

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 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
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent due to illness; Councilman Mark Konapelsky

Absent out of town; Councilwoman Charlotte Scott

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement; Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities; Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider. See list for others in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER, PLEDGE TO THE FLAG – MAYOR LAWSON

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 10, 2018, the Closed Meeting on December 19, 2017, the meeting with the Housing Authority Board on December 19, 2017, the Regular Meeting on December 13, 2017, the Regular Meeting on November 8, 2017 and the Closed Meeting on November 8, 2017.

Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 3-0.

PRESENTATIONS – ANDY HAYNIE, CPA, PKS – AUDIT REPORT

Andy Haynie reviewed the City of Crisfield annual audit report for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2017. He advised that the City had received an Unmodified Opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be rendered. Mr. Haynie reviewed financial highlights and noted that the City had a positive year, overall.

Councilman Emely commented that the flat water rate is not covering expenses.

Mr. Haynie noted that there is no reserve for repairs.

Mayor Lawson asked that Mr. Haynie explain the negative impact of not charging enough for water and sewer. Mr. Haynie explained that this affects Bond ratings and grant qualifications.

Mr. Pollitt complimented department heads on their prudent spending within our means.

RARE DISEASE PROCLAMATION

Council Vice President Johnson read aloud a Proclamation concerning Rare Diseases.

Councilwoman Ward made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Seconded by Councilman

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Emely and carried unanimously 3-0.

A & E MAP REVIEW

Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider, reviewed a Resolution and map revision to the A & E District.

After a review and a brief discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt the Resolution and the revision to the A & E District map. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 3-0.

FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

ELMER BARKLEY commented about the recent blizzard and suggested that a system of volunteers be assembled to check on the elderly.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Rick Pollitt reviewed his bi-weekly report. He also noted that Sherwin Williams is having an open house for hiring this Saturday.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Tabor presented and reviewed Crime Stats for the year. He also commented concerning the ongoing murder investigation.

Chief Tabor noted that CPD has received over a million dollars in grant funding since he had been working here. He noted that Mrs. Bernice Evans, CAC, does all of the grant writing in-house.

Chief Tabor noted that he is still 3 men down in the department.

Councilman Emely inquired if we should consider sending candidates to the academy. Chief Tabor advised that he tries to get certified officers, because usually, if we send them to school, they stay here three years and leave to go to another agency.

Councilman Emely made reference to following up on the status of the Housing Authority agreement making CPD an agent of the Housing Authority.

Mayor Lawson commented on the follow up at the County for the recent blizzard.

He noted that the City hired outside agencies to assist with snow removal. He commended the Crisfield Fire Department for having the brush truck out for 80 hours to keep intersections clear of stranded vehicles. He also commented Chief Tabor for bringing in police dispatchers, as well as Mr. Bozman and his department.

Mayor Lawson made reference to networking with Emergency Management to check on neighbors. He also noted that there had been no deaths or injuries due to the weather.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement/Public Works, reviewed his monthly report. (see attached) He noted in his report that the plaques had been mounted on the memorial benches. Mayor Lawson thanked him for taking care of this detail.

Councilman Emely made reference to the cleaning at the Youth Club and noted that this is the 2nd time we have cleaned and tested and suggested asking the Major for help with the cost. Mr. Pollitt advised that we have asked and have been denied.

Councilman Emely also noted that the two SHA truck the City had purchased plowed the entire time of the blizzard.

Mr. Pollitt noted that the County Commissioners are doing a \$50K CDBG grant for a feasibility study for the Armory. Mr. Sullivan added that they are looking for engineers to do a structural assessment of the building, per Gary Pusey.

Mr. Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities, reviewed his quarterly report, highlighting its contents. Mayor Lawson made reference to getting the major leaks repaired by an outside contractor. Mr. Parkinson advised that his department has repaired 3 leaks since Friday, and would rather continue fixing them themselves. He also advised that there is one more on Cove Street and one on Broadway .

Councilman Emely made reference to the leak under the Tangier Island Cruise building. Mr. Parkinson advised that we would need to have a contractor come in. Mayor Lawson noted that this started when SHA replaced the sidewalk there. Councilman Emely stated that SHA was told that the water line was abandoned.

Mr. Parkinson also noted leaks on Broadway and Wynfall Avenue, commenting that if a contractor comes in, they want the water shut off, which causes more leaks.

Councilman Emely commented about the need for a better Public Utilities truck.

Mayor Lawson inquired about the status of the 2 backhoes. Mr. Parkinson advised that it was good.

Mrs. Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer reviewed the financial report from July to December.

She noted that snow removal costs so far are \$8,000. She also noted that in reference to the turbine, electric costs at the WWTP were \$8,700 as compared to \$4,666 in December.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman made reference to a Challenge Coin for the Field Hockey Team. Mayor Lawson advised Councilman Emely to work with the Secretary on these arrangements.

Councilman Emely advised that he may have the donation of an elevator for the Fire Hall from Pete Meeks.

Councilman Emely requested a work-session concerning 1) Water Meters and 2) Personnel.

Mayor Lawson noted that a work-session is also needed concerning water rates.

The secretary was instructed to schedule these meetings at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Emely also asked that the Chief work with Mr. Sullivan and the Housing Authority concerning CPD becoming an Agent of the Housing Authority, following up on the December 19, 2017 meeting.

Councilwoman Ward commended Departments on their hard work.

Councilman Emely introduced Pastor Bunting, who took over Rev. Terry Riggins' church.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the City could not operate without each of its

Departments.

She also noted that she received her Planning Commission Certificate at her Open Meetings class.

Mayor Lawson advised the Council to meet with Bozman concerning the Rental Inspection Proposal from Nelson Shephard.

Mayor Lawson made reference to abandoned houses and discussed covering windows and painting the cover to match the house to keep out squatters, adding the cost of this service to the taxes on the house.

Mayor Lawson advised that a follow-up is needed on the RFP for the old library.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that Cumberland has a model for handling abandoned houses.

2nd PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Eliza Fontaine, 14 Elzie Lane, inquired about the condemned house next to her and the apartments on the left. Mr. Bozman advised that he had received a call about the duplex from someone who wanted to rehab it; on the other side he hasn't spoken to that owner in years.

Pastor Tom Bunting, former Pastor of Immanuel Wesleyan Church in Salisbury, advised that he had taken over Rev. Terry Riggins' church. He made reference to the Adopt A Block program which offers prayer, food and counseling. He advised that the Church would be

MC012418

the Immanuel Wesleyan Church Crisfield Campus. He advised that he has a burden for those addicted to drugs and is trying to help.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary.