

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 11, 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
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary. See list of others in attendance.

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 AGENDA

Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the Agenda. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

WBVC COMMUNITY RADIO – INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY

Buddy Ward appeared before the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed community radio. He advised that the station would be community oriented – geared toward wellness, tourism and municipal activities and information about Crisfield. He advised that the station would reach Smith Island, Tangier, and Marion and would be streamed on the internet. He also advised that it would be available for access by emergency services and the hospital and open to the municipality to send in broadcasts during emergency situations. Mr. Ward advised that the frequency is 107.3 and noted that they have

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to be on the air by 11/20/15.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired of Mr. Ward what the next step is. Mr. Ward advised that they must raise funds, with half of the amount due to get them on the air. He noted several fund raising events coming up.

Councilman Emely commended Mr. Ward on the plan and advised he supports them 100%. Councilwoman Scott commended Mr. Ward for his enthusiasm for the project and advised that it has huge potential.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the kick-off and suggested a budget line item of \$1,000. He also suggested to Mr. Ward to look in to broadcasting Mayor and Council or County Commissioner meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting of 2/24/15, the regular meeting of 2/25/15, with a minor correction, and the special meeting of 3/2/15. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Lawson requested the Council to present their additional names for the City Commission.

Council Vice President Scott presented Shawna Kearsley. Mayor Lawson advised her for one more name by Friday. Councilman Konapelsky presented Bob Evans and Jenny Tawes.

Mayor Lawson reminded that this is an eleven member committee. He reviewed the following names already submitted; Mark Menser, Kathleen Garton, Quincy Corbin, Lamount Potter, Ronald Sterling, Jr., Gregg Sutton, Billie Jo Chandler, and Ken Wilmer.

Mayor Lawson advised that the Commission would provide suggested direction for the City. They would hold 4 meetings per year, and form their own committee. He advised that they would need a vision that is achievable. Mayor Lawson noted that the Commission has no vote or power.

COUNCILMAN KONAPELSKY, CITY MANAGER DISCUSSION

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is proud the City is moving forward. He advised that he sought advice on the hiring procedure and noted that legally, a community commission cannot be used. Councilman Konapelsky reviewed a draft of the hiring process, including who should participate on the 1) screening committee, 2) the interview committee and the 3) final interview committee.

(see attached) Councilman Konapelsky then made a motion to accept the process and move forward.

Motion seconded by Councilman Emely with discussion that all councilmembers and Mayor be added to the three committees.

Council Vice President Scott noted that the other people mentioned for the committee are not part of the City Council. Mr. Sullivan advised that the best way for the City is to not use outsiders. He advised that if using others on the committee, certain preparation must be made.

Mayor Lawson questioned using Mrs. Morgan and Chief Tabor, as they are supervised by the City Manager. He advised he doesn't feel this is appropriate. Mr. Sullivan advised that this would be a political decision.

Mayor Lawson also advised that he met with Mr. Russ Blake, Pocomoke Town manager, the first week in January and obtained information regarding what to look for in a City Manager and would provide the Council with this information.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she also feels it should only be the Mayor and Council.

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Councilman Emely commented that Mrs. Morgan knows the budget best and is aware of things that the Council may not be.

Mr. Sullivan suggested having the candidates speak with Mrs. Morgan, one on one. It was determined that following the initial screening, after the candidate number is down to 6, they will meet one on one with Mrs. Morgan and Chief Tabor. (see Councilman Konapelsky's revised Hiring Process sheet)

Mayor Lawson noted that individual packets of each City Manager job application will be available at City Hall.

Councilman Konapelsky then made a motion to move forward with the hiring process for City Manager, with the changes. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely. Council Vice President Scott also requested that the information that Mayor Lawson obtained from Mr. Russ Blake also be included in the package.

It was also determined that scheduling for the interviews would begin the week of March 23, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously. At this time, (7:05 p.m.) Councilman Konapelsky left the meeting, due to illness.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SCOTT – RE: CRISFIELD FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Council Vice President Scott presented and reviewed the Crisfield Five Year Action Plan for Crisfield.

She advised that she would like the City to approve moving forward with the plan at the next meeting and would be seeking \$15,000 for the hiring of a Planner to implement the Plan.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that this is a good plan, but would like to have a work-session before the next meeting. She advised that she sees people in the audience who attend this meeting on a regular basis who have been working on various plans. Councilman Atkins advised taking from the Comp

Plan and the Economic Development Commission's plan and putting it in the Five Year Plan.

Councilman Emely advised that money is tight right now, but Council Vice President Scott has donors.

He commended her on the Plan.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she would schedule a work session.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the condition of City roads and the snow, which made them worse.

He advised that per the requirement of the spending of Sandy funds, repair of roads will have to be bid

out for an engineer to design the roads. Mayor Lawson advised that he had selected five streets for

initial paving, which meet the Federal Government's requirements. He noted that these had to be

"through" streets and fall in Low, Moderate Income neighborhoods, which would not include Hammock

Point or Heron Way.

Mayor Lawson advised that the five streets are: all of Wynfall Avenue, Myrtle Street, Broadway from

Second Street to Big Willey's Intersection, 7th Street around the Marina to Brown's Court, and Fourth

Street across the 36 Sewer. He made reference to the criteria of when a street was last paved, for

example Pine Street – 51 years ago, and Chesapeake Avenue, for example, which has costly drainage

issues. Mayor Lawson noted the loss of Highway User Revenue over the past several years. He noted

that the City would be receiving a portion (\$75K) and will use it to do Anchor Drive and Heron Way.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Pocket Park on 10th Street. Mayor Lawson made reference to the Planning Commission meeting during, which time water draft and parking issues were discussed. He reviewed the unanimous motion to approve the recommendation of the Pocket Park to the Mayor and Council, providing for fire truck access. Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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Motion seconded by Councilman Emely, and carried 4-0 in favor, (Councilman Konapelsky absent)

2) Main Street Parking – Mayor Lawson noted that Main Street needs to be re-engineered for community revitalization, as it prohibits fire trucks. He advised that re-engineering would have to be done in the future. Mayor Lawson advised that the Planning Commission considered the recommendation to leave parking as it is or revert back to parallel parking on either one or both sides. After their review, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend that parking on the North Side remain the same and on the South Side, by the Drugstore, change back to parallel. At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried 4-0 in favor.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about doing both sides at this time, since Long Term Recovery will be done in September. Councilman Emely advised that this would leave more space for drug store parking.

Mr. Sullivan advised that this would be presented as an Ordinance for First Reader at the next meeting.

3) Burning Ordinance revision – Mayor Lawson advised that the Fire Chief requested the burning ordinance to be changed from Thursday and Friday, to Friday 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. and prohibit the burning of wire. Councilman Atkins advised just stating what items are permitted for burning. Mayor Lawson advised that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to change the Burning Ordinance per the recommend of the Fire Chief. Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

BORROWING RESOLUTION #428

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the resolution for the borrowing of \$30,000 up to 5 years. She advised that she had received two interest rates; 1) 1.8%/5 years plus a \$200.00 fee – from PNC Bank, and 2) 2.28/5 years, with no fee, from Hebron Savings Bank. She advised that 1.8 = \$31,637 and 2.28 = \$31,831.

Mrs. Morgan noted that PNC has the City's primary general accounts, Hebron has some Grant accounts and a few Reserve accounts. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the interest rate from PNC in the amount of 1.8% for a total of \$31,637. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

VOTE ON JEAN HOLLOWAY FOR WATER RATE STUDY

Mayor Lawson made reference to the recent class conducted by Jean Holloway of Delaware Rural Water and requested a motion authorizing Mrs. Holloway to prepare a water rate study for the City of Crisfield at a cost of \$2,000. So moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously 4-0. Councilman Atkins noted that Mayor Lawson could have spent this amount without Council approval.

Council Vice President Scott inquired when the last rate study had been done. Mrs. Morgan advised that it had been a while.

EVENT APPLICATIONS

Wellington Beach Easter Egg Hunt – Mrs. Morgan noted that this event would be held on April 4th and the City would be covering the event under our insurance. Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve this event, seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously 4-0.

Mayor Lawson reviewed an Event Application from Sportscast USA for sports casting events

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on April 25th and 26th and September 19th and 20th, liability insurance certificate included. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilman Emely advised he would be skipping the Action Item list this week. He requested that the following items be added: 1) Street Signs – need to be designated as north, south, east, or west and 2) he made reference to the house on Cove Street, which is getting ready to be torn down next week. He also apologized to John Dize concerning his email.

Mayor Lawson advised that the property will be declared surplus once the demo is complete and the property filled.

Mayor Lawson noted that the 7th Street demolition is done. He advised that the City does not have the title to the property on Maryland Avenue yet.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she had nothing to report.

Councilman Atkins thanked Council Vice President Scott for her presentation. He commented that he hates to be a “wet blanket” but is still concerned about how the City will fund the City Manager’s position and advised that we need to get the money in line.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she had nothing else to report.

Mayor Lawson made reference to and addressed several items; 1) Chief Tabor’s recent health issues, 2) He noted the City had lost two police officers, 3) three snowstorms during which time the Public Works Department and Public Utilities Department had worked extremely hard and well, 4) He advised that he had spoken to Gail Sheldon, Library Director, concerning the library update, 5) He advised that he would be meeting tomorrow with Doug Taylor and Tony Stockus concerning

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the 10 year plan for the airport, 6) he advised that Mr. Danny Thompson will be speaking in Annapolis on Friday concerning HB 820, concerning abatement tax credits, 8) he advised that the depot project is continuing, 9) Mayor Lawson advised that over the last six weeks that Davis, Bowen, and Friedel has provided John McGee as interim Public Utilities Superintendent. He also made reference to a recent 320 gallon sewage spill due to a broken line, which was reported to State agencies immediately by Mr. McGee.

Councilman Emely made reference to a 1996 news article that originated in 1957 and commented that the same issues were faced then as today.

PUBLIC INPUT

Kerry Palakanis commented that there is no parking on the south side of Main Street. She thanked Council Vice President Scott for the Five Year plan. She advised that there is money available through the Health Department concerning addressing drug abuse (part of 5 year plan). She also suggested that the Long-term Recovery Committee non-profit could evolve into the Community Development Corporation without forming another non-profit.

Mayor Lawson commented concerning Sea Mark and an issue concerning the need for containment facility for power washing boats. He advised Mr. Good he would speak with the engineer regarding pre-treatment of this water.

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by Valerie Swift Secretary

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer