

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor  
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President  
Erik Emely, Councilman  
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman  
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman (arrived 6:03 p.m.)  
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer  
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor (left early in meeting)

Absent due to illness: Councilwoman Charlotte Scott

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Billy Colona; Hicham Baasiri;

James Meredith; Donnie Drewer; Jenny Tawes; Lamount M. Potter, Sr.; Jeremy Fitzgerald; Matt

Smith; John Judson; Tim Callson; Christina Holden; Stephen Kinnebrew; Woody Rybyzinski;

Tom Ausherman; Matt Lawson; Reggie Wilson; Betsy & Adam Thompson; and John Dize.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Lawson noted that Councilwoman Scott is sick and hospitalized.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Lawson requested approval of the agenda.

Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson

and carried unanimously with three votes.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 25, 2017 as written. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report, highlighting several items. He also noted that he will be preparing an F.A.Q. flier concerning the wind turbine.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a public meeting scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at the library at 6:00 p.m. which will be addressing several items. He also made reference to a public information meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> concerning potential support for an Arts and Entertainment District.

Councilman Emely inquired of Mr. Pollitt if we could get an online output of the turbine.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired about finalizing the depot regulations. Mr. Pollitt advised that we are collecting information now.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the meeting on Friday with the Ocean City Development Corporation. He advised it was very informative and thanked Mr. Pollitt for organizing it.

#### JAY MEREDITH AND DONNIE DREWER, STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Pollitt introduced Mr. Jay Meredith, the new SHA District Engineer, noting that he had

participated in the interview process.

Mr. Drewer commented that he had known Mr. Meredith for 40 years and he was his choice.

He advised that Mr. Meredith would work closely with Eastern Shore towns.

Mr. Meredith advised that it was an honor to follow Mr. Drewer.

Mayor Lawson thanked Mr. Drewer for the work done in Crisfield.

Mr. Drewer also introduced SHA Engineer Hicham Bahssiri. Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Bahssiri to speak at the meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS – APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT TO MAKE CARVEL HALL AVAILABLE AS A TEMPORARY STORAGE SITE FOR SOLAR PANELS FOR PHOENIX SOLAR

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the lease, which will expire on March 31, 2017 with a fee of \$2,000.

He also noted that the City offers no insurance coverage to Phoenix Solar for their materials.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the lease agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

Mayor Lawson noted that they would be storing pallets with solar panels, to be used at the Great Bay Solar Farm across from Mount Air Poultry on Rt. 13.

Councilman Emely also suggested checking the status of the impound lot.

With no further comment, the motion carried unanimously.

### TAX WRITE-OFF HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Mayor Lawson reviewed the request from the Heritage Foundation. He advised that the proposed use of the building must be determined.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky recused himself, due to his involvement with the Heritage Foundation.

Mayor Lawson suggested a motion that the City endorse the request when the State Department of Assessments says they can be tax exempt.

Councilman Emely commented that he doesn't feel they pay that much in City taxes.

Mrs. Morgan noted that the County has a code that allows them to exempt.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to table the request until more information can be obtained at a later time. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously with three votes, with abstention by Councilman Konapelsky.

### DOWNTOWN PARKING RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Pollitt advised that he had met with the Chief, Mr. Bozman, Mr. Charles and Mrs. Morgan, and reviewed the proposed parking recommendations.

Councilman Emely commented that in front of the condo he feels that there should be boat trailer parking and overnight.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that the proposed plan gives uniformity. He suggested giving it a year, and then re-visit if necessary.

After further discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the plan, as long as the funds from the parking permits for the lot are used for maintenance and improvement of the lot. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Discussion followed concerning changing the 30 day permit to a 7 day permit.

Councilman Emely made a motion to go with a 7 day permit, but then rescinded the motion.

Councilman Emely then made a motion to go with the 30 day permit at a cost of \$30. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT, Q & A

#### BIDS FOR SIDEWALK (MAYOR LAWSON)

Mayor Lawson made reference to bids received from Goldsborough Concrete for various sidewalks. He advised that it would be paid for by Community Legacy money, which needs to be spent.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is concerned with receiving only one bid.

Mayor Lawson reminded him that Goldsborough received the City contract years ago, or we could re-bid per running foot.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to re-advertise. Councilman Konapelsky agreed.

Mayor Lawson also reviewed slides done containing information from a Wind Turbine noise study provided by the Crisfield Police Department.

He advised that a follow-up could be done upon request.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the complaints regarding the turbine and bird kills and advised that we have been checking the area around the turbine since January 27<sup>th</sup> and have found nothing. He advised that we will monitor for six months.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to Councilwoman Scott's absence and asked that she be kept in our thoughts and prayers.

Council Vice President Johnson concurred.

Council Vice President Johnson also offered kudos to Councilman Emely for requesting that proceeds for parking permits go to maintaining the downtown parking lot.

Council Vice President Johnson also recognized Mrs. Betsy Thompson and her daughter as well as Isabelle Register, for their help with the "Uptown" Christmas Event.

She also thanked Mr. Pollitt for organizing the Friday meeting, adding that she was skeptical, but the meeting went well.

Councilwoman Ward noted that she had visited Councilwoman Scott today and asked that we keep her in our prayers, as well as pray for each other. She also thanked Mr. Pollitt for his updates. She commented that Councilmembers are elected to work for the people regardless of their differences.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired of Mayor Lawson if he felt the best prices were given on the concrete bids. Mayor Lawson advised that he did.

Councilman Emely inquired of the status of the golf cart request for extended areas for

usage. Mr. Pollitt advised that no Bills had been introduced yet.

Councilman Emely requested that we make sure Delegate Otto is aware. Mayor Lawson advised that both he and Senator Mathias were sent letters.

Councilman Emely read aloud a letter concerning the fundraiser from the Crisfield Fire Department and their goal to raise \$50,000. He advised that the letter would be going out asking for tax deductible donations. Councilman Emely commented that Crisfield Fire Department is one of the best in the State.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the meeting to rate grant opportunities and advised that he needs the Council to weigh in, rating their top 10 out of 30. He noted that the fire department is a major concern needing an elevator and kitchen remodel.

He also asked the Council to look at ways to make a difference in the City such as job opportunities and vacant lots not selling, due to water and sewer hook-up fees. He suggested looking at a tax waiver for new residential properties.

Councilman Emely suggested that Mayor Lawson and Mr. Pollitt put a package together for Council review that would encourage home ownership.

Mayor Lawson noted that on March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be an informational Mayor and Council meeting with a presentation concerning Carvel Hall and then on March 22, a meeting to reveal the plan to the public.

Mayor Lawson commented about Councilwoman Scott holding public meetings trying to

serve the public and noted that the City can be an unfriendly place for a Mayor and Council.

He made reference to her illness and asked for prayer for her.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lamount Potter made reference to the sidewalk on 4<sup>th</sup> Street from the former “Tightys” on down, from Main to Broadway and advised that they need to be replaced. He also commented that the four derelict houses on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and pink house on Tyler Street need to be torn down.

He also advised that curb and gutter are needed in this area.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary