

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman
Gail Lankford, Councilwoman
Jimmy Ford, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary – see sign-in sheet for others in attendance

CALL TO ORDER, OPENING PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Dize requested approval of the minutes from the meetings of Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Approval so moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilman Sheppard, and carried unanimously, 5-0.

FIRST SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

Sam Davis addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the Peck Miller project and advised he had a list of 53 businesses that are in support. He advised that had given it much consideration and prayer, and is in support of the project.

Tim Howlett addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the project as well. He advised that he owns two businesses in Crisfield and commented that the Hotel/Conference Center project

won't take away from anyone, but will encourage growth in Crisfield. He advised that he had prayed about this project, and feels that it is a way to keep people here.

Jay Tawes commented that we need to seize the opportunity for this project and unite as one voice. He advised that we need to form a committee to work with Peck Miller, the State, City, and County.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents. Mr. Pollitt also requested a motion from the Council concerning the award of the mowing bid for the cutting of three City owned properties. He noted that Schultz Lawn Care was the lowest of the 7 bids received at a price of \$310 per cutting, and advised that all bids were reviewed by Mr. Bozman, who recommended awarding the bid to Schultz.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to award the mowing bid to Schultz Lawn Care. Motion seconded by Councilman Ford and carried unanimously, 5-0.

FINAL SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

Senator Mary Beth Carozza addressed the Mayor and City Council and thanked them for hosting her recent visit to City Hall, along with other representatives from other State agencies. She noted that she is working on maintaining a health care facility in Somerset County through a partnership with McCready Hospital and PRMC.

Senator Carozza commented that it was impressive to have the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth Holt attend the recent meeting and noted that they will also be working on the revitalization of Crisfield.

Senator Carozza advised looking at moving forward with the model block and advised that she will work with infrastructure priorities.

Dean Goldsborough commented that there was no parking available for this meeting due to all of the junk police cars. He also inquired about the status of the kayak facility.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Lankford she is excited to see everyone here, acknowledging Senator Carozza and County Commissioners Randy Laird and Charles Laird.

Councilwoman Lankford advised that she had been absent the past two months due to contemplating about what she should do and how she could be of benefit to the City as Councilwoman. She advised that she had decided to stay on. She urged people to think outside the box because it is possible for the City to grow. Councilwoman Lankford advised that she supports the Peck Miller Project and will listen to the people.

Councilman Sheppard commented that he was ok with forming a committee to work with Peck Miller and is supportive of those in attendance.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that anything is possible. She thanked those in attendance and Senator Carozza.

Councilwoman Ward commented with the quote "Together we Stand, Divided we Fall".

Councilman Ford advised that he had no comments.

Mayor Dize thanked everyone in attendance.

He stated that it is a misconception that he is against the Hotel Conference Center. He advised that he is not here to prevent it. Mayor Dize noted that Secretary Holt has advised that there are no State agencies to fund it and added that the City cannot fund it either, but if there is someone who can fund its construction, they should move forward with it. Mayor Dize reiterated that there is no City money available, nor commitment of money through the State.

Council Vice President Johnson reminded everyone of the Opioid Awareness Benefit Basketball game on May 18th.

Mayor Dize advised that he would like to donate \$500 from the Mayor's salary that he opted out of receiving, to the program, and asked for a motion to approve the donation.

So moved by Councilman Sheppard, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson, and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he is working with the Health Department on where to funnel the proceeds.

Councilwoman Ward made reference to the upcoming Unity in the Community Event, which is geared toward reaching out to all races.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary