

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, in the new meeting chambers at the former Corbin Library (now Corbin Studio & Gallery) at 4 East Main Street.

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

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer; Jimmy Charles, Public Works Supervisor; Tillie Doyle; Kim Lawson; Curt Lafey; Trish Kotzen; Stedman Friedley; William & Linda Slipper; Eric Banks; Buddy Ward; Maurice Magly; Tom Auschain; Richard Crumbacker; Mary & Sam Davis; & Barb & Dan Kuebler; Greg Cain; Charlotte Scott; Erica Johnson and Shawna Kearsley.

Absent; Councilwoman Gail Lankford

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

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm with the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed those in attendance to the new meeting space. He noted that the wall murals were painted by local artist Ms. Robin Daniels and thanked Public Works for doing the painting, cleaning, etc. and City Hall staff for pulling everything together. Mayor Dize noted that the meeting room at City Hall will be used for the expansion of city offices.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dize requested approval of the three sets of minutes from the meetings of July 24, 2019. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilman Sheppard, and carried unanimously 4-0.

RECOGNITION OF BARB AND DAN KUEBLER

Mayor Dize presented Barb and Dan Kuebler a Certificate of Appreciation for the recent improvements to the public restrooms at the Wellington Beach which included the addition of a shower and security cameras, which were installed on behalf of the American Legion. Mayor Dize also presented the Kueblers with two of his Mayoral challenge coins.

Mr. Kuebler accepted the Certificate on behalf of the Legion, noting the 20 year lease the City has had with the Legion, for the beach, in the amount of \$1.00 for the full term. He thanked Mr. Charles for his assistance and noted that there was some difficulty locating the sewer line. Mr. Kuebler noted that a concrete slab was also added as well as the showers. Mr. Kuebler advised that funding for the project, in the amount of \$29,000, came from the Legion's Charity Committee. He advised that the Beach to Bay Committee, which is headed by Mr. Jimmy Charles, was in charge of the painting.

Former Mayor Kim Lawson thanked the Legion for taking down the old fence and putting the new one up.

Mr. Kuebler noted that during one of the Spring school trips to the beach, one of the children commented that the beach was "paradise".

Mr. Kuebler also recognized the veterans in attendance at the meeting and reported on military protocol which encourages all veterans, even when out of uniform, to salute the nation's flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and other patriotic ceremonies.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his monthly report, highlighting its contents. (see attached)

BORROWING ORDINANCE #678

Mrs. Morgan reviewed Borrowing Ordinance #678 – a loan from Hebron Savings Bank in the amount of \$77,000 for the purchase of 1) a 2015 Kubota Tractor, 2) Repair of the roof at the Crisfield Police Department, and 3) repair of the roof at 4 E. Main Street (Corbin Library). Mrs. Morgan advised that this would be adopted as an emergency, due to scheduling issues.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt Ordinance #678 as an emergency ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 4-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Chuck Gaither commented that he is very upset about the four murders and seventy shootings in Crisfield. He commented that you don't hear any follow-up and no witnesses have come forward. He also made reference to people going through and casing neighborhoods to steal. He also commented about the gangs in Crisfield and children joining them. Mr. Gaither stated that we need community involvement and we need to recruit people. He stated that it is the police/human resources fault and suggested applying for grants to place Cop Cams on the street and the new radio tower. He also suggested using University of Maryland Eastern Shore Criminal Justice students to monitor the cameras, before we lose the City to crime.

Mr. Dan Kuebler commented that Mrs. Morgan had requested that cameras be installed at the beach, but there has still been vandalism in the restrooms and on the door.

Mr. Sam Davis inquired as to why last year's Christmas Parade route was not used for the upcoming Crab Derby Parade, stating that it should be routed where businesses are located.

Mr. Buddy Ward, president of the Crisfield Chamber of Commerce, apologized for the change in the parade route. He advised that the decision was influenced by timing, the available routes, and lack of volunteer manpower. He noted that the Chamber is in the process of reviewing the Christmas Parade route and issued a strong request for people to volunteer and get involved in physically supporting these community activities.

Mrs. Mary Frances Davis commented that having the Crab Derby parade on Somerset Avenue is a disturbance to people and their homes.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A, COMMENTS

Councilman Ford commented that he is glad to see that people had come out to attend the meeting. He thanked the Kueblers and the Legion for their hard work at the beach.

Councilman Sheppard commented that the new meeting room had a better "feel". He also expressed his appreciation to the Kueblers. He noted that things are going smoothly.

Council Vice President Johnson thanked the Kueblers and Legion, and also Mr. Jimmy Charles, for their hard work at the beach.

She addressed Mr. Gaither, advising she hopes the Police Chief will address his concerns at the next meeting.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the parade re-routing due to the safety issue. Again, Mr. Ward apologized for the change, and noted that the Chamber needs more volunteers and manpower to make events in the City happen.

Councilwoman Ward inquired if the restroom doors are locked after-hours. Mr. Kuebler advised that the doors are locked. Mr. Charles advised that the damages mostly occur during the day. Mr. Kuebler advised that the City needs to contact the Legion to review the security footage.

Councilwoman Ward thanked everyone in attendance for coming and commented that she feels the City will grow if we stand together.

Mayor Dize commented that the City is doing some paving, cleaning out ditches, and will be submitting a Community Development Block Grant application for funding to repair infrastructure. He added that nothing is done quickly when it involves the government. He

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noted that Secretary Ken Holt, of the Department of Housing & Community Development, has promised funding to repair the Armory among other projects.

Mayor Dize noted that he appreciates Mr. Gaither's comments, adding that we all need to work together.

Council Vice President Johnson reminded the Council that the Street and Road scoring list needs to be added to the next meeting agenda. She noted that some streets are a priority.

Mrs. Morgan noted that \$80,000 has been budgeted for street paving in the 2019-2020 budget. Mayor Dize noted that Mercury Drive and the entrance to Heron Way have now been paved and we will do a lot of patching with last year's money.

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 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary