

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Gail Lankford, Councilwoman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer; Jimmy Charles, Public Works Director; Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider; Patti Aswell; Rev. Olivia Costango; Erick Banks; Richard Crumbacker; and Jason Loar.

Absent due to bereavement; Councilman Nelson Sheppard.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Dize requested a moment of silence for Councilman Sheppard for the recent passing of his mother.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dize wished everyone a Happy New Year. He then requested approval of the minutes from the previous meetings.

At this time, Councilwoman Lankford made a motion to approve the minutes from the work session and the regular meeting of Wednesday, December 12, 2018. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

FIRST SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

Rev. Olivia Costango, 2 Potomac Street, noted that after Hurricane Sandy, the ditches around her property had gotten filled in, causing a flooding problem under her house, leading to mold. She advised that her insurance would not cover remediation and the cost would be \$3,600. She advised that she

had been using a sump pump to pump out the water under the house, into the street, but this has caused some other issues. She commented that it is critical that the ditches in the City be cleaned out.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, presented her quarterly finance report reviewing the first six months of the Budget. She noted that included in the Income were Taxes, Front Footage and the one time Highway User Revenue amount. Mrs. Morgan went on to review the expense side of the Budget. She also noted that the yearly audit had been completed.

Mike Tabor, Chief of Police, reviewed the Department's annual report. Chief Tabor noted that this is the lowest crime rate in the history of Crisfield, with 12 out of 14 crimes solved.

Chief Tabor went on to highlight various sections of his report, including community and other activities, training, and grants received. He also noted various projects accomplished through the Police Benevolent Fund.

Mayor Dize inquired how to donate to the Benevolent Fund. Chief Tabor advised that donations can either go to City Hall, or himself.

Mayor Dize also commented about calls he has received concerning speed patrols. He noted that he advised the callers that many people now have golf carts and speed enforcement will prevent the risk of accidents. Mayor Dize advised that he supports the Department's efforts and hopes it will get people in the habit of driving the speed limit.

Council Vice President Johnson commented about continuing problems with loud music in the Pine Street area.

Mrs. Patti Aswell thanked Chief Tabor for letters of condolence she has received in the past.

Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer, presented his quarterly report, highlighting its contents. He noted that 190 Landlords have filed and paid for their Rental Registrations.

Councilwoman Lankford inquired about streets that do not have ditches, but are still flooding, for example; Tyler Street. Mr. Bozman advised that there is a ditch system there, but the condition of the road is the main cause.

Jimmy Charles, Public Works Superintendent, noted that according to WBOC, there had been 71 inches of rain in 2018. Mr. Charles went on to review his report, highlighting its contents.

Mayor Dize advised Mr. Charles that he appreciates his efforts on ditch cleaning.

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Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider, presented her quarterly report, highlighting its contents.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report, highlighting its contents.

OLD BUSINESS

DECISION REGARDING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WBOC WEATHER CAMERA

In response to a request by the Greater Crisfield Action Coalition for the City to support the cost of the WBOC Weather Camera located at the Depot, Councilwoman Lankford advised that she would be in favor of a one-month contribution of \$1,500. Councilwoman Ward, Councilman Ford, and Council Vice President Johnson concurred. Council Vice President Johnson suggested that it be allotted in the upcoming Budget.

Councilwoman Lankford made a motion that a one-month contribution of \$1,500 to the WBOC Weather Camera be allotted in the upcoming Budget. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

None

FINAL SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

None

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Lankford wished everyone a Happy New Year. She commented that she is excited about the new year and working on projects as a team.

Council Vice President Johnson also wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented that she was glad to hear about the Mayor's meeting with Salisbury Mayor Jake Day. She advised that she wants to help with the concentrated effort to get things done. Council Vice President Johnson commented that she earnestly listened to all of the Department Head Reports this evening. She also commented that she hopes there are some paving projects coming up.

Councilwoman Lankford commented that homeowners on Tyler Street have expressed their concerns to her that they are taxpayers, but paving projects for their street are always tabled.

Councilwoman Ward commented that all departments are in line. She also commended Mrs. Morgan on the job that she does. Councilwoman Ward advised that she feels good about the new year.

Councilman Ford wished everyone a Happy New Year. He encouraged everyone to work together in order to succeed.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the passing of Councilman Raymond Anderson's mother, and noted that the City sent a Resolution of Sympathy and the Police Department also sent a letter of condolence. She noted that Councilman Anderson was extremely touched by these gestures. Mayor Dize noted that once you are an elected official of the City, you are always one.

Mayor Dize made reference to the presentation, along with Councilwoman Ward, Mr. Pollitt, and Mrs. Jody Soukup, of Certificates of Appreciation in December to the Crisfield High School Field Hockey and Soccer teams. He noted that the students were very appreciative.

Mayor Dize also noted that there are plans to partner with Athletic Director, Greg Bozman, for a Benefit Alumni Basketball Game either in March or April, with the proceeds devoted to opioid awareness. Mayor Dize advised that details are forthcoming and they will be looking for donations.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Lankford, and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary