

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 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; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Dean Bozman, Public Works/Code Enforcement; Jimmy Charles; John Watson; Robert Hunt; Rick Lord; Bruce Emely; Dennis Parkinson, Sr.; Dennis Parkinson, Jr.; Joseph Ingram; Rhonda Hill; Katie Smart; Matt Tomlins; Ryan Evans; Woody Lee; Chuck Nelson; Karis Reynolds; Ronnie Hinman; Bill Reynolds; Jennifer Merritt; Tillie Doyle; Richard Crumbacker; Jenny Tawes; Robert Schreiber; Pastor Tom Bunting; Roger Browning; Bill Brown; Kathy Reynolds; Buddy Ward; Tammy Hunt; Mindie Burgoyne; Randy Laird; James W. Riley; Sarah Rayne; and Page Browning.

CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Emely made a motion to move the Old State Road M.O.U. discussion after the pre-

sentation of the Blizzard Grayson Certificates. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2017, January 24, 2018, February 5, 2018, February 6, 2018 and February 13, 2018. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

A & E PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Lawson opened the public hearing and read aloud the notice. He introduced Mrs. Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider. Mrs. Merritt then reviewed the power point, which had been presented at the meeting of the County Commissioners on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Randy Laird noted that this was the first County Commissioners meeting item that people were actually in favor of.

Mr. Bob Schreiber, Annemessex Ridge, advised that he is 100% for an A & E District.

Mayor Lawson advised that discussion of an A & E District started a long time ago, finally gaining momentum. He noted that he feels strongly about having an A & E District.

Councilman Konapelsky thanked Mr. Laird for his comments, adding that this gives artists an opening to come into the City and helps the County as a whole.

Councilman Emely commented that the A & E District is two votes away.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she is glad the District will include “down-

town”.

Councilwoman Ward noted that this is a benefit to the City.

Councilwoman Scott noted that there is power in unification. She commented that there are lots of artists here and the District will be a return on investments. She also thanked Mr. Schrieber for speaking up.

Mayor Lawson asked those in the audience to stand if they were in favor, noting that its stands unanimous.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT DURING BLIZZARD GRAYSON

Mayor Lawson noted that these were to be presented at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, which had been cancelled.

Mayor Lawson read aloud and presented certificates to members of the Crisfield Fire Department who were present; Matt Tomlins; Ryan Evans; Woody Lee; Chuck Nelson; Karis Reynolds; Ronnie Hinman; and Bill Reynolds; (not present – Chief Frankie Pruitt, Josh Hinman and C.J. Lewis) Mayor Lawson noted that some were out in the rescue vehicle for 82 hours pulling stranded vehicles out of intersections.

Mayor Lawson read aloud and presented certificates to members of the Crisfield Police Department who were present; Chief Mike Tabor; PCO Rhonda Hill and PCO Katie Smart.

Chief Tabor noted that the dispatchers did a great job handling calls and Public Works made response to the calls much easier.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that dispatchers' jobs are very important.

Mayor Lawson read aloud and presented certificates to Dennis Parkinson Sr. and Jr. and Joseph Ingram of the Public Utilities Department.

Mayor Lawson read aloud and presented certificates to Dean Bozman, Jimmy Charles, Robert Hunt, Ricky Lord, John Watson and Bruce Emely, of the Public Works Department.

He noted that they had worked around the clock moving snow in the high winds.

Mayor Lawson noted that three contractors, who were not present, had responded immediately, when the job became too big for the City; Ryan Miller, John Goldsborough and Mark Bozman.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION – M.O.U. OLD STATE ROAD WATER LINE

Mayor Lawson made reference to the previous meeting that the group appeared before the Mayor and Council asking for support. He asked for a committee of Councilmembers, Mr. Pollitt, and himself to meet with the Sanitary District concerning changes to the water rates.

Councilman Emely commented that the rates will be set after the work session; at this time, they just want the City to continue with repairs as we are doing. Mr. Laird added that they need an MOU stating that we will continue make repairs and bill the residents.

Mr. Sullivan inquired who the other parties are to the MOU. Mr. Laird advised that it is the Sanitary District.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion that we move forward with the M.O.U. Motion

seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mr. Pollitt noted that the matter had to be brought to the regular meeting for a vote by the Council.

At this time, Councilman Emely left the meeting.

#### COASTAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS PRESENTATION

Sarah Rayne, Government and Public Affairs Director, Coastal Association of Realtors of Maryland and Page Browning, Executive Vice President, presented a report on the state of the Crisfield Real Estate Market.

#### APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2018 ELECTION

Mayor Lawson presented the list of Election Board members for the 2018 Election; Lawann Tilghman; Regina Hill, Artie Tawes and Bob and Diane Culver. He advised that all had been contacted and have agreed to serve on the Board. At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to accept the appointment of the Election Board Members for the 2018 election. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson noted that paper ballots will be used.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> SESSON OF PUBLIC INPUT

None

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his monthly report, highlighting its contents. He made reference to the visits to the Senate and House concerning Golf Cart legislation, and noted that the Bill sailed through the Senate, but we are still waiting to hear from the House.

M&C022818

Mr. Pollitt also noted that he had also gone to Annapolis concerning the Board of Public Works approval of the grant application for Kayak funding.

He advised that the launch site would be near the wind turbine at the end of the walking trail.

Councilman Konapelsky asked if it would be ready this summer. Mayor Lawson advised that it would.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Tabor noted that CPD had received a grant for the new vehicles and through a grant modification, that money will be used for outfitting the vehicles with lights and other police vehicle features.

Dean Bozman noted that the Hammock Point concrete work is done and ready for black top.

Councilman Konapelsky commended Mayor Lawson on his vision for the Park.

Mayor Lawson noted that there had been a lot of interest in the Park and Green Space.

Dennis Parkinson noted that the Jacksonville Well will be back up in a few days.

Mayor Lawson inquired if the abandoned well on 7<sup>th</sup> Street is recoverable. Mr. Parkinson advised that if it was abandoned, it was probably filled with concrete.

Mrs. Morgan advised that she had nothing to report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS –

DONATION OF PROPERTY

Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. James Ward would like to donate to the City of Crisfield parcel 292 on Collins Street to be part of the Park.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the property donation from Mr. Ward. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

During discussion, Mr. Sullivan asked how the property owner intends to dispose of the property.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he has requested a letter from the City accepting the property and acknowledging its value.

Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Sullivan the estimated cost to transfer the property. Mr. Sullivan advised about \$500. Mayor Lawson asked the Council to pay for the cost with money from the \$60K in Park Money.

Councilman Konapelsky amended his motion to add the language that “money from the Park be used for the transfer cost. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Lawson excused any paid employees who had been there for the Certificate of Appreciation presentation.

ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PANHANDLING – COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council Vice President Johnson noted that she thought this was already in the Code.

Chief Tabor advised that there was no Panhandling, just Hucksters.

Councilman Emely made reference to street musicians accepting donations.

After further discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to bring the discussion back, looking at the Frederick County Ordinance, with the Chief looking at any changes.

Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Chief Tabor noted that it could be a \$100 fine or 30 days in jail.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott commented that we need to move this along before the warm weather season. She noted that people are getting hit up for money at different locations in the City, but that we also need compassion. She advised that there is more than one person panhandling.

Mayor Lawson commented that the businesses that the panhandlers are hanging out in front of have to help with stopping them as well.

#### EVENT APPLICATIONS

Boat Docking – Sunday, September 2, 2018 City Dock

Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously .

Mayor Lawson commented that the Boat Docking Committee does a phenomenal and professional job and thanked all involved.

Crisfield Pride Lodge Organizational Day Parade – Sunday, April 22, 2018

Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried



unanimously.

MAYOR DISCUSSION – SALVATION ARMY YOUTH CLUB

Mayor Lawson briefed the Council on the bill from the Youth Club for uniforms in the amount of \$6,017. He also read a letter offering them a one-time amount of \$2,000 from the City.

Councilwoman Scott asked if we ever paid for shirts. Mrs. Morgan advised that we had not paid for any. She noted that many other items were stored with the uniforms that had to be removed.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she thought we would pay for the first set of shirts.

Councilwoman Ward commented that the uniforms were stored in the basement and got ruined, and they expect us to pay the bill.

Mr. Sullivan commented that they didn't take title to the building until 2014.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that we can't help other organizations and they want us to pay for their poor storage. He suggested tabling the matter until budget time.

Mayor Lawson commented that the Salvation Army is suffering and made little or no money through the bell-ringers this year.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to hold the request for the budget.

He then rescinded his motion.

Councilwoman Scott commented it is not clear what for and whose responsibility this is, as she

thought we had already replaced the shirts.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to do the one-time payment of \$2,000.

Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried 3-1, with abstention from Councilman Konapelsky.

Mayor Lawson commented that he is upset with the lack of responsibility of the manager.

Mr. Pollitt noted that Councilman Emely had left a note saying he was in favor of the one-time payment of \$2,000.

#### MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Scott thanked the Mayor for presenting the Certificates of Appreciation for the Blizzard Grayson.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if we are collecting Room Tax. Mrs. Morgan advised that we collect it monthly.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to an increase. Mr. Sullivan advised that we would have to contact our senator or delegate to contact Legislative Services as it would apply countywide.

Councilwoman Scott also noted that Councilman Konapelsky had won the Chamber of Commerce award for selling the most cook-books.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that workers did a tremendous job during the blizzard and advised she appreciates the Mayor for their recognition.

Councilwoman Ward also commended the Mayor for the Certificates of Appreciation.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that we need the people who said they would work with the City on ideas for the use of Carvel Hall.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the 5 condemned houses, 4 in protest on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and one on Locust Street. He advised that the City cannot afford to tear them down but will be moving forward toward condemnation.

Mayor Lawson made reference to recent loss of family members of Sandy Landon and Dennis Parkinson.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to an hourly tour business offer.

FINAL PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Jenny Tawes advised that she had attended an Active Shooter presentation.

Chief Tabor advised that he had done one for the high school and churches.

Randy Laird thanked the Mayor and Council for working with the Mariners Road water line association and advised he needs this fast-tracked to the Sanitary District.

He also made reference to negative comments about the Bike Trail.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary