

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman (arrived at 6:13)
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager (arrived at 6:23)
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent; Councilman Erik Emely

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman; Code Enforcement Officer; Captain Lonnie Luedtke; Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities; Dr. Christy Shaw; Jenny Tawes; Ladel Dorman; Richard Crumbacker; Billy Colona; Jean Pittman-Gray and several members of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church.

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER, PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the Agenda for this evening's meeting. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried 3-0. (Councilman Emely,

absent, and Councilwoman Ward, not yet at meeting)

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – REGULAR AND CLOSED – 7/12/17

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt the minutes from the regular and closed meetings of July 12, 2017. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a housekeeping matter of re-signing a previously adopted Resolution and Ordinance, which had been misplaced.

FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Ladell Dorman made reference to the proposed biomass facility for Carvel Hall and inquired what type of extraction would be used by the Spangler Group. He inquired if it is a digester, and what type is proposed, or if it is a lagoon type, and if the land is suitable. He also inquired about the volume of biofuel that would be kept on site and trucked in, required for the production of methane.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Lawson deferred Mr. Pollitt's report at this time, as he had not arrived yet from his attendance at a MACO workshop for mandatory training concerning updated Open Meetings Act regulations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Captain Luedtke noted that CPD had received a \$6,500 School Bus grant and a \$5,870 Safeguard

Children grant. He also noted that there were 500-600 people in attendance at National Night Out. Council Vice President thanked Captain Luedtke for Crisfield Police Department's work for National Night Out.

Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement, noted that the rest of the pavers are in for the Green Space to complete the compass pattern.

Mr. Bozman noted that the City has been closing the downtown restrooms at 6:00 p.m. due to vandalism. He advised that they would be kept open longer for special events.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested putting a camera outside.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the gazebo for the Green Space. Mr. Bozman advised that there was no funding at this time. Mayor Lawson advised that the cost was \$12,500.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if new building permits had increased. Mr. Bozman advised that they had increased and there was also a lot of permits for renovation.

Dennis Parkinson, Supt. of Public Utilities, noted that he was about to lose another employee, leaving him with only three. He advised that he would have to contract out large jobs like water leak repairs.

Mayor Lawson made reference to water standing in front of Food Lion. Mr. Parkinson advised that he hasn't had time to make the repair. He noted that there are 3 areas with water leaks right now.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired if the leaks affect the issues people are having

with flushing toilets. Mr. Parkinson advised that the leaks have no bearing on flushing.

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer reviewed the financial statement ending June 30, 2017.

She advised that there was an information packet in their folder.

Mrs. Morgan reviewed details concerning installation of Edmunds Associates billing software and advised that Mrs. Soukup had done a fantastic job with implementing the new program.

Mrs. Morgan also reviewed gallonage and use summary of water customers.

She noted that Mrs. Jean Holloway had emailed her concerning wrapping up the information concerning water rates.

Mayor Lawson noted that several workshops need to be scheduled for September concerning water usage and becoming familiar with how the water system works. He asked that Council Vice President Johnson schedule these meetings, preferably during the day, so Mrs. Soukup could be present.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He noted that Ms. Rafter's grant application to the Rural Maryland Foundation for \$125,000 was awarded to the City. He advised that it would be used as a match for a possible USDA grant.

Mr. Pollitt also highlighted, thanks to Danny Thompson, his visit today from Ms. Melissa Kelly, the Eastern Shore Representative for Senator Chris Van Hollen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS – RENEWABLE ENERGY ORDINANCE

FIRST READER OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-47(A) (CHAPTER 112, ARTICLE X) OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED “PERMITTED USES”

Mr. Pollitt briefed on the history of working to get a business at the Carvel Hall building and

noted that one proposal from Spangler LLC had been received.

He advised that the Ordinance needed to be updated to accommodate permitted uses for the facility.

Mr. Pollitt advised that this Ordinance would be presented this evening for First Reader, followed by a Public Hearing and Second Reader next month.

He advised that Spangler would be doing a formal presentation with Q & A.

At this time, Mr. Sullivan read the proposed Ordinance into record.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott made reference to the upcoming public hearing.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Public Hearing could be held on September 13th either prior to the meeting or prior to the Second Reader, or ten days from the First Reader.

He suggested 5:30 on September 13th.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would like to hold the Public Hearing on September 12, 2017 to allow for more time.

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After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Public Hearing would be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Motion for Second Reader carried unanimously 4-0.

Mr. Ladell Dorman advised that he cannot be present for the Public Hearing. Mr. Pollitt advised Mr. Dorman that he could submit a letter with questions/comments to City Hall.

Councilwoman Scott advised making sure Mr. Danny Thompson is aware of the Public Hearing.

REQUEST FOR PERMIT OF INGRESS/EGRESS FROM DAVID CORBIN

Mayor Lawson made reference to research done during the last 3 to 4 months regarding property survey issues at the Small Boat Harbor. He suggested that this request be tabled as he would like a location survey from the buyer, seller and adjacent property owners.

Mr. Sullivan advised that this is not acquisition as each owner claimed title to a property and finally resolved the issue with level heads. He advised that Mr. Corbin only needs the Mayor and Council's approval for his permit of ingress/egress.

Mr. Sullivan suggested not tabling the request as both parties are now satisfied.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept Mr. Corbin's request for a permit of ingress/egress. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she is not familiar with the issue and asked about going with tradition and then going with requiring surveys, as per Mayor Lawson.

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Mr. Sullivan advised that the Small Boat Harbor is unique in approval of Ingress/Egress permits as per the 2007 agreement. He advised that we are not entitled to know the details of disputes between property owners.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired about being involved in these legal issues.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Small Boat Harbor is governed by man's word.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the Mayor's proposal.

Mayor Lawson advised that there had been property disputes in June and July and City staff had been tasked with searching for records to rectify the problem. He advised that he just wanted the Council to be aware.

Mr. Sullivan advised that their case is pending approval of the Ingress/Egress by the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Konapelsky also made reference to Mr. Corbin putting "No Parking" signs on the corner even though parking is for all.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she agrees with the Mayor about the need for a survey. Mr. Sullivan advised that he had already spoken to a surveyor concerning the scope of the survey.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if a vote needs to be taken on getting a survey. Mr. Sullivan advised that this could be done by amending the Small Boat Harbor Policy.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously 4-0.

EVENT APPLICATION REQUESTS

Mayor Lawson reviewed an Event Application Request from Jean Pittman- Gray on behalf of St. Paul AME Church, for a street block party – back to school event on August 26, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. blocking off a small portion of South 4th Street.

Captain Luedtke advised that he is okay with this event.

Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Bozman to provide them with a street barricade.

Approval so moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously 4-0.

Mayor Lawson reviewed an Event Application Request from the Ministerial Association for the church service at the depot on September 3, 2017.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if they are using the City's electric service for the event. Mayor Lawson advised that they are.

Approval so moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously 4-0.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Konapelsky thanked the members of the St. Paul A.M.E. church for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to a Mission Statement for the City and asked that it be addressed in September.

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Councilwoman Scott made reference to Carvel Hall and the estimated 68 jobs that will be coming there if the biomass facility opened. She made reference to looking for opportunities to train local people.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that some of these jobs may require engineering degrees.

Councilwoman Ward commented that there may be training available at UMES. She noted that there is a lot going on in Crisfield and there is a lot for the Council to do if we work together.

Councilwoman Ward reminded everyone about the Unity in the Community event at the Somers Cove Marina this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she agrees that we are making a collaborative effort. In reference to Carvel Hall, she advised that she wants to see jobs and different job training avenues. She also advised that she would get out emails concerning work sessions in September.

Mayor Lawson noted that there is \$20 to \$40K left in paving money and advised that Mr. Bozman is working with Bozman Paving to pave 10 places. He noted that the City would again be receiving Highway User Grant revenue in the amount of \$80K. He advised that Mr. Bozman has a bid from one contractor but we can't spend all of the money for one patch.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the status of the Street List. Mayor Lawson advised that we are out of money.

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Mayor Lawson noted that the 6 benches have been purchased for the Green Space, but there is no money for the gazebo, plaques or picnic tables.

Mayor Lawson noted that Dr. John Gaddis is working with Worcester County to encourage enrollment in UMES.

Mayor Lawson noted that Head Start will be opening this fall at Crisfield High School and that a new Vo-Tech center is to be built.

Mayor Lawson noted he is working on rental inspection criteria.

Mayor Lawson advised that he agrees with Councilman Konapelsky about the need for the camera in the downtown restroom.

Mayor Lawson commented that during his first three years as Mayor, there had been no destruction of property by young people, but this year there had been.

Mayor Lawson extended a "thank you "to Water's Edge Café for the installation of the WBOC Weather Channel camera.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Pittman-Gray thanked the Mayor and Council for granting permission for their Back to School Block Party event.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary