

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 6:05 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  
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; Louis Hickman; Frankie Pruitt; Billy Colona; Mike Corbin; Jaimie Bradshaw; Ed Goyda; Georgianna Hayman; James Riley; Randy Laird; and Leigh Ann Schoffstall.

CALL TO ORDER, 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 THE AGENDA

Council Vice President Johnson requested an amendment to the Agenda, in order to hand out Certificates of Appreciation from Crisfield Elks Pride Lodge #194, for this past Sunday's parade, after the CDBG Public Hearing.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the Agenda with the requested amendment. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on 4/11/18 and the closed meeting on 4/9/18. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

At this time, Mayor Lawson introduced Mrs. Jennifer Merritt, Circuit Rider. Mrs. Merritt then reviewed slides pertaining to CDBG funding for the fiscal year 2019. She noted that the City is applying for \$800K toward funding for a project that would replace the wastewater pumping station at Rubberset.

Mayor Lawson noted that surveys have gone out in some areas outside of the City, as this project affects the periphery. Mrs. Merritt added that she would need information back in to submit the grant application by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilman Emely inquired about also applying for funding to make the fire department and City hall ADA compliant.

Mr. Pollitt commented that the City has an issue with CDBG of some credibility for Carvel Hall, the Passive Park and It Takes a Village, and should not dilute the significance of the Rubberset pump station.

Mrs. Georgianna Hayman, resident of 402 Myrtle Street, made reference to standing water in front of her house, since the street was paved. Councilman Emely advised that they will address her shortly in Public Input.

Mayor Lawson noted that CDBG money is the federal government's money that trickles down to the State. He commented that since the 80's \$18M of City projects have been leveraged through CDBG.

With no further comments, the Public Hearing closed.

#### CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Council Vice President Johnson presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Pride Lodge to Matt Tomlin, Crisfield and Marion Fire Departments and other agencies.

#### APPOINTMENTS – CRISFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT; UPDATE ON FIRE BOAT

Crisfield Fire Chief Frankie Pruitt and President Louis Hickman appeared before the Mayor and Council to give an update on information concerning the new fire boat. Mr. Hickman noted that they are not asking for anything. He also advised that David Mason built the 31' boat for the Department at no cost to them. He also advised that the Fire Department would be buying the engines. He advised that the Department would have \$38K in the boat. He also noted that the boat was insured for \$238K with \$1M in personal injury insurance.

Chief Pruitt advised that they have a crew and protocol. He advised that the boat was located by the DNR station at the Marina.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he heard Goldsborough Marine was not allowed to bid on the

engines. Chief Pruitt advised that this was not the case; Mr. Mason could get the engines for them at cost, so it was logical for the Department to save money.

Chief Pruitt advised that fire companies do the rescue and assist of boaters, as the Coast Guard now focuses on law enforcement.

During further discussion, Mr. Hickman also noted that the insurance policy is in Crisfield Fire Department's name only.

Chief Pruitt also noted that CFD had 24 water calls last year.

Councilwoman Scott commented again that the boat was built and given to the Fire Department. Chief Pruitt reiterated that the boat was "free" to the Department.

After further discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion that the City recognize Mr. Mason with a Certificate of Appreciation, to be presented at the Fire Department. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson commented that President Hickman's relationship with Mrs. Morgan is phenomenal for the tax payers of the City of Crisfield. He also commented about his first month in office, and the ridicule he had received for the Chief taking home the command vehicle, and his meeting with Chief Pruitt about what goes on with the command vehicle. Mayor Lawson noted that Chief Pruitt has brought Crisfield Fire Department into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Mr. Hickman thanked the City for all they do for the Department.

#### FIRST SESSION – PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Georgianna Hayman re-addressed the issue of standing water at her residence on Myrtle Street. She commented that it is worse there than any other location on the street and noted that it began after the street was paved and elevated.

Mayor Lawson instructed Mrs. Hayman to meet with Mr. Bozman and we would get pictures after a rain storm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Merritt, Circuit Rider, noted that CDBG Resolution #450 need adoption. At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution #450. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed and highlighted various items in his report, noting that only one bid was received for the kayak launch.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CHIEF MIKE TABOR, noted that the Pride Lodge event went well. He also made reference to the recent golf cart meeting, noting there was little attendance.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that the Crisfield Police Department does an outstanding job.

Mayor Lawson commented that Tawes Brothers and KRW Sales have been helpful with golf cart implementation. He noted that he had been working with Dr. Mike Atkins since 2013 to get them on the road. He also noted that he had seen a child riding in one with no seatbelt. Chief Tabor advised that this had been addressed.

MR. DEAN BOZMAN, CODE ENFORCEMENT, advised that he had nothing to report. Councilwoman Scott inquired about the Panhandling signs. Mr. Bozman advised that they have been ordered.

MR. DENNIS PARKINSON, PUBLIC UTILITIES, noted that the door on the GMC truck had been repaired. He also noted that a deer had run into his city vehicle. Mr. Parkinson also presented a rusted, leaking pipe that was found when making repairs on Chesapeake Avenue to a resident's home with low water pressure.

Councilman Emely inquired about the status of getting Mark Bozman in to cut sidewalk at Tangier Island Cruises. Mr. Parkinson advised that he may have to rent an air compressor.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the work being done by CES who are running a camera through the sewer lines on Maryland Avenue. He suggested that the Council stop by and look at what they are doing.

JOYCE L. MORGAN, CLERK-TREASURER, noted that the next budget workshop was on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and asked Chief Tabor for his presence at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM JAY TAWES FOR TAX WAIVER @HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion to grant the tax waiver to the Heritage Foundation. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky, who noted that the County would be declaring the building tax exempt. Motion carried unanimously.

MOU BETWEEN SOMERSET COUNTY SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE CITY OF CRISFIELD

Mr. Sullivan briefed the Council on the changes in the MOU. He noted that the City will receive 120% of water reimbursement charges from the Sanitary District, instead of 200%, if we sign the agreement, and recommends that the City sign the agreement. He noted that the City would lose \$5,500 per year.

Councilwoman Scott inquired who made the change to the MOU. Mr. Sullivan advised that this was done by the Sanitary District and the old one was done by the City of Crisfield.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to execute the agreement. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

Councilman Emely commented that he feels the Mayor and the Sanitary District will come together with an agreement at their meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Scott commented that the best time to negotiate is before the deal and if we sign now, we will have no leverage. She suggested hold off on signing until after the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilman Emely commented that we need to do the right thing and that \$5,500 would not cover one repair.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Sullivan commented that the decision is based on fairness.

Mayor Lawson noted that he had worked with former Sanitary District Manager, Robin Street, a long time. The old agreement did not take into consideration any increase in expense and the Sanitary Commission never was interested in negotiating. He commented that City residents pick up the loss and he agrees with Councilwoman Scott about leverage.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that we need to move forward with the vote. Mayor Lawson called for the vote; Councilman Emely – aye, Councilwoman Ward – abstained, Council Vice President Johnson – aye, Councilwoman Scott – abstained, Councilman Konapelsky aye. The motion carried 3-2.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she abstained to delay approval for 10 day. Councilwoman Ward advised that she abstained as she is unsure.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### EVENT APPLICATIONS – READING KICK-OFF – LIBRARY; SOFT SHELL FESTIVAL; ANNIVERSARY OF WBYC

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve all three Event Applications. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS, Q & A

Councilman Emely noted that he had met the foreman of the dredging operation who advised that they can't dredge anymore until October and made reference to capitalizing on this during their off-time.

Councilman Emely advised that the fire department has agreed to paint all of the fire hydrants and asked Mr. Parkinson to test and see which ones are operational.

Councilman Emely made reference to the paint beautification project for the downtown restrooms, initiated by Kim Hopkins, and asked Mr. Bozman the status. Mr. Bozman advised that the woodwork and front entrance will be painted.

Councilman Emely made reference to kids in golf carts. Chief Tabor advised that no child under the age of 6 is allowed to ride in a golf cart.

Councilman Emely commented that there is no "reserved" parking at the Small Boat Harbor and advised that there needs to be a sign reading "Free Public Parking". Approval so moved by Councilwoman Scott, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely stated that he would like to see the City parking lot paved before Memorial Day and suggested asking for money from businesses to help with the paving. Councilman Konapelsky and Councilwoman Scott suggested getting the cost for paving.

Councilman Emely noted that ticket sales for events at the Crab Place are 30% higher than last year. He noted that they are a gem to the City and a boost to tourism, bringing in 2,500 to 5,000 people.

Councilman Konapelsky thanked Randy Laird and Tony Stockus for their work to move the Sanitary District MOU forward.

Councilwoman Ward thanked the Crisfield Fire Department for their new equipment. She also thanked the police department for the work done by the officers at the recent parade. She also thanked Mr. Parkinson for the work done on Chesapeake Avenue.

Councilwoman Scott made reference to hearing problems with issues such as street conditions and flooding at her Open Door sessions and the City trying to help and come up with solutions through Mr. Pollitt and Mr. Bozman.

Council Vice President Johnson concurred that City streets are horrible. She noted that she voted for the MOU, and we may still get help as a result of the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also commented that the City is in negotiations with groups and wish they would offer to help, as the City may have to make some tough decisions.

Mayor Lawson commented that Mt. Pleasant Church will cease to exist as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. He commented that there are derelict houses everywhere with a lack of owner demand.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a recent trip to Williamsburg and noted that crosswalks are respected there, without any fear of being hit by a car. He commented that we must be tourist friendly if we are a tourist town.

Mayor Lawson invited the Council to attend his meeting with the Sanitary District on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

FINAL PUBLIC INPUT

Mike Corbin, a resident of Old State Road, commented that he is upset about the comments that they are a cost to the community. He also commented he is upset that his business is not supported by the City, adding that he pays more taxes than anyone in the City.

Randy Laird commented that the MOU was needed or the people on Old State Road will lose.

James Riley, Old State Road resident, made reference to the use of the term "fair" concerning 32 people paying twice as much as other people pay.

Billy Colona, Old State Road resident thanked the Mayor and Council for adopting the MOU.

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary