

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 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
Richard M. Pollitt Jr., City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Kerry Palakanis; Newt Volk; Isabelle Regester; Adam Thompson; Jason Loar; and Billy Gene Swift.

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 Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes from the meetings of March 9, 2016; Public Hearing, Regular Meeting; and Closed meeting. Motion seconded by

Councilman Emely, with “aye” from Councilman Konapelsky and abstention from Council Vice President Scott and Councilwoman Johnson, who were absent from these meetings. Motion carried 3 to 2.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the purpose of Comptroller Franchots’ visit.

Mr. Pollitt advised that it is for the purpose of State outreach.

Councilman Atkins commented that Mr. Franchot had visited three times since he had been on City Council, and he was also a member of the Board of Public Works.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson made reference to the overdue appointment of a member of the Housing Authority Commission, advising that he would like to re-appoint Mr. Sam Davis, as Chairman, for continuity. He also made reference to being unsure if the resident member was his appointment.

Councilman Konapelsky questioned Mr. Davis’ representation. Mayor Lawson advised that he conducts himself in a business-like manner.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would abstain from the vote, due to his position in the County.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that Mr. Davis is fair, reasonable, and has HUD knowledge

across the board.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she didn't know this appointment was coming up.

She stated that she would like a fresh face on the board and also questioned the authority to appoint the Housing Authority Resident Rep.

Councilwoman Johnson stated that the Mayor still has to approve the resident appointment, with approval of at least three council members.

Following further discussion, Mayor Lawson advised that he would like a legal opinion before making a resident appointment.

Councilman Atkins commented that he hadn't considered the re-appointment of Mr. Davis, but would like to give it more thought, adding that sometimes change is good.

Councilman Konapelsky also agreed that legal opinion is needed.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to table until the next meeting, the matter of the re-appointment of Mr. Sam Davis to the Housing Authority Commission. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried, with abstention of Councilman Konapelsky.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired about bringing names for the appointment. Mayor Lawson advised that he would find out.

NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR'S BORROWING RESOLUTION

Mayor Lawson made reference to establishing a Borrowing Resolution in the amount of

\$850,000.00 for Capital Improvement – Street paving and equipment purchase. He advised that the loan would be repaid with HUR and other funds.

Mayor Lawson noted that this would be used to pave streets not funded with Hurricane Sandy money. He advised that \$400 to \$600K would be used for paving, and \$200 to \$350K would be used to purchase equipment. He noted that cost would be based on street bid prices and selection of equipment.

Mr. Pollitt briefed concerning the start of Supplemental HUR. He advised that previously, Governor O'Malley had taken HUR to balance the State budget. As the economy improved, a one-time Supplemental HUR check was given to towns. Then, Governor Hogan continued the supplemental and reduced HUR. Mr. Pollitt advised that now, the Department of Legislative Reference doesn't feel that Supplemental HUR is the right way to go; it should go through the budget process. He advised that he doesn't feel that the City can count on supplemental HUR. Mayor Lawson advised that if the City borrows \$500K instead, HUR could cover the payment of \$33K per year, and believes we can afford that amount.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Cove Street project done in 1995 by Mayor Gerald, at which time \$1M was borrowed in State Infrastructure Loan. Mrs. Morgan added that curb, gutter, and drainage was also done and that this was a 30 year loan at \$38K per year which the City is still paying.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he won't vote for \$800K, without the Budget

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being done.

Councilman Emely asked what the solution is, stating that we have to pave streets. He urged everyone to move forward. Councilwoman Johnson agreed.

Mayor Lawson again reviewed the proposed paving funding; \$1.1M in Sandy funding to pave 8 streets in the LMI neighborhoods, \$110K HUR to pave the legion road, and the other top 10 streets which were assessed by the Council in December, which will cost \$1M to \$1.5 M to pave.

Councilman Emely made reference to putting the other streets in for paving under an “Umbrella” without bidding, while the other streets are being done with Sandy money.

Council Vice President Scott commented that she is ready to vote because the City needs a facelift.

Councilman Emely agreed, and suggested a work session in order to distribute the funds that would be borrowed.

Mrs. Morgan noted that a Borrowing Resolution sets what the money is spent for.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to borrow the amount of \$850K with a worksession forthcoming. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, carried by Council Vice President Scott with votes of nay from Councilman Atkins and Konapelsky.

Councilman Atkins noted that he would be ok with borrowing what we can pay for with HUR, but not if we won't have it.

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Councilman Konapelsky commented that a stipulation valve is needed, if going over \$500K

Councilman Atkins suggested borrowing \$500K and then going back.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is ok with \$850K with a safety valve if we start to go over \$500K.

Mayor Lawson noted that he will not sign a note on \$850K until the usage is set.

Councilman Emely commented that he does not feel Mr. Pollitt will put the City in a bad situation.

Councilman Konapelsky asked Mr. Pollitt for his thoughts.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the City needs to piggyback on the paving contract for the work being done with Sandy money, HUR can be used to pay back the loan and equipment, to which Mrs. Morgan concurred on the paving portion. He advised that the streets have been rated, and it depends on where the other \$26K comes from , whether or not \$850K or \$500K is borrowed.

Mayor Lawson noted that some questions can't be answered at this time. Councilman Konapelsky commented that we need as much knowledge as possible in order to make this decision.

Mayor Lawson countered that in 1994, Mayor Gerald borrowed \$1M for two streets and auxiliary work, and the City made the payment.

Council Vice President Scott commented that the City has to take prudent risks. She stated that this is not a huge decision and that the City will have money to apply to the loan, half

way through, after the Cove Street loan is paid off.

Councilman Emely stated that he doesn't feel that tax payers will mind.

At this time, it was concurred that a workshop meeting would be held on Monday, March 28th at 6:00 p.m., with Mr. Charles and Mr. Bozman also in attendance.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lawson noted that the equipment used for the library is in the process of being moved from the parking lot. He noted that the City is trying to keep downtown cleaned up.

He advised that according to SHA, sidewalk construction should be finished the first of May and paving should be finished the first of July.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a proposal for salvaging the gym at Whittington primary.

COUNCIL'S REPORT

Councilman Konapelsky advised that a WWII airplane will be doing a Fly-In for Freedom Fest at the airport.

Councilman Konapelsky also thanked SOMO and Friends of Crisfield for the event last weekend.

He also commended the proposal for the community garden.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she had attended the recent Tourism Summit and shared the information she obtained from that meeting. She noted that there had been an uptick in the use of Great Hope golf course. She also advised that Crisfield has the best press in the State. She advised that we are listed on the 28 best trips of 2016 and of ten small

towns, we are the safest.

Mayor Lawson commended Mr. Adam Thompson on the work that his group is doing at the beach.

He also thanked Shawna Kearsley and Kerry Palakanis for their work this past weekend and also noted the grand opening of the new radio station, which went well.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to the CDBG grant for It Takes a Village.

Mayor Lawson advised that no formal endorsement of the grant had been made.

Councilwoman Johnson also made reference to the proposed Housing Authority relocation and advised that no final decision had been made.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he had asked the Consultant for this project to do a press statement.

Councilwoman Johnson also noted that the Consultant had stated that the relocation of a large group of people has impact on City entities.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that the main goal for the Housing Authority is for what is best for the residents and what will help them the most.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the proposed Golf Cart legislation, which is moving forward.

He made reference to the new radio station WBYC – 107.3 noting that they have been playing some great music.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the recent marina commission meeting and stated that

the new Executive Director, Tom Shisler, is also a great marketing director.

Councilman Atkins thanked the organizers of the Crisfield's 144th Birthday event last weekend.

He also made reference to a meeting with Pat Thompson from Energy Works concerning poultry litter waste processing.

Councilman Emely made reference the status of the Kayak Launch. Mr. Pollitt advised that there is another site being looked at.

Councilman Emely also made reference to street signs and owners parking in front of their businesses all day. He advised that tickets need to be issued.

Councilman Emely made reference to suspicious activities going on in the downtown rest-rooms and suggested that they be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Emely made reference to the need for supervision at the ambulance squad and advised that Mr. Frankie Pruitt has offered to prepare the schedule for time off, so that shifts are covered.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of rules set for using the depot. Mr. Pollitt advised that further meetings are needed.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the clean-up at Carvel Hall.

Mr. Pollitt advised there is a plan involving the State cleaning it up.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the recognition of the Crisfield High School soccer team and made a motion that the team be present at the next meeting to

be recognized. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried with a vote of “nay” from Councilman Atkins.

Discussion followed concerning the proposed Challenge Coins and it was decided that these would be 3D on one side and painted on the other. Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like coins ordered for the soccer team only, with their names inscribed.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the funding source for the coins and if it is legal for the City to pay for them. Councilman Konapelsky asked Mr. Pollitt to review this with the City Solicitor.

PUBLIC INPUT

No Public Input was offered at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

