

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 23, 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
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Dennis Parkinson, Sr., Director of Public Utilities; Tillie Doyle; Bobby Tawes; Richard Crumbacker; and Sue Ransom.

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 AGENDA

Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda for the regular meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mayor Lawson noted that the bid opening for the purchase of three used pick-up trucks was conducted at the Visitor’s Center the previous Monday, with Mr. Pollitt, Mrs. Morgan, and himself present, and Pat Hanley as a witness. Tawes Brothers submitted the only bid received and it was responsive to the published Request for Bids.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the Bid Opening of 5/21/18. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of 5/9/18, the Closed Meeting of 5/9/18 and the Budget workshop of 4/25/18. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

No Public Input was offered at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his report. He highlighted items that were discussed at the roundtable discussion last Monday. He also noted that the City had received an award of \$3.1M from the Maryland Department of the Environment for three major sewer infrastructure projects: the Rubberset Pump Station, the Cove Street Lift Station and the correction of the I & I problems, noting that it is 50% loan and 50% loan forgiveness, which is, basically, a grant. He reminded everyone that he met in January with officials from the Governor's office and MDE to pitch the need for State support putting the projects in an environmental context. He also commended Mrs. Merritt's grant writing which found favor with the granting authority.

Councilwoman Scott inquired how the City would pay the \$1.5M loan. Mrs. Morgan advised that this would be done through re-financing and extension of an existing loan, which would help fund the new debt.

Mr. Pollitt also made reference to the sewer line break on Walnut Street and the repairs that will be needed, which would be paid for with the balance of the CCCr Grant.

Councilwoman Scott questioned that if we spend the balance of the grant to pay for the repairs, how will we pay to finish the project? Mr. Pollitt advised that Ms. Merritt has already applied for a new grant from the Rural Maryland Council, the source of the current grant. Mayor Lawson recommended that the Council look into sending the camera through all lines in the City in the next 5-10 years.

PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 44 ETHICS CODE

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Amendment to the City of Crisfield Ethics Code and noted that there will be a 2nd Reader of the Ordinance during the meeting. He advised that it is the City Manager's policy to hold a Public Hearing prior to 2nd reader of Ordinances.

Mayor Lawson opened the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m. There being no comments from the audience, Councilwoman Scott made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Tabor noted that the Department held the Click it or Ticket initiative, funded through the State Highway Administration, on Monday, May 21, with 220 cars stopped. He advised that 97% of those stopped were wearing seatbelts.

Mayor Lawson noted that golf carts become legal on all City streets in 8 days.

Mr. Parkinson, Public Utilities, noted that his department is connecting the water line at the Depot with much of the work dependent on the flow of the tides.

Mayor Lawson commented that the downtown parking lot looks good.

Mr. Pollitt made reference to a leak at the water tower on Broadway. Mr. Parkinson advised that a switch had gotten stuck and had been repaired.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she appreciates what Mr. Parkinson and the Chief do.

Mrs. Morgan advised she had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 2ND READER ORDINANCE #673 AMENDING CHAPTER 44 ETHICS CODE

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt Ordinance #673 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried 3 in favor with Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Emely voting Nay.

Councilwoman Scott commented that she feels one group was targeted for attention with the ordinance changes.

APPROVAL OF VEHICLES FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES AND BORROWING RESOLUTION

Council Vice President Johnson advised that she is ok with the purchase of the three pick-up trucks as reported earlier by Mayor Lawson.

Councilman Emely commented that he hopes the vehicles are maintained.

Councilman Konapelsky thanked Councilman Emely for spearheading this endeavor and advised he has no problem with purchasing them from Tawes Brothers.

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to accept the bid package from Tawes Brothers. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

BORROWING RESOLUTION 451

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt Borrowing Resolution 451 authorizing the use of funds from the City's line of credit in the amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 from Hebron Savings Bank, for the purchase of 3 vehicles. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to apply LINEX to up to two cargo bodies of the vehicles to be purchased from Tawes Brothers. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Scott and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bobby Tawes noted that Tawes Brothers had taken care of the inspection at a cost of \$400 each.

FIRST READER – BUDGET ORDINANCE 2018-2019

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the water rates. Mrs. Morgan advised that this would be done with a separate Ordinance and Public Hearing.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance for 1st Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

During discussion, Mrs. Morgan noted that the Budget can be amended at any time.

Councilman Emely advised that he will not vote on the budget because two department heads will be denied money they need for their department.

Councilwoman Scott noted that she had requested money for Mr. Bozman, and will not vote either.

Mayor Lawson made reference to money from Rental Inspection fees.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he understands their feelings about adding to one department, but not by taking away from another. He commented we should allow the newly elected officials to do what they want, and is 100% behind the current budget.

Mayor Lawson called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Motion carried with ayes from Council Vice President Johnson, Councilman Konapelsky and Councilwoman Ward and nays from Councilwoman Scott and Councilman Emely. Motion carried 3-2.

EVENT APPLICATIONS

Memorial Day Service – approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried unanimously.

Andrea Joyner Walk – Change of date due to weather, to Saturday, June 9, 2018.

Approval so moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilwoman Ward, and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Konapelsky wished everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the status of the Kayak launch. Mr. Pollitt advised that it will be discussed at the next Park Commission meeting.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the status of fiber optic expansion. Mr. Pollitt advised that there has been discussion to extend fiber optic cable underground from the library to the water tower on Broad Street and then up the water tower with an antenna at the top. Mayor Lawson noted that the line was installed from Broadway to 7th Street.

Councilwoman Scott inquired about the status of Carvel Hall. Mr. Pollitt advised that he had not heard from the developer since March, but understands that they have completed Phase I of the Environmental Clean-up.

Councilwoman Scott also commented about an incident with her misplacing her keys during recent heavy rains, and the honesty of people in Crisfield.

Councilman Emely commented about Mr. Ricky Thomas suggestion to put the kayak launch on the right hand side of Hall Highway just over the Hospital bridge. Councilman Konapelsky commented that this would be a great secondary location.

Mayor Lawson commented that Mayor Purnell had submitted a grant request to put one at the Hospital but their Board of Directors voted it down.

Councilman Emely commented that the plaque for David Mason was beautiful. He also noted next Saturday, the new fire boat would be taking a trip to Smith Island at 11:00 a.m. and would be having lunch, if anyone was interested.

Councilwoman Ward commented that it was good to hear about the funding that Mr. Pollitt noted in his report, as well as the approval for the trucks.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired if anyone would like to review the streets and roads list before the new administration came in. Councilman Emely commented that there was no need to, as there was no money.

Council Vice President Johnson inquired about the paving of Hammock Point. Mr. Pollitt advised that they hope to start at the end of the week, once the contract is executed.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to road paving inspection on the Hammock Pointe project. Mayor Lawson commented that when it was done by Davis, Bowen and Friedel, during the recent multi-street paving project, it resulted in savings sufficient to pave several additional streets.

Mayor Lawson noted that he will miss focusing on efforts to keep the City clean. He noted that the City's most important asset is water and sewer, followed by police, fire and EMS.

Mayor Lawson commented that *It Takes a Village* should consider using the old Armory building for their new facility.

He also commented about the responsibility taken on by Mrs. Merritt concerning the A & E District, along with her other duties, noting he would like to offer her health insurance as a benefit of her employment.

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Mayor Lawson advised that he would present a Mayor's review for the record, at the next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary