

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the City meeting room in the Corbin Studio & Gallery.

PRESENT

LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent due to work commitment – Mayor Barry Dize

Absent due to educational commitment – Councilman Jimmy Ford

Absent – Councilwoman Gail Lankford

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Charlotte Scott, Greg Cain; Sam & Mary Davis; Erica Johnson; Matt Sneade; Terri Baker, Chuck Gaither; and Richard Crumbacker.

CALL TO ORDER BY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Council Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 11, 2019. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING – HEBRON SAVINGS BANK BOND ORDINANCE #688

Council Vice President Johnson opened the public hearing and called for any comments, either pro or con. No comments were received.

The public hearing was adjourned, with Council Vice President Johnson noting that the 2nd Reader of the Bond Ordinance would be held until Mr. Sullivan arrived.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents. He also commented regarding the recent visit to the renovated armory in Bel Air. Council Vice President Johnson requested the Mr. Pollitt provide pictures from the visit at the next meeting.

FIRST READER – ORDINANCE - VACANT AND BLIGHTED BUILDING REGISTRATION

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Ordinance noting that the property owner can register their vacant building with the City at no cost to them. He advised that this would help the City in starting a vacant building inventory. Mr. Sullivan advised that the Planning Commission felt that this would be the first step to put people on the path to rehab funding, or demolition funding programs.

Mr. Sullivan advised that this worked for the town of Snow Hill. He noted that fines and condemnation notices do not work, as neither the owner nor the city can afford demolition fees.

Councilman Sheppard made reference to the penalty for not registering a vacant building. Mr. Sullivan advised that it is \$100. Councilman Sheppard inquired if the Planning Commission would be directing property owners to funding. Mr. Sullivan advised that this would not be the Planning Commission's job. He advised that Mr. Bozman is their first contact, and from there it would flow to the City's grant writer, or back-up grant writer, Valerie Mann, and then to Mr. Pollitt, Mrs. Morgan, or Mrs. Swift; the Planning Commission is not allowed to direct them to funding. Mr. Sullivan advised that Mr. Bozman would initially make the touchstone decision. Mr. Sullivan noted that "vacant" means uninhabitable and not Code Compliant, and unfortunately, there are a lot of buildings here that fit this description.

Mr. Sullivan advised that to vote for first reader, there would need to be a majority vote of 3-0, if voting this evening.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he would have the City prepare a list of resources to share with the public, pointing them to possible assistance in dealing with their specific issues, He also suggested that voting to accept the Ordinance for First Reader would get it on the table, with a public hearing to be held prior to 2nd Reader at the next meeting.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt for First Reader, the Vacant and Blighted Building Registration Ordinance. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward, and carried unanimously 3-0. Councilman Sheppard advised that he would like to have a work

session prior to the next meeting and 2nd Reader. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Mayor and Council can effectuate change at the work session.

FIRST READER – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” (GOLF CARTS)

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Ordinance for First Reader, which allows golf carts on State Highway roads within the Crisfield City Limits as per the deletion in section 106-33A.

Councilman Sheppard noted that the Dawn to Dusk limitation on operating a golf cart remained the same. Mr. Sullivan advised that State verbiage was used and the City cannot adopt anything less restrictive than the State. Mr. Pollitt noted that it gives more flexibility to the police in determining actual risks.

Mr. Pollitt also noted that the language needs to be deleted in the 2nd paragraph, after the first “Whereas”, after City of Crisfield (that is not designated.....)

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to strike the language as noted by Mr. Pollitt. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapter 106 of the City Code, entitled “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” for first reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mr. Pollitt asked the Council if they wanted a Public Hearing prior to adopting this Ordinance for 2nd Reader. The Council concurred that they wanted to hold the Public Hearing.

2ND READER – ORDINANCE 688 WASTEWATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE

Mr. Sullivan read into record the preface of Ordinance 688, which was up for 2nd Reader. At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt Ordinance 688 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the Hebron Savings Bank closing is on October 31, 2019.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mary Frances Davis thanked the City for cleaning up the property adjacent to their rental property on Cove Street. She commented that it exceeded her expectations. Mr. Davis added that the clean-up was fantastic.

Chuck Gaither made reference to funding for the police department. He also made reference to enforcing rehab of vacant property and suggested selling City owned property to get tax base.

Mary Frances Davis asked if there was any Sandy money left for demolition.

Chuck Gaiter commented that there was \$465,000 in Sandy money that hasn't been applied for.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Sheppard thanked those in attendance for showing interest.

Councilwoman Ward commented that she is looking forward to growth, but everything takes time.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that a work session is needed for Streets and Roads. Mrs. Morgan noted that Mr. Bozman is close to having the rating sheet complete. Council Vice President Johnson requested that a work session be held on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Vice President Johnson also requested that a work session pertaining to the Steering Committee be held on October 3, 2109, at 6:00 p.m. as well. She advised that she would check with Mayor Dize, but would like to proceed with the work session, whether or not he was available. Mr. Pollitt noted that by City Code, the Mayor is the president of the City Council and it is appropriate that the Mayor be included when scheduling meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MC092519

Respectfully submitted

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary