

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 22, 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; (see sign in sheet of others in attendance)

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Lawson requested approval of the agenda for this evening's meeting. Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Lawson requested approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Scott, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Lawson commented that Councilman Atkins had chosen not to run for another term, after serving nine and a half years as a councilmember. Mayor Lawson noted that Councilman Atkins had served the citizens of Crisfield during this time faithfully, and without bias.

Councilman Atkins noted that he is grateful for Mayor Lawson's friendship. He presented a brief power-point of Words of Wisdom he had acquired during his years of service.

At this time, Mayor Lawson administered the Oath of Office of Councilmember of the City of Crisfield to incumbent member LaVerne Johnson and newly elected member, Barbara J. Ward.

Councilwoman Ward advised that she is grateful that she was elected.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is grateful and humbled by her re-election and will continue to try to do her best for everyone.

SELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Mayor Lawson opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice President.

At this time, Councilman Emely nominated current Council Vice President Charlotte Scott.

Councilman Konapelsky nominated Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson, adding that he has the greatest respect for her.

There being no further nominations, Councilman Emely made a motion that they be closed, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Lawson called for a vote for Council Vice President Scott and received one "aye" from Councilman Emely.

Mayor Lawson called for a vote for Councilwoman Johnson and received votes of "aye" from Councilman Konapelsky, Council Vice President Scott, Councilwoman Ward, and Councilwoman Johnson.

Mayor Lawson declared LaVerne Johnson as Council Vice President.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the tradition has been to select the person with the highest

number of votes as Council Vice President , but in her own case, she was brand new. She stated that at this election, Council Vice President Johnson received the most votes and has the most experience.

Mayor Lawson commented that during Mayor Scott's administration, he implemented that there be two additional councilmembers added to the three already set, so that every four years there would be elections of a mayor and three council or two council, but the vice presidency was not addressed for the two member council elections.

Mayor Lawson also noted as required by Maryland Law, any discussions with the majority of Councilmembers present must be done in public.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report. He noted that with the new garbage collection service, residents must follow rules that had been in place, but hadn't been followed by city workers.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she had seen some trash left on sidewalks and inquired if a notice of the new service had been distributed. Mr. Pollitt advised that a notice will be in this week's paper.

Mayor Lawson also noted that the new large cans would be delivered in four to six weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #438 AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A MARYLAND CIRCUIT RIDER GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Mr. Pollitt, City Manager, briefed the Mayor and Council concerning the application of a grant to hire a part-time circuit rider for grant writing, to be shared with Pocomoke. Mr. Pollitt advised that

M&C62216

the City's share of \$25K will be \$3,000 cash and \$3,000 in-kind.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that this is a positive program for the City and made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott, for discussion.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if the program was for two years. Mr. Pollitt advised that it was.

Councilman Emely inquired as to what happens after the second year.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the City has no obligation to continue. He noted that Pocomoke is the lease recipient of the grant.

Councilman Emely made reference to the hiring process. Mr. Pollitt advised that the City would have equal input with Pocomoke.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired if this person would be the City Manager's assistant.

Mr. Pollitt advised that they would mostly be used for grant writing.

Councilwoman Scott commented that it is unique to hire a grant writer with a grant.

Councilman Emely and Councilman Konapelsky expressed concerns that a person will be hired that fits the City's needs.

Mayor Lawson noted that at this time, there is over \$22M in grants being administered in City projects, including Sandy funding. He advised that having a circuit rider is a great opportunity.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he wants to make sure that the person hired is not just a secretary.

Motion carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY BORROWING ORDINANCE FOR CLARIFIER REPAIR

Mayor Lawson advised that this Ordinance is necessary to make emergency repairs to clarifier #2 at the waste water treatment plant with the borrowing of up to \$75K, payment coming out of the M&C62216

general operating budget for the treatment plant.

Mr. Pollitt briefed the Council on the issue concerning the disrepair of the clarifier due to lack of routine maintenance.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt Ordinance 664 as an emergency measure.

Motion second by Council Vice President Johnson.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the terms of the loan, which was then reviewed by Mrs. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the study of the plant equipment and conditions and a the plan established.

Mr. Jason Loar, Davis, Bowen and Friedel, advised that he needs to meet with the Mayor and Council to address the lack of spare parts. He noted that the report has been submitted to the regulatory agency.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to having a reserve fund. Mr. Pollitt advised that this will come once we have the results of the rate study.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the USDA grant and loan. Mr. Pollitt advised that the clarifier does not qualify.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a previous meeting with USDA and advised that they informed the City that our water and sewer rates must be appropriate in order to receive USDA assistance.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that problems at the Plant had been found by each new Public Utilities director and stated that a system of checks and balances are needed to make sure we get what we are paying for.

Mayor Lawson commented that it is hard to know when a problem will occur. Councilman Konapelsky interjected that this was caused by employee neglect.

Mr. Pollitt advised that Mr. Parkinson is handling personnel and plant issues immediately.

There being no further discussion, the motion adopting Ordinance 664 was carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Emely welcomed Councilwoman Ward onboard. Councilman Emely requested a work session to address several issues and also bring Councilwoman Ward up to speed.

Councilman Emely advised that one of his main concerns was the city's recent legal bill.

It was determined that the Mayor and Council would meet at 6:00 p.m. on July 6th.

Council Vice President Johnson welcomed Councilwoman Ward onboard. She noted that she could remember when the treatment plant was put in many years ago.

Council Vice President Johnson wished everyone a safe 4th of July and thanked the Council for selecting her as Council Vice President.

Councilwoman Ward noted that she is just listening for now and thanked Councilman Emely for scheduling a workshop.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we have a new councilmember and new direction. She stated that the research done by former Councilman Atkins was always helpful when making decisions and she will also miss his sense of humor.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that it is a pleasure to have Councilwoman Johnson as Vice President. He commented that at first, he was skeptical about Councilwoman Ward, but after talking to her and her supporters, he feels that she is a good person. He advised he is looking forward to a great

year and welcomed her onboard, thanking her for running.

Councilman Konapelsky also thanked those in attendance adding that we have a great Mayor and Council. He also wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Mr. Jason Loar, P.E. of Davis, Bowen and Friedel, noted that the blades and nacelle of the wind turbine is due for delivery on Thursday, June 30th.

Mayor Lawson noted that the SHA paving project is 80% complete.

Mayor Lawson noted that there will be a progress meeting on Monday, the 27th at 9:00 a.m.

He advised that Aaron Goller, Davis, Bowen and Friedel Project Manager has recommended the paving of Broadway to 7th and 8th and 6th Street. He noted that the blueprint has not changed.

Mayor Lawson also briefed on the ancillary work being done by Reynolds Excavating as well as the installation of handicap parking spaces around the Marina.

Mayor Lawson also recommended that the last half (100') of 5th Street be closed to through traffic due to its' condition and that it will deteriorate the new paving done on Broadway.

Mayor Lawson noted that the mulch for the playground had been received and also made reference to securing the No Parking signs so they will be permanent.

Mayor Lawson made reference to concerns about safe street crossing at the new Crisfield Library and cars that speed. He also noted that people have not been using the crosswalk. He urged drivers to slow down and obey the speed limit.

Mayor Lawson also noted that he observed 24 cars at the library today.

Mayor Lawson thanked the Council for their help and welcomed Councilwoman Ward onboard.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to Mayor Lawson suggestion to close a portion of M&C62216

5th Street. Mayor Lawson advised that he wants to close it at the Broadway entrance so it's not a through street.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired about the parking dynamics at Big Willey's. Mayor Lawson advised that there is no dynamic for parking there. Councilman Konapelsky commented that M.D.O.T. says his property goes to the street line from the grassy area.

PUBLIC INPUT

Shawna Kearsley congratulated Council Vice President Johnson and Councilwoman Ward on being elected. She briefed on activities of the City garden and Local Foods. She also thanked Council Vice President Johnson for helping her water one morning and advised that she needs help with weeding. She again thanked the Mayor and Council for the use of the lot and the water.

Mrs. Venetia Campbell Jackson congratulated the elected councilmembers. She also asked the Mayor and Council to consider reducing the speed limit on Cove Street. She also made reference to extra garbage left uncollected on Cove Street, due to the change of collection days.

Mr. John Tawes invited everyone to Freedom Fest on behalf of the American Legion. He advised that it will be held in the Marina and there will be several activities and fireworks.

Mrs. Margo Green-Gale extended congratulations to the Council Elect. She reminded everyone that she is Crisfield's Board of Education representative and invited everyone to attend Board meetings. She also made reference to cars also speeding on Chesapeake Avenue as well as all City streets. She also suggested that the lights in the meeting room be dimmed to make the power point easier to see.

Mr. Tom Aushain, resident of 16 S 4th Street, thanked the City for placing some dirt in that area for the M&C62216

ditch there.

Mayor Lawson commented that Mr. Donnie Drewer, SHA, has always said that speed limit signs don't slow people down, but radar does, though residents must remember that they can be ticketed for going 12 miles over the speed limit.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary