary Frances Davis; Charlotte Scott; Bill Brown; and Terri Baker.

Absent; Gail Lankford, Councilwoman

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

At this time, Mayor Dize requested approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Sheppard made a motion to accept the minutes from the Closed and Regular Meetings of July 10, 2019. Motion seconded by Council Vice-President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He noted that this year's National Night Out has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control.

Mr. Pollitt also highlighted his last paragraph concerning the appointment by the Somerset County Commissioners of four members to the newly-created Crisfield-Somerset County Airport Advisory Board. He noted that the county commissioners had also endorsed Mayor Dize's nomination of former Mayor Kim Lawson to represent the City of Crisfield on the Board. He suggested that, if the Council was so inclined, a motion approving all of the names would be in order. Accordingly, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve the five

recommended nominees for appointment. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward, and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Old Business – 2nd Reader Ordinance #686 Amendment to Section 112-115 of the Crisfield City Code

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Ordinance, permitting electronic signs in the Tourist Maritime Zoning District, was read into record at the June 26th meeting. He noted that there had been no revisions to the Ordinance since that date, and advised that it was presented tonight for adoption as 2nd Reader.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt Ordinance 686 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Public Input

No Public Input was offered.

Mayor and Council Report

Councilman Ford had nothing to report

Councilwoman Ward stated that she wants the City to grow, and was upset from the last meeting, but has overlooked it, since her heart is for Crisfield. She commented that she is not against a hotel/convention center, but we need our infrastructure addressed. Councilwoman Ward commented that sometimes statements are misunderstood, but we can't let it fester and must come together.

Council Vice President Johnson stated that the last meeting was one for the records. She stated that we need to move forward and come together. Council Vice President Johnson stated that she felt that a steering committee should be an objective board, but feels we need to move forward after the results of the current two studies have been received. Council Vice President Johnson commented that she had sat in this chair for 14 years, and has been ridiculed. She stated that she has had many wishes and dreams for the City, such as a new City Hall, paved streets, and a new youth facility. She commented that she was so excited for Darlene Taylor to work with our youth, since years ago, she also worked with them, organizing various activities and trips. She added that after 14 years, there is still no new City Hall, streets aren't paved, and there is no new youth facility, but she still hopes to make a difference. She made reference to Facebook comments about the need for a water park in Crisfield, and asked former Mayor Lawson, who serves as Chairman of the Park Commission, and was sitting in the audience, if he would address waterparks.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the long range plans of the City's park and bridges. He advised that in 2012, the 40' x 70' vacant piece of property at the park was proposed for use as a Splash Park and would be equipped with lights and a lightning arrestor, fresh water, and a non-slip pad. The cost at the time was \$240,000, but the Community Parks and Playgrounds grant application did not make the grade. Mayor Lawson commented that a water park in Crisfield would be huge reach for the City, and noted that a "Go Fund Me" Page would need to be set up so that the City would have some "skin in the game"

when applying for any grant for this type of high dollar project. Mayor Lawson explained to Mary Frances Davis, how a splash park works, versus a water park.

Mrs. Morgan asked Mayor Lawson to address the need for memberships for water parks.

Mayor Lawson commented regarding the process used in Chesapeake City, Maryland. He noted that a feasibility study was done, showing that you must sell at least 50% of the annual amortization in family memberships (\$400/year at that facility); and it was mandatory that no child under the age of 14 be permitted unless accompanied by an adult. He also noted that given their location, there were 2 million people to draw from. Mayor Lawson commented that the infrastructure costs for the Maui Jack's Water Park in Chincoteague were covered by the K.O.A. campground, located at the facility. Council Vice President Johnson thanked Mayor Lawson for addressing the issue.

Councilman Sheppard commented that splash parks are very common in New England states and they are safe for kids and there is no fee. He stated that this is a worthwhile cause and without economic development, we will continue to spiral downward. Councilman Sheppard commented that the Council had worked well together in the beginning, and feels they can come back together and do positive things.

Mayor Dize noted that this is an historic meeting, as it is the last meeting to be held in this meeting room. He advised that the first meeting in August, will be held in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio & Gallery. He noted that the renovation was done at a minimal cost and that a 65" television will replace the screen we are looking at now. Mayor Dize commented that he hopes we can start over anew at the new location.

Adjournment into Closed Session

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn into a Closed Session, reading the section of the State of Maryland Annotated Code relevant to the purpose. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 4-0.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary