

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President (arrived at 6:46 p.m.)
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent; Barbara Ward, Councilwoman; Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Richard Crumbacker; Sue Ransom; Jenny Tawes; Matt Lawson; George Friedley; Ted Friedley; and Valerie Swift, Secretary.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the agenda for this evenings' meeting.

Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously 3-0, with Council Vice

President Johnson and Councilwoman Ward absent from the vote.

Councilman Emely inquired about Department Heads at the meeting. Mr. Pollitt advised that he felt it should be routine that they are present for direct answers if any questions

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arose.

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

At this time, Mayor Lawson called the hearing to order and read aloud the notice of Public Hearing.

At this time, Ms. Jennifer Rafter, Circuit Rider, reviewed information regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program grant application that will be submitted by the City of Crisfield for funds to assist with the cost of a new waste water pumping station at Rubberset.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired how much we are applying for.

Ms. Rafter advised that it will be in the range of \$800K. She noted that she will also be meeting with City Engineer, Jason Loar, tomorrow.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to activities done through Hurricane Sandy that were done with CDBG funds, but noted the pump stations were not done.

Mr. Pollitt noted that this public hearing is pro-forma with the HUD program.

He advised that the project has been identified and we will be working tomorrow to compile the package. He advised that this is part of the grant process for the public.

Mayor Lawson advised that the problem could have been addressed with Hurricane Sandy funds, but the County Commissioners elected to use the money elsewhere.

Ms. Rafter noted that public awareness is needed.

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Mayor Lawson asked for any input from the Public.

Mr. Pollitt noted that CDBG funding has been proposed to be eliminated in the Presidential

Budget next year. He advised that he had received positive feedback from State Delegation.

He also encouraged contacting Federal legislators to encourage them to resist the elimination of CDBG funding.

Mayor Lawson noted that since 1980, 8 projects came here through CDBG - \$6M helped us levy \$15M for;

1) acquisition of the property for the wind turbine

2) CDBG to get to USDA for 36 Sewer improvements

3) \$.25M to purchase and demolish the old Handy building at the depot, which is now the Greenspace.

With no public input offered, Mayor Lawson requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

So moved by Councilwoman Scott, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously 3-0.

PUBLIC INPUT 1ST SESSION

No public input was offered.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READER 2017-2018 BUDGET

Councilman Emely questioned voting for First Reader with two Councilmembers absent.

Mayor Lawson advised that there is a quorum and they were present at the Budget Workshop on Monday. He noted that any corrections can be done before the 2nd Reader.

Mayor Lawson went on to review several areas of the proposed budget.

He noted that staff had been cut by 4.5 people this year.

Mayor Lawson commented that residents may comment that the City should be doing more to cut the budget, but insurance expenditures are \$458K per year and expenses are up \$195K per year.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the loss of \$74K this year from tax revenues. He advised that \$86K comes from the loss of 4.5 people. He also made reference to the lag in salaries.

Mayor Lawson noted that after looking at equipment, a proposal was made for a new dump truck costing \$130,000 at an expenditure of \$22,000 for seven years. This truck would be used to haul sludge.

Mayor Lawson advised that there would be employee raises of 2.5% across the board for a total of \$37,000.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the urgent appeal from the Fire Department for replacement of the kitchen floor and boiler. He noted that the initial proposal was \$12,500 to the Fire

Department for 20 years with the Fire Department adding \$5,000 from fund raisers, but after consideration, he decided to drop the \$5,000 requirement and still go with the \$12,500 for 20 years.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the needs of the Ambulance Squad and advised that the City will be adding 2.5% to the money from the County for salaries. He also advised that through the General Fund, a professional mass-mailer fund raiser will be paid for. Mayor Lawson also advised that the City will continue to pay for their fuel. All of this will total the amount of \$87,000 from the loss of four people.

(Council Vice President Johnson arrived 6:46 p.m.)

Mayor Lawson noted the priority of a Spec Home for the Community Legacy grant application. He also noted that Councilman Konapelsky, who is fiscally conservative, had expressed his concerns.

Mayor Lawson noted that the 2nd Reader of the 2017-18 Budget will be done at the June 14 meeting. He urged the public to ask question of professionals before making a judgement on budget expenditures.

Mayor Lawson also noted that \$2,500 had been put toward a Reserve Fund.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion approve the 2017-2018 Budget for First Reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson. During Discussion, Councilwoman Scott made reference to fixed charges of 25% from the savings of not having the four

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employees, which would be \$22K that we could put to the reserve fund.

Mayor Lawson also noted that the savings from the turbine is not included in the budget as we have not yet taken possession of the turbine and quarterly bills will have to be reviewed first.

The motion was carried unanimously 4-0 with Councilwoman Ward absent.

MOTION OF SUPPORT FROM COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY LEGACY GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Lawson made reference to the CDBG application. Ms. Rafter advised that it was for the upcoming Community Legacy Grant Application.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the Community Legacy Grant Application from last year for a Spec Home and sidewalk would be re-submitted.

Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously, 4-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A

Councilman Konapelsky wished everyone a happy Memorial Day. He commended Mayor Lawson for dropping the \$5,000 condition from the Fire Department and just helping them outright.

Council Vice President Johnson apologized for being late, noting that she had completely forgotten the meeting, as did Councilwoman Ward, she believes.

She also commended Mayor Lawson for the change in the Fire Department requirement.

Councilman Emely made reference to being out during the attempted waterline repair,

and noted the traffic that was extremely heavy in that area of Norris Harbor Drive and feels that the road should be closed to traffic when the next repair is done. He also advised Chief Tabor that he would speak to him concerning issues on Charlotte Avenue.

Councilman Emely made reference to several ambulance calls at 11:30 p.m. Monday to various locations from Revells Neck Road to Stewart Neck Road to Johnson Creek Road when looking at the concerns of the Ambulance Squad and thanked the Mayor and Council for their help.

Mayor Lawson welcomed Councilwoman Scott back to the meeting noting that she was also at the Monday meeting.

Councilwoman Scott advised that she was thankful to be back and appreciated everyone's visits, cards, and prayers. She advised that she is a lot better, but not there yet, as she still has several issues.

Councilwoman Scott noted that when she was admitted to McCready E.R. on February 19, she received good care and when she became a patient in rehab here, she received excellent care. She advised that she is thankful for the facility, as it is a huge asset to the City.

MAYOR LAWSON – PRMC WELLNESS VAN

Mayor Lawson advised that the Wellness Van is partnering with McCready Hospital and is for the underserved and ill served. There is no charge if you qualify. He advised that they will be here twice a month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He noted that they have been parked

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at the Church of God and the Library but would like a place for more outreach.

Mayor Lawson suggested 1) the first parking space across from the post office, 2) Food Lion and 3) the municipal parking lot at the depot.

Mayor Lawson suggested #1 as it could reach many people within walking distance.

Approval so moved by Councilman Emely and seconded by Council Vice President Johnson.

Councilman Konapelsky also suggested Crisfield High School.

Mayor Lawson advised that they are trying to reach the greatest volume of people and be visible. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Mayor Lawson noted that some of the items for the Greenspace are coming from California and will be here within 10 weeks. He also noted the rendering of a mural for the Ice Cream Gallery wall and noted that Mr. John Goldsborough will be in soon to start his work.

Mayor Lawson made reference to concern about churches in the Central Business District purchasing property. He advised that this will affect alcohol sales within 300 feet, as well as the Art and Entertainment District.

Mayor Lawson advised that there are plenty of areas to locate churches as properties become tax exempt if they are located in the middle of the Central Business District.

Mayor Lawson made reference to Monday's Memorial Day celebrations and the ceremony at the Veteran's cemetery on Monday and urged people to attend in honor of our deceased veterans.

PUBIC INPUT 2ND SESSION

Ted Friedley advised he agrees that there should be no churches in the Central Business District, although he is not against churches.

George Friedley thanked Chief Tabor for all he does. He also agreed that there should be no churches in CBD.

Mayor Lawson also thanked the Chief for his continued good work.

ADJOURNMENT

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 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary