

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council of the City of Crisfield met in regular session on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 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
Erik Emely, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent due to prior commitment – Mark Konapelsky, Councilman

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Jason Loar, Richard Crumbacker, Patricia and Mark Critzman, John Dize, Tom Aushelman, Sarah Rayne and Mary Taylor

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

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to accept the Agenda for the evening’s meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the workshop of October

12, 2016 with a correction of the date, and the regular meeting minutes of October 12, 2016.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He also made reference to a forum which he and several other staff members attended last week concerning drainage planning.

Mayor Lawson noted that it was emphasized that best practice for stormwater management in the State of Maryland is maintenance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DECISION REGARDING DAVIS, BOWEN AND FRIEDEL'S RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT FOR THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

Mayor Lawson made reference to page 48 of the report – Conclusion and Recommendation and reviewed the summary of the finding. 1) Rehab of the Cove Street Pump Station, 2) Replacement of the Rubberset Pump Station, and 3) sewer lining and forcemain bypassing to eliminate sewer overflows.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott asked about the status of the 1936 Sewer as a priority.

Mr. Loar advised that it is lower in priority than these three issues.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the cost for these three projects is \$2.8M, and our current debt is \$2M. She stated that the City is held by law to a percentage of debt and inquired about a grant or loans.

Mr. Loar advised that there could be a combination of both a grant and loan package.

He also noted that USDA has refinanced old debt before.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to page 48 – Summary of Debt Service and advised that this would be \$13K a month in new payments. Mr. Loar advised that USDA will go up to 40 years for repayment.

Mayor Lawson thanked Councilwoman Scott for her comments.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the debt service shown as \$158k/ per annum and inquired why it is computed that way. Mr. Loar advised that this is because there is usually a reserve fund. Mayor Lawson advised that this gives the City a reason to start a conversation with the Sanitary District.

Councilman Emely inquired if this will fix our problem with I & I. Mr. Loar advised that it will address some of the problems of inflow and infiltration but that it would not eliminate all of the problems.

He clarified that the sewer lining is the project that will address I & I, the other two projects are to replace worn out equipment. He commented that there will still be I & I from the County.

Mayor Lawson commented that in 1990, we didn't have the Jacksonville Water Tower and we used 1.2 million gallons per day with pumps running 24 hours a day. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, we were almost at EDU capacity.

Councilman Emely suggested presenting two packages; one for the pump stations and one for all of our infrastructure since 1936.

Mr. Loar suggested continuing with the three items, adding the Executive Summary in front, and getting the numbers together for the I & I removal.

Mr. Pollitt inquired if we can submit a funding application for USDA and MDE, combined.

Mr. Loar advised that we could, but we would need to know what money we are getting from USDA. He advised going to MDE only for I & I.

Councilman Emely inquired if there is Sandy money available to fix flood gates.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired what was discussed as the best plan, during the workshop for I & I.

Mr. Loar advised that the best plan for Cove Street was to replace equipment, but it all comes down to money. He noted that Mr. Parkinson's main concern was safety in confined spaces.

Councilwoman Ward inquired when Mr. Loar would be presenting this packet to USDA.

Mr. Loar advised that he would tweak the report, present it to USDA, address comments, and submit an environmental review, which will take 2 to 3 months, so we are looking at next year.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to the lining of sewer pipes and Mr. Loar advised that this would eliminate some I & I, but he is skeptical about doing this due to the condition of the existing pipe and possible collapsed pipe.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if Mr. Loar is skeptical, why do it.

Mr. Loar advised installing new pipe would be a regulatory nightmare and pulling new pipe through old tears up manholes and causes service connection problems.

He advised that lining seals the pipes and is trenchless, but the only issue is collapsed pipe. He also advised that they will send a remote camera through the lines to assess the level of damage.

Mr. Pollitt advised Mr. Loar to tweak the recommendation and submit to USDA, and they will review our finances to see how eligible we are.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to allow Davis, Bowen and Friedel to go forward with the preliminary report and recommendation to USDA. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously with four in favor as Councilman Konapelsky was absent.

Mayor Lawson inquired about paving for Hammock Point. Mr. Loar advised that he would have a proposal next week with construction after winter.

Councilman Emely commented that winter would be hard on that road.

Mr. Loar noted that in reference to the wind turbine, the electrical subcontractor is finishing up his work. The parties will then come in to commission the turbine so it looks like it will be running by the end of November.

NEW BUSINESS

1ST READER GOLF CART ORDINANCE

Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt the Golf Cart Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott, for discussion.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to push for permission from the State to use the golf carts on the highway, not just for getting from point A to point B.

Mayor Lawson noted that there would be another golf cart expo at the Trunk or Treat event this Saturday. He also made reference to having Lamont Tilghman prepare a video showing the nature of the highway and street layouts to give a clearer picture of where they could be used.

Motion carried unanimously.

EVENT APPLICATION – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the event application for the annual Christmas Parade to be held on Friday, December 2, 2016. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A, COMMENTS

Mayor Lawson commented about the heavy rain in September that caused drainage problems from Somerset Avenue to State Street, between Asbury and Main Street, Chesapeake Avenue, and South Somerset Avenue.

He noted that a previous demolition of some trees had caused a blockage of a drainage pipe and it had taken two weeks to find and fix the problem. He commented that people complain about drainage issues, but will still plug up a ditch. Mayor Lawson advised that he would like to

establish a Ditch Committee. He made reference to Mrs. Patricia Critzman, who lives outside the City on Asbury Avenue, who experienced unusual flooding during that rain and had called about the smell of sewer, which was caused by overflows.

Councilman Emely addressed Mr. Pollitt about the situation on South Somerset Avenue at Jamie Holland's, requesting that Mr. Parkinson meet with him.

Councilman Emely made reference to the traffic pattern at the depot. Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. Bozman and Mr. Charles are working on a response to SHA.

Councilman Emely inquired about the Confined Space training. Mrs. Morgan advised that Mr. Charles and all but one member of Public Utilities attended a recent training exercise at City Hall.

Councilman Emely inquired about the status of the kayak launch. Mayor Lawson advised that it is back and forth between two places, but nothing firm yet, though he prefers a location on 7th Street.

Councilman Emely made reference to a trash can for the downtown parking lot. Mr. Pollitt advised that this would be taken care of.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to see the weed eating finished up at the Small Boat Harbor.

Councilman Emely inquired about the status of Carvel Hall. Mr. Pollitt advised that there are still several potential projects in the works.

Councilman Emely also noted that the Crisfield High School Field Hockey team had won seven straight games.

Councilwoman Ward inquired if there were any plans to develop the uptown part of the City.

Mayor Lawson advised that he had met with the owner of five storefronts, who is willing to work to make Main Street better. He also advised that he had challenged Council Vice President Johnson to come up with some plans.

Councilman Emely noted that a new dance studio had opened up further down on Main Street.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she would be taking on the Main Street project. She noted that Somerset Community Services had also opened a training center next to the new dance studio.

Council Vice President Johnson noted the judging of the Halloween windows. She also advised that in conjunction with Christmas in Crisfield on November 26th, they would like to keep the momentum going by holding events on December 10th in conjunction with Mr. Mike Headley, with caroling and hayrides in this part of the City, and a movie night at the High School.

Mayor Lawson noted that with plans to run electricity to the gazebo at the Municipal Park, we may be able to put a Christmas Tree in there.

Councilwoman Scott noted that a person she had spoken to who walks regularly, advised that there were no trash cans from Food Lion to the Marina.

Councilman Emely noted that he had requested that they be removed because of people filling them with their household garbage. He advised that he would like to have cans with small openings to prevent this. Mr. Pollitt advised that he would look for this type of can.

Mayor Lawson noted that that type of can costs \$600 to \$800. He suggested that Mr. Pollitt, Councilman Emely and himself, work on re-directing \$3,000 from Greenspace money for trash cans in the downtown area and requested a motion as such.

Motion so moved by Council Vice President Scott, seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely advised that he doesn't feel that a meeting is necessary; just order cans that won't hold household garbage.

Councilwoman Scott advised that this still won't solve the walker's issue. Mr. Pollitt advised that he would take care of the matter.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Patricia Critzman, who Mayor Lawson previously spoke about, noted that the water on Asbury Avenue during the heavy rains in September, was as bad as during Hurricane Sandy. She suggested contacting the Governor to request funding assistance for this type of water problem. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their help.

Mrs. Mary Taylor, Somers Cove Marina, thanked the Mayor, Councilman Emely, and Dr. Mike Atkins for their work on Golf Carts. She inquired when they could be used. Mayor Lawson

advised that registrations can now be obtained at the Crisfield Police Department.

Mrs. Taylor made reference to placing extra trash cans around the City and noted that more cans equals the need for more personnel, as experienced by the Marina staff.

Mayor Lawson noted that only one man takes care of City cans at this time.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the mess made by seagulls at the both the depot and Brick Kiln where people are feeding them and suggested posting "No Feeding" notices.

Mayor Lawson noted that Monday night, the wrap up meeting of UMCOR was held at Immanuel Church. He advised that UMCOR had staged their workers at the Union Asbury Church while they have been here doing Hurricane Sandy repairs. The Mayor advised that their many visitors have signed panels there and did artwork on them. Mayor Lawson advised that he would like to have these panels displayed in storefronts.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary