

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 11, 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, Council Vice President
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
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; Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities; Richard Crumbacker; Loraine Windsor; Tillie Doyle; Jimmy Ford; and Barry Dize.

CALL TO ORDER, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY MAYOR LAWSON

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 28, 2018 as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

FIRST PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

No public input was offered at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He also highlighted that the Senate and House voted unanimously for the golf cart bill revision, which allows use of all properly registered golf carts on all City streets. Mr. Pollitt thanked Delegate Otto, Senator Mathias; Delegate Anderton, Donnie Drewer; Bill Buttrill as well as support letters from Chief Tabor, the Marina Commission, Greater Crisfield Action Coalition and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Pollitt also commented about the State's projected increase in Highway User Revenue.

Councilwoman Scott inquired what the largest amount of HUR funds received by the City was, and what we received last year. Mayor Lawson advised that we went from \$227K to \$35K. He noted that the only reason streets were paved last year was through Hurricane Sandy funds, through the assistance of Senator Mikulski and Mayor Purnell. He advised that restoring HUR funding was Governor Hogan's pledge to the Maryland Municipal League.

Mayor Lawson commented about working with the Crisfield Police Department and KRW Auto concerning golf cart regulations last year. He asked Mr. Bozman to have 15 golf cart information signs installed in the City before July 1 and that the police make sure they enforce seat belt usage.

Councilman Konapelsky asked that a meeting be held concerning golf cart information.

Councilman Emely commented that people need to know what an actual golf cart is, as compared to similar low speed vehicles.

CRISFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TABOR

Chief Tabor stated that CPD was lenient on golf cart users last year. He advised that Carts still have to

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be registered with CPD yearly, paying the \$25 fee. Mr. Bozman asked if they have to be re-inspected.

Chief Tabor advised that they have to be re-inspected at Tawes Brothers. {This information was in error.

Inspections are to be carried out by the police department}

Chief Tabor went on to review the annual Crime Report. He also noted that the Department has been enforcing the 30 mph speed limit on Maryland and Richardson Avenues.

Councilwoman Scott inquired if the Department has had to enforce the Panhandling Ordinance. Chief

Tabor advised that they have not received any complaints, so far. Councilwoman Scott noted that she had

heard there were five people panhandling. Chief Tabor advised that people should call 911.

Councilwoman Scott stated that storeowners should tell them to leave. She also commented that she would like to see them get help for whatever their condition was. Chief Tabor advised that they can be given a referral to Social Services.

Councilman Emely commented about radar being run on the outskirts of town, and the complaints he had received. Councilman Emely also inquired about the status of drug activity in town.

Chief Tabor advised that there were still problems with Heroin being laced with fentanyl, noting that a lot of drugs were being sold on the outskirts of Crisfield.

Mayor Lawson suggested displaying the Panhandling Ordinance in stores, if the owners want it there.

Council Vice President Johnson commended the Chief on the grant funding CPD had received. Chief Tabor advised that the credit goes to CAC Bernice Evans, who writes the grants.

PUBLIC WORKS – DEAN BOZMAN

Mr. Bozman reviewed his quarterly report, highlighting its contents. He noted that according to

John Phoebus, the owner of the derelict properties on 4th Street will be turning them over to St.

Paul's Church.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the lack of progress at the house under construction on Wynfall and Hall Highway. Mr. Bozman advised he would be contacting the owner.

Councilman Emely made reference to the brick building on Main Street with no roof. Mr. Bozman advised that Fred Friedley is trying to get this building to be used for an art event, which would be done with walls and no roof.

Councilman Emely also commented that the Tawes Building needs a violation letter.

Mayor Lawson asked that Mr. Pollitt and Mr. Bozman prepare a report on fines that can be issued at different time periods.

Councilman Emely also noted that at a fire call on Cove Street for a shed that was burning today, a large amount of flammable material was discovered, creating a potential hazard.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that the City does not have the authority to look behind buildings.

Councilman Emely advised that he only wants Mr. Bozman to follow the Code and do what needs to be done.

Councilwoman Scott asked Mr. Bozman what his top priorities were.

Mr. Bozman advised that his top priorities were City projects such as the Walking Trail, etc., dealing with citizen complaints, and permitting processes, which are sometimes lengthy.

He noted that he also handles Public Works.

Councilwoman Scott asked how he has time to deal with Code enforcement.

Mr. Pollitt noted that Mr. Bozman tries to establish personal contacts to handle issues.

Mr. Bozman advised that some issues need to be taken to court, but there are costs.

Councilman Emely thanked Mr. Bozman for his hard work.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – DENNIS PARKINSON, SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Parkinson reviewed items from his quarterly report.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the 60 water meters for repair and inquired if the City can bill from the fixed meters. He commented that people want to pay for their actual usage and asked if we could have figures by the next meeting, which is needed for the budget year.

Mr. Parkinson advised that 60 of the meters have been done and he will check with Mrs. Soukup to see which meters are being read and which are not.

Councilman Emely inquired if the City still flushes fire hydrants. Mr. Parkinson advised that they do.

Councilman Emely advised that we need to know what is not working so the fire department can paint the lids, tag and bag them and notify Somerset Central.

Councilman Emely also inquired about the status of Steven Thomas' building. Mr. Parkinson advised that he is waiting on a price.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to a water pressure problem at a residence on Chesapeake Avenue. Mr. Parkinson advised that this is a matter for the City to resolve.

Mayor Lawson inquired what the gallons per minute output per well is.

Mr. Parkinson advised that the Jacksonville Well is 950, Maryland Avenue – 400, Broadway – 390, Park – 347, and Jersey is 175.

Mayor Lawson advised that we need an analysis of the wells.

He noted that the Park Well was installed in 1984.

He also advised that the City needs an analysis for what the Park pays the City for sewer, through the

Sanitary District.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT – JOYCE L. MORGAN

Mrs. Morgan advised that APPI had notified her of a lower electric rate for the City. She advised that we are currently with Constellation Energy, but Champion was the lower bidder at 0.05660 per KW hour.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the bid from Champion. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott commented that this is a 25% reduction savings and made reference to street lights. Mrs. Morgan advised that they are not affected since Delmarva Power & Light owns them.

Mr. Sullivan advised that this would lock in rates from 1/1/20 to 12/2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Morgan presented Resolution 448 – A contract for Audit Services with PKS, extending terms for 4 years from 2019 to 2022. Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt Resolution 448. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CHARTER/SPECTRUM, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RESOLUTION 449

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Cable Franchise Executive Summary and Resolution 449 Authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the City and Charter Communication.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the Cable Franchise Agreement. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept Resolution 449. Motion seconded by Councilwoman

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Scott and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – REQUEST TO CONNECT THE MURRAY HOUSE TO WATER AND SEWER

Mayor Lawson noted that this is one of the homes behind Janes Island State Park and DNR is requesting that the water/sewer connection fee be waived.

Mayor Lawson requested a motion to allow an executive team work this out as an arrangement that will be beneficial to the City as well as meet with the Sanitary District concerning the cost the City has incurred to repair the Jacksonville Well.

At this time, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to approve the executive team to come back with a proposal of what is beneficial for the City concerning the request from DNR for a waiver of the Murray House water and sewer connection. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

EVENT APPLICATIONS – LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE & 4TH SATURDAY BAY STROLLS

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve both Event Applications. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Lawson read a letter from the McCready Foundation concerning entering into negotiations with Peninsula Regional Medical Center. He advised that the new CEO, Kathleen Harrison, sends her deepest respects to the City of Crisfield and her commitment to preserve quality health services to the City of Crisfield.

Councilwoman Scott commended Ms. Harrison on her initiative to communicate with the City.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the National Day of Prayer to be held on Thursday,

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May 3, 2018 at noon. She noted that it was not held last year, therefore she had spoken with Pastor Joe Barnes about doing programs, and would also like to have a light reception afterwards in the meeting room.

At this time, Councilman Emely voted to approve the Prayer Day events. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Johnson also recommended that Mayor Lawson continue on the Park Commission, serving as Chairperson, after his term as Mayor ends.

Councilwoman Ward commented that the Department Heads Quarterly Reports are informational and commends them on their hard work.

Councilwoman Scott had no comments/questions for discussion.

Councilman Konapelsky asked Barry Dize and Jimmy Ford, who are running for Mayor and Council, to introduce themselves. Mr. Dize commented that he loves the City, as does Mayor Lawson, and feels it is in good hands if either he or Councilwoman Scott win. He advised that he will put the City's best interests at heart, has no personal agenda, and will support the City even if he does not win.

Mr. Ford commented that he has lived here his entire life and can work with anyone to move the City forward.

Councilman Emely made reference to making sure Incineration as a permitted use at Carvel Hall, is removed from City Code.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the City is working on updating the zoning code through a grant to the County and there will be a presentation to the Planning

Commission on May 1st. He suggested we can make this part of the Zoning Ordinance update.

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Councilman Konapelsky advised that agrees.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to delete from the Zoning Ordinance, Incineration as a permitted use In the Light Industrial zoning district. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely asked Mr. Pollitt to speak to the McCreedy Hospital about their water usage, as well as all who get free water, as far as reciprocation. He also asked Mr. Pollitt to contact Sherwin Williams to see if they want to purchase the building or pay rent.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that this was a perk that kept them in Crisfield when they were leaving, and doesn't agree.

Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Pollitt to look at relationships of other municipalities and businesses.

Councilman Emely suggested for example \$1,000 per month. Councilman Konapelsky stated that you have to look at the whole picture and how we kept them here, adding that this seems hostile.

Council Vice President Johnson suggested that we need to look at the original contract that was done by Mayor Purnell.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the 2014 Lease moved forward with taxes included, but we need to check the terms of the lease.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the history of Rubberset/Sherwin Williams negotiations, noting that there is a lot we give up to have jobs. Councilman Emely commented that if Mr. Pollitt starts the process, they may offer the City something.

Councilwoman Scott commented that we need to understand the history and if there is any opportunity to benefit the City, unless it prevents renewal. Mr. Sullivan advised that as of October, 2014,

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there are to be eight successive one year renewals.

Councilman Emely suggested looking for a golf cart for public works, since they will be permitted throughout the City.

Councilman Emely asked about the status of the Puppy Hole Court condo project. Mr. Pollitt advised that the City had met with the new owners to discuss possible incentives but that nothing had happened as a result.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the Dollar General and Family Dollar parking lots. Mayor Lawson advised that Mr. Bozman had heard from Dollar General, but nothing from Family Dollar.

Councilman Emely made reference to the rust on the new benches at the Depot Green Space. Mr. Bozman advised that this is surface rust that wipes off.

Councilman Emely noted the purchase of the Fire Boat and the new ambulance.

Mayor Lawson noted that he attended the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council meeting on Monday and advised that Mayor Bruce Morrison, who had suffered a brain aneurysm in November, walked in with a cane.

Mayor Lawson noted that the ashes of Lilyan Stratton Corbin would be transferred to Bradshaw Funeral Home on Thursday.

Mayor Lawson noted that he had requested that Shawna Kearsley become a member of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Bozman to get a package together of all striping that is needed on City streets, municipal parking, etc.

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Mayor Lawson made reference to ongoing drainage issues and urged the Council to continue address this for future paving, dividing the City into 8ths to control drainage.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would be happy to continue to serve on the Park Commission as Chairman.

Councilman Emely made a motion to appoint Mayor Lawson as Park Commission Chairman. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Johnson noted that the Mayor and Council need to have a group picture taken at the next meeting.

Mayor Lawson also noted the upcoming Park Bench donors reception on May 7th.

2ND SESSION PUBLIC INPUT

Lorraine Windsor, Mill Lane resident, advised that the road there has caved in by the tidal ditch.

She advised that 1000 feet of the road is not paved and is deteriorating quickly.

Mayor Lawson advised that former Mayor Purnell had tried to have a tidal gate installed, but was halted by DNR. Council Vice President Johnson suggested talking to the County to make the street one-way. Mayor Lawson suggested polling people who live on that street.

Mr. Bozman suggested putting in a drain tile and covering.

Jimmy Ford made reference to a big drainage problem on Cove Street.

Sue Ransom noted that they will need trash cans out for the 4th Saturday Bay Strolls.

She also commented that fines for panhandling won't be paid.

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

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Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary