

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Rick Pollitt, City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Tillie Doyle, Lamont Potter; Ralph Oakes; Sarah Rayne; John Tawes; Adam Thompson; and Richard Crumbacker.

CALL TO ORDER, 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.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins. Mayor Lawson noted that a health care meeting and work session would also be discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of October 28, 2015 as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his bi-weekly report and also reviewed items of information he had received from Mr. Jason Loar, City Engineer. Mr. Loar had advised that the wind turbine is moving forward and should be on site by the end of December. Mr. Loar had also advised that 90% of the design plans for the street repaving are complete.

Mr. Pollitt also advised that the City had met with Mr. Andrew Welch of DBF concerning bulkheading at the depot. He also advised that Mr. Loar had met with the meter manufacturer last week concerning the radio read.

Councilwoman Scott inquired when the first meter will be installed. Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. Dilegge will be scheduling installation with all of the parties involved. He advised that it may take a day or more to set the meters. Mayor Lawson advised that this is a priority.

JOYCE L. MORGAN, CLERK-TREASURER – FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the financial report for the period of July through October 31st. She noted that income is running in line and that legal expense is going down.

Mrs. Morgan advised that effective December 1, the City will be changing health insurance carriers from Blue Choice to United Health Care, which has a lower deductible and slightly lower rates.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about the money in the street fund. Mrs. Morgan advised that there is \$30,000 and advised that the City will get a one-time special allotment from HUR in amount of \$82,900. Mrs. Morgan advised that \$40K was paid out in November for work that had been done, and this was from last year's money, and about \$10K is left. She noted that the \$30,000 and the \$82,900 are not spent, but are committed.

M&C111215

Mayor Lawson advised that this is for Lori Quinn Drive, 10th Street, and Annemessex Square Parking Lot.

A brief discussion followed concerning the disposition of the streets to be paved and the need for a vote on the streets mentioned.

Mayor Lawson also reviewed previous paving discussions and paving of the areas done on 7th Street and the cul de sacs.

Council Vice President Scott inquired who decides on the streets; the Mayor or Council. Mayor Lawson advised that this is always a Council decision.

Mayor Lawson commented that due to water erosion, paving only usually lasts 18 years and there is never enough money for paving.

Councilwoman Scott commented that it seems as though there is talk about different streets.

Mayor Lawson noted that the initial street rating had been done by the Council.

Following further discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion for the paving of Brick Kiln to the American Legion, the Annemessex Square parking lot, and 10th Street between Main and Broad, designating the \$82K balance from HUR one time money received this year. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson noted that Mr. Pollitt had been in contact with the Governor's office and the City received the \$82K in short notice.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the Sandy street money. Mayor Lawson advised that this is the \$1.3M that the federal government regulates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance for 1st reader - Amending the Crisfield Zoning Code. As provided by Section 112-13 of the

Zoning Code entitled Amendments, the following amendment is proposed: Section 112-69 “Minimum off-street parking requirements” be amended to provide, A. The following are the minimum off-street parking requirements for each use indicated, except that no off-street parking shall be required in the CBD District ***and no off-street parking shall be required for restaurants, gift shops, flower shops, or other retail businesses containing less than 3,500 square feet of public floor area.*** New language in bold italic.

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the Planning Commission’s recommendation from their meeting on November 3, 2015 and the proposed ordinance. He advised that a public hearing is needed before the next meeting. Councilman Emely suggested changing 3,500 to 6,000 which would cover the former Side Street building and the recommendations of Keith Campbell.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that he feels 5,000 would be sufficient.

Councilman Atkins advised finding the square footage of the 9 non-conforming businesses.

Councilman Konapelsky noted that property owners can still go before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Atkins commented that the previous applicant was unsuccessful with the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Lawson made reference to his conversation with Mr. Campbell. He advised that Water’s Edge is in limbo. He made reference to considering all pre-existing uses before November 2009, but must also address what happens if the business changes.

After further discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to change the square footage from 3,500 square feet to 5,000 square feet. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely.

During discussion, Council Vice President Scott inquired if this applies only to retail. She asked if other rules would apply to new construction, adding that we need to encourage growth and manage it, but also look at the big picture.

With no further business for discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Planning Commission could review the square footage of the non-con-

forming at their work session.

Mr. Pollitt noted that a Public Hearing is required for this ordinance change and would be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. A motion was made by Councilman Konapelsky to approve this ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson thanked Mr. Adam Thompson, Planning Commission member, for his phone participation during the recent Planning Commission meeting.

Ordinance for 2nd Reader – 9th and 10th Street - 48 hour (maximum) permit parking, with free parking in the Annemessex Square Parking Lot and no parking from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Mrs. Morgan inquired if there would be a time limit in the parking lot.

Councilman Emely advised that after consideration, he felt that there needs to be 7 parking spots for 48 hour permit parking. He also commented that the parking lot is in such bad shape it should be closed before it is paved.

Councilwoman Johnson suggested putting this Ordinance on hold.

Councilman Konapelsky noted that it will be closed for Christmas in Crisfield anyway.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to table the 2nd Reader of this Ordinance.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Mayor Lawson commented that there has been constant parking discussion since June and the City is not going to be able to please everyone, just try to be fair.

Mayor Lawson inquired about the disposition of the tabled ordinance. Mrs. Morgan advised that the Council has 60 days before it dies.

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A & COMMENTS

Councilman Konapelsky presented an update on the Christmas in Crisfield activities to be held on November 28th. He advised that this will be a great family event with free activities, vendors, an ice sculptor, tree lighting, food vendors, trees for sale, Christmas movies, train rides, caroling, and Santa Claus. He advised that the event is from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. He also noted that donations are needed for lights for the Christmas tree.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the Window Judging event after the Christmas Parade. Mayor Lawson advised that he had not had any formal conversation with the Chamber.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the meeting on Tuesday with the County Commissioners and It Takes A Village. She advised that she felt that the County Commissioners would work with Ms.

Taylor with either the \$1M or the City would work with her concerning the use of \$800K available in CDBG grant funds.

Councilwoman Johnson read aloud the minutes from the recent Park Commission meeting and noted that the next meeting would be held on January 12, 2016.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the upcoming Christmas in Crisfield events and noted that Billie Jo Chandler and others began working in January. She commended all that are involved.

Councilman Emely made reference to closing the Annemessex Square Parking lot for safety reasons, noting that a lady had fallen there recently.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like the lot closed the Sunday before the 28th.

It was then discussed about closing the lot from November 22nd to December 31st and then further decide about its status.

Councilman Emely then made a motion to have the Annemessex Square parking lot closed from November 22nd to December 31st. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely made reference to the issues at the Armory and noted that the Salvation Army is getting ready to start indoor soccer. Mr. Pollitt advised Councilman Emely to see him about the matter.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the furnace at the fire hall. Mrs. Morgan advised that Mrs. Valerie Mann is researching available grants.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to fundraisers. Councilman Emely advised that the Department just had the Haunted Forest and a Halloween Dance.

Councilman Emely made reference to outsourcing garbage collection.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he planned to have that on the agenda for the Council work session.

Councilman Emely made reference to second party water line repairs. He noted that he observed work being done by an outside company, and they were using the same equipment that the City has. He commented that \$10K has been spent on outsourcing.

Mayor Lawson advised that the City's backhoe is not sufficient and we have to look at the size of the main.

Councilman Emely thanked the Mayor for the Park Commission update and advised that it answers all of the citizens questions.

Councilman Emely made reference to a bad situation last week concerning an email regarding It Takes a Village, which received no vote from the Council. He advised that information was not received in time. He advised that Cindy Stone, CDBG Director, needs to speak with the Council.

Councilman Emely also extended congratulations to the CHS Soccer team who are going to State finals. Councilman Atkins followed up on two issues from last meeting; the 15 mph speed limit on Asbury Avenue –he suggested removing the signs for school crossing and 15 mph, and move them signs to Potomac Street and Columbia Avenue.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to remove the school crossing and 15 mph signs on Asbury Avenue in front of Whittington Primary/Headstart and move them to Potomac Street and Columbia Avenue. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely.

During discussion, Mayor Lawson inquired as to when Headstart vacated. Mr. Lamont Potter advised that there had been no after-school program this year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the second issue; parking on the corner of Somerset and Asbury Avenue. He suggested extending the yellow No Parking line on the curb.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like community input

Councilman Emely noted that the property owner has advised that he doesn't want to lose front parking and also wants everyone treated the same.

Mayor Lawson advised that the trailer that the property owner parks on Asbury Avenue is not tagged

Councilman Emely suggested that the Code be researched before extending the line, but agrees that there is a safety issue.

Councilman Atkins also extended congratulations to the soccer team and also advised that this Friday is the CHS Band bingo fundraiser.

Councilman Emely made reference to there being no code concerning untagged vehicles. Mrs. Morgan advised that this had been struck.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a meeting two weeks ago with Valerie Mann, grant writer, and she was asked to provide a shopping list of what she can do. He advised that she will charge a per/grant fee.

Mayor Lawson made reference to It Takes a Village and the Salvation Army's issue. He made reference to ideas on how to salvage the gym at the Armory, as it is rich in history and Company L was started there.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested using the \$800k in CDBG funds for the Salvation Army.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that It Takes a Village was awarded money and hadn't received anything yet. She advised she isn't pitting one against the other.

Councilman Emely commented that many of the players on the CHS Soccer Team got their start

at the Salvation Army Youth Club soccer team. He suggested use of the old radar station.

Mayor Lawson also offered his congratulations to the CHS Soccer Team and noted that they would be recognized by the City.

Mayor Lawson made reference to issues with the yellow trucks purchased from the State. He commented that these vehicles were no bargains as many repairs had been needed. He advised that the cost to repair the big one that public utilities uses to haul sludge with is \$21K. Mayor Lawson made reference to checking with the State about swapping it for another State truck. Mayor Lawson reviewed his letter to Councilman Emely, addressing several points of interest concerning the park and park commission.

Councilman Emely advised that this was not necessary, as his concerns had been satisfied, and excused himself from the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Lawson went on to read the letter aloud and advised that he would like the letter of response included in the minutes.

At 8:45 p.m., Councilman Atkins also left the meeting.

Councilman Konapelsky questioned the Mayor's reading of the letter, as it was already provided to the councilmembers and not included in the agenda for this meeting. At this time, Mayor Lawson concluded reading.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary