

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 25, 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

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift. See sign-in sheet for others in attendance.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order with the Lords' Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made reference to three sets of minutes for approval. He noted that he and Councilwoman Johnson were absent from the March 12th meeting and Councilman Konapelsky was absent from the March 11th meeting.

At this time, he made a motion to approve the minutes from March 9th, 11th, and 12th.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously, with abstentions

as noted.

CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Lawson requested that the Council provide the additional names for the Commission.

Councilman Emely presented Terry Pehan and Adam Thompson, Councilwoman Johnson

presented Stevie Evans and Lloyd Ward, Council Vice President Scott presented Shawna

Kearsley, Councilman Konapelsky presented Bob Evans, and Councilman Atkins presented

Darlene Taylor and Matt Lawson. Mayor Lawson advised the Council to come up with the

final three, reminding that they will hold four meetings a year with a one year appointment.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about an alternate member. Mayor Lawson advised that

only replacements would be appointed. He advised that eleven would be voted on at the next

meeting. Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would email everyone to come up with the

choices.

VOTE ON FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN – COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SCOTT

Council Vice President Scott reviewed the Five Year Action Plan and advised that the Plan was a

result of her campaign for City Council and that the planner would help us develop a plan for

Crisfield based on the SRP, Lofton Plan, Crisfield Economic Development Commission and a

proposal from Greg Cain and input from our citizens. She advised that the City Budget

cannot fund the planner and that she has pledges of money. Council Vice President Scott

noted that the Lutheran Conference may provide matching funds for the planner, but need to

know the Mayor and Council are in support of hiring a planner to help us develop the plan, once funds are secured.

At this time, Council Vice President Scott made a motion to proceed to hire a planner for the Five Year Plan, once funds are secured. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and opened for discussion.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like to have this motion tabled until another time.

Councilman Emely advised that hiring a City Manager is number one and Council Vice President Scott is in the process of going to the full extent to raise money for the Planner, without touching the City Budget.

Council Vice President Scott advised that at no point did she say that the funding for the Planner would come out of the City budget. She noted that she had spoken previously with Mrs. Morgan who advised that there is no funding for a budget line item for the Planner.

Council Vice President Scott advised that Mrs. Morgan suggested she go to Mr. Gary Pusey, and Mr. Danny Thompson. Council Vice President Scott advised that she went to Mr. Pusey, then to Cindy Stone, then to Denise McLeish and then Jeff Williams and to Danny Thompson without success.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he does not see the urgency to push this through.

He stated that 1) the City has a solid group of applicants for City Manager, 2) some of the

plan touches the Tourism Board for funding, and there is finally a functioning Tourism Board who is interested in Crisfield and Somerset County, and who should be allowed to get their feet on the ground, 3) the City Manager that is hired will want to incorporate the plan, but should be allowed to do their job. Councilman Konapelsky stated that a non-funded organization should not be part of the City, but he does agree with points of the plan.

Councilman Konapelsky advised finalizing the hiring of the City Manager first, because he feels a vote on the Five Year Plan and hiring a Planner could cut the legs out from under the new City Manager.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that the Five Year Plan is a wonderful plan with a wealth of people, but she feels the City Manager should incorporate an action plan. She advised that she wants the City Manager hired first.

Council Vice President Scott advised that the City Manager would do one part and the Planner would do the other parts, with the two intersecting.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that hiring a City Manager is number one and they should be the guide.

Councilman Atkins advised that he agrees that the City needs a plan of action, but if we commit to hire a Planner and don't raise the money for their salary, this is an area of concern.

Council Vice President Scott advised that there are funding sources outside of the City budget.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that this is not a funding issue; Number 1, hire the City Manager

and get them in place and get their input, then incorporate the Planner.

Councilman Emely stated that Council Vice President Scott is just asking for support, the Planner will be paid for by an outside agency.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he supports the plan, just not right now.

Mayor Lawson interjected that the City is not even at the point, financially, to hire the City Manager right now, and does not know where the money for that will come from. He noted the upcoming hiring of a Public Utilities Director, who visited the Plant and is overwhelmed by the lack of top notch equipment, and a Public Works foreman, soon to be hired.

Councilman Emely commented that they are not talking about money, just support.

Council Vice President Scott advised that this is correct.

Councilman Atkins advised that he hears the Council agreeing and disagreeing on some things.

He questioned whether the Action Plan would be guided by the City Manager, or Planner.

He stated that the division in the group is do we want the City Manager to make the plan or have them come in with a plan in place.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she does not want the City Manager's plan separate from the Planner. She does not want to hire a Planner and wants to let the City Manager do the plan.

Mayor Lawson advised getting the City Manager on board first, then the five year plan will evolve fast after that.

Council Vice President Scott again made a motion to proceed to hire a Planner to help the City develop a 5 Year Plan, with funding outside of the City Budget. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely.

During further discussion, Councilman Atkins inquired if the Plan would be independent of the City Manager. Council Vice President Scott advised that the City Manager would be a part of the process.

Mayor Lawson stated that Council Vice President Scott will be raising the \$15,000 for the Planner's salary, outside of City Government operations. Council Vice President Scott advised that once the money is raised, she will be coming back to the Council for input on how the hiring of the Planner will be handled.

Councilman Atkins stated that if the Planner is hired by the City, he works for us. They work for who pays them.

At this time, Mayor Lawson called for a vote for the motion on the floor. Votes were as follows;

Councilman Emely – aye, Councilwoman Johnson – nay, Council Vice President Scott – aye,

Councilman Konapelsky – Nay, Councilman Atkins – nay. The motion was defeated with a vote of 3 to 2.

It was also noted that a work session was needed.

Mayor Lawson also commented about a great idea of Jay Tawes, President of the Heritage Foundation, who would like to have a skipjack at the depot, for people to tour, but needs

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a 501C3.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION – DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Councilman Atkins advised that there are two versions; the short (State) version, and the long (Federal) version. He advised that the State version could be adopted, but leaves out details, and Mr. Sullivan has not fully completed the Federal version. He suggested tabling the adoption of a policy, in order that it be reviewed.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the State policy.

Councilman Atkins advised that he is concerned that the State policy won't do what we want it to. Councilman Konapelsky seconded the motion, for purpose of discussion.

Mrs. Morgan advised that Mr. Sullivan had been ill and had not finished reviewing the draft.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like time to review the policies.

Councilman Emely advised that a policy needs to be in place right now.

Councilwoman Johnson suggested adopting the Policy, contingent upon amendments.

Councilman Emely mad a motion to adopt the State Policy.

Councilman Atkins recommended that the City doesn't take action on (use the policy). He advised that there is a difference between the State and Federal policies. Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. Sullivan and Councilman Atkins have not made a uniform recommendation.

Councilman Konapelsky seconded the motion, noting that the State policy mirrors the one used

at the County.

Council Vice President Scott inquired if the State policy is good to go. Mayor Lawson advised that it has no alcohol provisions.

Councilman Atkins advised that the Federal policy needs to be reviewed to make sure the language is legal. He advised that Mr. Sullivan also sees flaws in the State policy.

Councilman Emely then amended his motion to adopt the Federal policy. The motion died due to lack of a second.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READER – MAIN STREET PARKING VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC ALLOWED

Mayor Lawson reviewed for First Reader, an Ordinance allowing for diagonal parking on the North side of Main Street beginning at the east side of 4th Street and Main Street and traveling east, ending at 330 W. Main Street on the North Side.

Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Council Vice President Scott, and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READER – BURNING

Mayor Lawson reviewed for First Reader, an Ordinance amending section 34-2 of the City Code entitled “Controlled burning of leaves, boxes, weeds, wood and paper” for the purpose of deleting certain conditions and imposing others.

Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, with discussion by Councilman Atkins that the phrase “burning of tires and plastic is never

allowed” be changed to “burning of other substances not listed here is prohibited.” Motion carried unanimously.

EVENT APPLICATIONS

Mayor Lawson reviewed the Event Application for the Organizational Day Weekend Parade on April 19th. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the Event Application for the Soft Shell Century Bike Ride for Saturday May 23rd.

Councilman Atkins noted that the letter of request states that the ride will begin at the High School, but the Event Application states that it will begin at the American Legion.

Mayor Lawson requested that the secretary contact the applicant for clarification.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the event, contingent upon it starting at the Legion. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Lawson briefed the Council on meeting with Doug Taylor and Tony Stockus concerning a consultant for the airport for the next five years. He advised that ACOM (formerly URS) was recommended to the County Commissioners, who unanimously accepted them at their last meeting. He requested a motion from the Council for same.

Councilman Atkins inquired about the cost to the City. Mayor Lawson advised roughly around

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\$2,000 per year.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept ACOM as consultant for the Crisfield/Somerset County Airport. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to sending out RFP's to engineers for engineering plans for street repairs, which will be paid for by Hurricane Sandy money.

Mayor Lawson also noted that he does not have a firm commitment on Community Legacy money as of yet.

Mayor Lawson advised that he had received cost estimates on three jobs from John Goldsborough for;

1) Curb and gutter for approx. 210 feet for the cul de sac at Anchor Drive, in the amount of \$4,500.00, to be paid for by Highway User revenue.

Councilman Emely made reference to putting the job out for bids. Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. Goldsborough was awarded the contract for Running Feet of Concrete a few years ago.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the bid of \$4,500 from Mr. Goldsborough for the cul de sac at Anchor Drive. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

2) Mayor Lawson made reference to the end of the Depot where delivery trucks are backing up and hitting the salt treated. He presented at bid from Mr. Goldsborough in the amount of

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\$2,800 for the installation of concrete and ballards, which will also come out of Highway User Revenue.

Councilman Emely explained that tractor and trailers unloading freight for the Islands is what is doing this. At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the bid from Mr. Goldsborough in the amount of \$2,800 for the installation of concrete and ballards for the depot.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the engineering rendering from DBF for a block wall at the end of the Walking Bridge. He presented a bid from John Goldsborough for \$6,800 for concrete entrances to both ends of the bridge. He advised that this would be funded through Walking Trail money. At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the bid from John Goldsborough in the amount of \$6,800 for the concrete entrances to both ends of the bridge.

Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Councilman Konapelsky thanked everyone in attendance, wishing them a happy Easter.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she is disappointed that the Five Year Plan/Planner for Crisfield was not approved, and thanked her supporters.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to a parking issue at the depot, between delivery drivers for the boat captains and Water's Edge customers. She advised that the captains are giving the restaurant customers a hard time.

Mayor Lawson noted that the specific Ordinance is not addressed, but will be this Summer.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the parking hours for that area cited in the Code Book are odd hours.

COUNCILMAN EMELY – ACTION ITEMS

Councilman Emely requested that the Drug Policy be added to the list of Action Items.

Councilman Emely also made reference to a letter concerning an open forum to be held at Crisfield High School concerning cleaning up the City.

Mayor Lawson noted that on 9th & 11th, the signs are off of the 18 posts and new parking signs are being prepared for “No Parking between 12:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.” on the street, without a parking permit.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a sewer problem with the Cove Street lift station last week, due to the motors being impacted with wet wipes. He urged citizens to stop flushing these wipes.

Mayor Lawson noted that Councilman Emely had found an occupant for a portion of space at Carvel Hall. He noted that Councilman Konapelsky had also carried a group of people there to look at the building as well.

Mayor Lawson made reference to Council Vice President Scott’s 5 Year Plan, and advised her to work on the Plan a piece at a time.

Councilman Emely welcomed new City residents Paul & Isabelle Register.

PUBLIC INPUT

John Dize made reference to the house on Main Street which is being elevated, and noted

that it is sinking on the south side.

Councilman Emely advised that they have been issued a fine.

Darlene Taylor advised that she is disappointed that the 5 Year Plan was not supported. She stated that the Plan is needed urgently, citing all of the empty store fronts. She also stated that the City needs a Planner and advised that putting a City Manager in the position of Entrepreneurship is unrealistic.

Shawna Kearsley stated that the City should not expect the City Manager to execute the vision of the 5 Year Plan. She advised we would be handing over a broken system to the new City Manager, stating that this is an urgent situation. Mrs. Kearsley stated that Berlin, Salisbury, and Pocomoke all have community planners. She advised that she is disappointed that the Plan was not supported.

Dr. Kerry Palakanis made reference to absentee property owners who need to be held accountable for the condition of their properties.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that every city and county in the United States deals with this issue, and getting the courts involved is complex.

Carolyn Marquis made reference to the Economic Development Commission and the need for Tax Differential funding from the County. She also stated that she is upset that Long Term Recovery money for the City that is unspent will go back to the State. Councilman Konapelsky advised that this money stays in the County and gets recycled.

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Danny Nelson, owner of Water's Edge Café, commented that the City needs business people to open businesses and stay with them, whether they make money or not. He stated that hand-outs aren't needed, just hard working people.

There being no further business for discussion, Mayor Lawson requested adjournment. So moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Atkins, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary