

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt Jr., City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent; Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer;

Richard Crumbacker; Betsy Thompson; John Dize; Paul Register; Jean & Lyle Gray; Billy Gene Swift; and John P. Tawes, III.

INVOCATION , LORD’S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Lawson requested approval of the minutes from the Closed Meeting of 4/13/16 and the Regular meeting of 4/13/16. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Scott, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried, with abstention by Councilman Emely who was absent from these meetings.

Mayor Lawson noted that Mr. Paden would be present at a later meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents. He presented Mayor Lawson with the pen that Governor Hogan had used to sign the Golf Cart Legislation.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would mount the pen. He note that Councilman Atkins had been instrumental in getting this bill passed and had started work on the project years ago, along with Mayor Purnell.

Councilman Konapelsky commended Councilman Atkins on his hard work and also thanked Mr. Pollitt for going to Annapolis for the signing.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the positive aspects of having golf carts in Crisfield. He noted that there will be tremendous restrictions such as seat belts, headlights, being 21 years old. He noted that the Bill goes into effect on October 1, 2016.

He thanked the Council for their support.

Mr. Pollitt thanked Council Vice President Scott for her help through contacts that she had.

Council Vice President Scott commented that it was through G.C.A.C.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lawson noted changes in the evening's agenda and items which had been moved to the next meeting. He noted that the Closed Session relates to some of these items.

He also noted that Budget discussions would be on the Agenda at the next meeting.

Mayor Lawson advised that the Borrowing Resolution also related to information that will be obtained in the closed meeting.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would meet individually with the Council along with Mr. Pollitt to review the referenced items as well as the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance and American Legion Lease.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to declaring some City property and equipment as surplus.

Mr. Sullivan made reference to First Reader of the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance and advised that a Public Hearing would be held at the next meeting.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a discussion with Mr. Donnie Drewer, SHA, concerning golf carts and street improvements, information forthcoming.

Councilman Emely inquired about the status of the challenge coins for the CHS soccer team.

Mayor Lawson advised that they should be ready to be handed out at an assembly at CHS on May 24th.

Mr. Sullivan advised, in reference to surplus property, that an Ordinance could be prepared conditioning the purchase of the property to be consistent with use that the public would like to see and designating a substantial completion.

COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Konapelsky commented about the placement of the Wellington Beach signs and noted that the beach is well-used. Mayor Lawson advised that they were put up by either the

State Highway Administration or Beach Commission.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to collecting information concerning the cost of building a new home. She advised that some has already been collected by G.C.A.C.

Councilman Atkins noted that the Crisfield High School softball team won their first game.

Mayor Lawson congratulated Councilman Emely on the birth of his new baby girl Emma Grace.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the contract for the pier stringers at the beach and advised that another bidder had been selected due to pricing. He advised that all of the timber on the pier would be replaced in two weeks.

Councilman Emely commended Mr. Bozman and Mrs. Soukup for their issuance of 60 weed notices to property owners whose grass exceeded the height limit.

Mayor Lawson noted that there had been a lot of criticism of the Mayor and Council on Facebook because of these notices letters. He advised that City Ordinance authorizes that these letters be sent.

Mayor Lawson commented about attending the MML Winter Conference when Speaker of the House Mike Bush commented about Cities being unfamiliar with tax exempt properties. He advised that of the City's \$222M in assessed property value, we collect taxes on only \$154M and 32% is tax exempt property.

PUBLIC INPUT

John Dize addressed Mr. Bozman concerning a drain pipe on Anchor Drive. Mr. Bozman advised

that he would look at it.

Billy Gene Swift commented that restricting golf carts to ages 21 and older is excessive and the age should be lowered.

Mr. Swift also made reference to Impact Fees. Mayor Lawson advised that these had been waived several years ago, but the EDU fee of \$5,500 is still in place. Mr. Swift suggested that the City reduce these fees to encourage building. He also suggested that the City ask the County to cut the grass on the median from Rt. 13 to 413, as it looks bad for people coming in to Crisfield. Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would ask.

VOTE TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adjourn into a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, assignment, compensation and performance evaluation of an employee of the City of Crisfield, and other personnel matters that affect an employee of the City of Crisfield as per Subsection 3-305(b)(1)(i)-(ii) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary