

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 25, 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
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer; Bunky Luffman, Eastern Shore Representative for Governor Hogan; Richard Crumbacker; Adam Thompson; and Lamont Potter.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER AND 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 the meeting. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried

unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of January 11, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2017, as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt highlighted various items in his bi-weekly report. Councilwoman Scott made reference to the meeting with Denise MacLeish of USDA on Wednesday, and inquired if the sewer study would be discussed with her. Mr. Pollitt advised that it is on the agenda.

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Jennifer Rafter reviewed her report, highlighting various projects she has been working on. She advised that her main focus right now are the three separate grant applications to MDE for the Cove Street pump station replacement, Rubberset pump station replacement, and Inflow and Infiltration projects.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she thought the application was for replacement of Rubberset and the upgrade of Cove. Ms. Rafter advised that she believes it is for the replacement of both.

Ms. Rafter also noted the importance of adopting a rate structure appropriate to the costs for qualification for future Grants and loans.

Ms. Rafter noted an interest in the development of an Arts and Entertainment District.

Mayor Lawson noted that there is a tax implication for loss in the A & E District.

He advised that the County Commissioners need to be informed.

Councilwoman Scott inquired how long the tax abatement would last. Ms.

Rafter advised that it lasts 10 years.

Councilman Emely noted that this is a work-session topic.

Mayor Lawson advised that it would require a meeting with the Mayor and Council and at least two in a larger setting like Crisfield High School.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired about Ms. Rafter's report items regarding partnering with the Chamber and with G.C.A.C. Ms. Rafter advised that these

have been brainstorming meetings, but together, there could be a stronger grant application.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired who would be the controlling interest. Ms.

Rafter and Mr. Pollitt advised that the City would be.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to Councilwoman Scott having to recuse herself when meeting with Ms. Rafter, as president for GCAC.

Councilwoman Scott advised that there have just been brain-storming meetings so far.

Mr. Pollitt advised that no decisions or votes would be taken at these kinds of sessions.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like the Council to meet with Ms. Rafter, and commended her on her report.

Mayor Lawson noted that several meetings ago, he had invited the Council to schedule a meeting with Ms. Rafter, through Mr. Pollitt, to share ideas.

Ms. Rafter also advised the Council to send ideas to her email.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that she has no problem working with any group.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, Mr. Pollitt introduced Mr. Bunky Luffman, Governor Hogan's Eastern Shore representative.

Mr. Luffman advised that he is not a spokesperson for the Governor or the legislative Branch but acts as a liaison between the Governor's Office and the citizens of the Eastern Shore. He said he intends to meet with every City and county government on the Shore.

Councilman Emely noted that Salisbury had just been awarded \$1M for Main Street revitalization and a Call Center, adding that he is jealous.

Mayor Lawson noted that Salisbury Mayor Jake Day is a consensus builder.

Councilwoman Scott urged Mr. Luffman to name one municipality with more potential than Crisfield. She advised that State money has the potential for a great return in Crisfield.

Councilwoman Scott also inquired about Highway User Revenue status.

Mr. Luffman advised that it is in the budget but he is not sure how it will be distributed. He noted that full restoration is not in the budget.

Mayor Lawson added that 87% of the State budget is already mandated.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that Salisbury had received so much money. Mayor Lawson advised that you have to pursue it.

Councilwoman Ward commented that the City has so much potential and the Depot is such a good location for events and concerts.

Councilman Emely thanked Mr. Luffman for meeting with the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Luffman suggested also meeting with Mayor Jake Day.

Mr. Pollitt commented that it is easy to get discouraged if we compare Crisfield to Salisbury or Ocean City. He stated that we need to have investors and a plan for any grant money we receive. Mr. Pollitt advised that brainstorming and getting the community engaged is the right step.

Councilman Emely made reference to a fundraising effort at the Crisfield Fire Department with a goal to raise \$100K. He commented that Crisfield Fire Department is one of the best fire companies in the State of Maryland.

M&C COMMENTS, Q & A

Mayor Lawson complimented Ms. Rafter on her report.

Mayor Lawson noted that he would be attending the Maryland Mayor's Association conference in Annapolis on February 2nd and 3rd and asked for topics for discussion.

Mayor Lawson noted that he would be meeting with the Sanitary District on February 9th and made reference to the article in the County Times concerning the City's inflow problems. He stated that he does not want to go to war in the paper.

Mayor Lawson also commented regarding the Sanitary District borrowing money from the County to retire debts.

He also noted that the 40 year Sanitary District contract needs revision.

Mayor Lawson noted that the City has the plans for improvement of Hammock Point, prepared by DB & F for preliminary bidding.

Mayor Lawson noted that Long Term Recovery had won their \$1M appeal for funds to elevate eight houses.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Smith Island Baking Company is looking to expand.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Chamber working on having radio ads for Saturday night events at the depot during the summer.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Customs House needs a plan for the interior of the building.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the tax structure and whether or not the City should raise the tax rate or go with the constant yield to maintain a consistent level of revenue due to declining property assessments.

Mayor Lawson noted that there are seven bricks left to be sold for the new library at a cost of \$100 each. He asked for a motion that the city purchase six of them.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he wasn't aware there were any left and now feels that people will purchase them since they know. Mayor Lawson withdrew his suggestion.

Councilwoman Scott had no comments.

Councilwoman Ward had no comments.

Council Vice President Johnson had no comments.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Adam Thompson inquired about the status of the turbine going on line

in February.

Mr. Pollitt advised that there was no set date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary