

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Joe Scott; Barbara Ward; Chief Mike Tabor;

Bernice Evans; Mark Hoover; Gary Bratten; Rick Taylor; Karen Lawson; Tom Aushain;

Lamont Potter, Sr.; John P. Tawes, III; Kerry Palakanis; Kyle Wolfe; Elija & Shawna Kearsley;

Jason Loar; and Richard Crumbacker.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the agenda for the evening's meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 2, 2016,

May 25, 2016 – 5:15 p.m., May 25, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.; and May 25, 2016 6:00 p.m. as written. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt reviewed his report, highlighting its contents. He made note of the upcoming election. Councilman Atkins inquired if the tallying of the paper ballots is open to the public. Mayor Lawson advised that it was open to the candidates and press. Mr. Pollitt advised that he believes it is open to the public.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is glad the City received the Waterway Improvement grant.

Mayor Lawson commented, in regards to using some of the grant to make improvements to the city pier that public leaves refuse there, which the City will pick up.

Councilman Atkins noted that Marina personnel had removed some items left by boaters on a pier and the Marina had been advised of possible charges being filed by the owners of these items.

Mayor Lawson advised that any items removed would be taken to public works.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2nd Reader Ordinance#661 – Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to execute a loan agreement and other related documents.....

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to table 2nd reader of Ordinance #661.

MC 68116

Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Mayor Lawson advised that today he had informed the Council concerning information he had been provided by the County Commissioners office regarding a reduction in assessments next year in District 7. He advised that the City may see a large decrease in assessments. Mayor Lawson advised that the loan was predicated on receipt of funding through HUR and other revenues. He noted that this year's tax base may bring in \$1,364,000.00, but next year we may lose over \$130K.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Councilman Emely commented that tabling this Borrowing Ordinance was a very difficult decision, as the Mayor and Council had worked very hard on establishing what it would be used for.

He commented that the first paving appraisal for Brick Kiln road 3 years ago was \$77K, and now 3 years later, after Hurricane Sandy, it increased to \$177K, so the delay in paving cost more, as there was more deterioration. He questioned what will happen to Hammock Point and the City parking lot.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that borrowing the money would have been fiscally irresponsible. He advised that he respects Councilman Emely's views, but this is the right decision.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is very disappointed that the paving can't be

done and is also sick of the condition of our roads. She added that she hopes HUR funding will be restored.

Councilman Atkins commented that the increase in paving costs won't rise forever and that one year won't make that much of a difference. He also noted that he hopes HUR is restored.

Council Vice President Scott commented that the City needs a facelift and she is also disappointed that we won't be borrowing the money. She also commented that we would need more than \$500K, but it is a bad time to borrow with the proposed drop in assessments. She added that the list of streets that need paving is still here and isn't a dead issue forever, but she accepts reality.

Mayor Lawson commented that at this time, blacktop is cheap, however nobody can afford to purchase it.

He advised that Mr. Pollitt and Mrs. Morgan are looking at other avenues for funding.

2nd Reader Ordinance #662 – Garbage Fee Increase

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the Ordinance. He also noted that the City had received the contract back from Chesapeake Waste today. He advised that the City went with the low bidder and there would be a \$2.00 increase in garbage collection fees. Mr. Pollitt advised that Chesapeake Waste will be providing the trash cans and will be providing the same level of service to City residents as the City had.

Mr. Pollitt advised that it had been determined that it was more economical to contract

garbage collections services then to purchase a new garbage truck. Mr. Pollitt advised that he feels the new can will work for all due to its design.

Mayor Lawson noted that Chesapeake Waste will own the cans.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she had been concerned about the City increasing garbage fees and also charging for a can.

Mayor Lawson noted that the new can has an attached lid, so no water can get in, which adds to the cost of landfill fees.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt Ordinance #662 for 2nd Reader.

Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

2nd Reader Ordinance #663 – 2016-2017 Budget

Mayor Lawson noted an adjustment in debt services for the proposed payment for the Borrowing Ordinance, which was now on hold. He advised that \$33K would be inserted into water and sewer, until the turbine goes up.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to bring back the 2.5% raise to the four department heads and the \$39,000 back to the police department for two officers.

Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Councilman Emely made reference to where the money will come from for the \$100K repair at the treatment plant. Mayor Lawson advised that this would be an emergency decision. He noted that Mr. Pollitt is contacting USDA and Mrs. Morgan is in

contact with banks.

Councilman Emely commented that Councilman Konapelsky flipped on the 2.5% raise, but there will be no road paving.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that we are asking the police department to do more with less, noting that they need a new building. He also commented that a good police department, school system, and a stable government, are the three things that make a city.

Council Vice President Scott commented that she is proud of our police department. She advised that today's information is disappointing as we won't have money to pave streets so how can we add to our police force. She advised that the City needs other ways to get revenue. She suggested two part-time police officers, adding that the City needs a lot, but must be realistic today.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the \$33K in savings. Mr. Pollitt advised that this would come from the proposed savings created by the wind turbine.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that there had been no concern about taking on the \$500 K debt for 20 years till information was received from the county. He stated that he feels that giving the \$39K back to the police department is better than speculating on paying off debt, adding that we need to fight for the police department, not kick them aside.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she agrees with Councilman Konapelsky that the police de-

partment does a good job.

Councilman Atkins commented that he agrees that police protection is top priority. He advised that repair of the clarifier at the treatment plant, as well as the need for other equipment is important. He noted the shortfall in the legal line item and made reference to putting \$33k back in water and waste water. Mr. Pollitt noted that this is the anticipated savings in electric costs once the turbine goes on line.

Councilman Atkins advised that he is in favor of using money for additional police protection, looking at part time versus overtime, which would put more officers on the street.

He commented that the breakdown of the clarifier is an expense that can't be budgeted for and it a Capital expense. He commented that legal counsel expense is \$25,000 short and suggested taking that out of the treatment plant operating budget. Mr. Pollitt advised that water and sewer budgets are funded by user rates and must remain separate from the general budget which is funded by tax dollars.

Councilman Emely commented that the City has the best police department since he has lived here and Crisfield is now known as one of the safest towns, but how can we tell a resident that we can't pave their street, but then hire two police officers?

Chief Tabor advised that he would look at part-time, but wants to keep Crisfield the safest city and he needs two additional officers to keep it that way.

Councilman Emely requested data to support hiring two more officers.

Mayor Lawson commented that 15 months ago, he was perceived to be an enemy of the police department. He noted that the police department budget is \$789K – 60% of the City's budget. He commented that he had discussed with the Chief putting the \$40,000 taken from the police department's budget last year, based on the wind turbine.

Mayor Lawson advised that hopefully, wind turbine parts will begin to arrive on June 15th.

He also noted that additional cuts to the budget may have to be made in September, based on \$66K, plus or minus.

Mayor Lawson advised that all decisions are based on what is good for all and that the police department did not suffer any loss of income.

Mayor Lawson advised that he had discussed with the Chief the hiring of two officers. Chief Tabor advised that he had submitted a grant for one officer and the City has to pick up three years of their salary. Mayor Lawson advised that he had authorized the grant.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is mad that the Mayor is just now discussing this with the police department.

Councilman Atkins commented that the Chief is asking for more bodies.

Council Vice President Scott commented that she feels two part time officers are the best option.

Mayor Lawson called for a vote for the motion on the floor.

Motion carried 4 to 1 with pro votes by Councilman Emely, Councilman Konapelsky,

MC 68116

Councilman Atkins and Councilwoman Johnson and opposed by Council Vice President Scott.

Councilman Atkins made reference to cutting the legal charges and the \$25K difference.

After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion that prior to contacting Mr.

Sullivan for legal advice, approval must be obtained by either Mr. Pollitt or Mayor Lawson.

Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to balance legal fees with the waste water treatment plant operating funds.

Mr. Pollitt repeated his statement about separating the general fund from water and sewer funds.

At this time, Councilman Atkins withdrew his motion.

After further discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the 2016-2017

Budget with amendments. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Juke Marshall for permit of ingress/egress at Small Boat Harbor

Approval so moved by Councilman Emely and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that there is a shared license.

Mrs. Morgan noted that crabbing records are under his name.

Motion carried unanimously.

Event Application – Wheels on the Waterfront

MC 68116

Mayor Lawson reviewed the event application submitted after the agenda was prepared.

He advised that this is for the annual Wheels on the Waterfront to be held on July 30th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A

Mayor Lawson noted that there will be a progress meeting with Chesapeake Paving on Monday, June 13th. He advised that Broadway is ready for grinding and paving the first of the week.

Mayor Lawson made reference to receipt of the Waterway Improvement Grant of \$39,000. to be used for safety items for the wharf and dock.

Mayor Lawson noted that he has observed as many as 16 to 17 vehicles at the new library daily.

Mayor Lawson made reference to bids from John Goldsborough for sidewalk improvement projects to be paid for with Community Legacy funds. He advised that the bids are for concrete work at Family Dollar, the radio station and the customs house for a total of \$75,000.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to area students visiting the beach and thanked Mr. Bozman, Mr. Charles, the City and the Mayor and Council for work done at the beach.

Mayor Lawson noted that area students chose their "Day Out" to be held at Brick Kiln. He

advised that during his visit there with students, he asked them to each pick up one piece of litter when they left. He also read certificates of appreciation to the Mayor and Council.

Council Vice President Scott commented that she feels two Part Time officers is the first step for the police department.

She noted that the Softshell Festival was well attended and that campers at Janes Island State park are up in attendance.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that the City has a good police department.

She also commented that we now have a state of art library, which she is proud of. She added that a lot of positive things are going on in the City.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that City staff does a great job.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the upcoming golf cart meeting on the 17th.

He also wished everyone good luck in the upcoming election.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the trail behind Family Dollar. Mayor Lawson advised that this money is tied up in loans.

Councilman Emely also made reference to the boxes at the end of the dock.

Councilman Emely made reference to the legality of closing Goodsell Alley and a problem with roof run-off. Mayor Lawson advised that it is legal.

Councilman Emely noted that the boat captains are ready to meet.

Councilman Emely made reference to a Small Boat Harbor board and advised that Mr. Bill

MC 68116

Ryan has volunteered.

Councilman Emely made reference to Code Enforcement of abandoned vehicles. Mrs. Morgan advised that the Ordinance went into effect yesterday.

Councilman Emely made reference to a meeting concerning street signs. Mr. Pollitt advised that he is taking care of this.

Councilman Emely stated that the downtown parking lot needs to be repaired so it can be used.

Councilman Emely inquired if the City owes any money for sidewalk to the State. Mrs. Morgan advised that one job was paid for with Community Legacy money.

Councilman Emely made reference to the community garden next to City Hall. Mayor Lawson advised that one side is being done first as it is a work in progress. He also noted that there are plans to paint murals on the boxes.

Councilman Konapelsky also thanked the County Commissioners for loads of sand donated for the beach.

Councilwoman Johnson and Mayor Lawson thanked Mrs. Betsy Thompson for filling the planters in the downtown parking lot.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to enforcement of the One Way sign on Pine Street.

Chief Tabor advised he would look into this.

PUBLIC INPUT

MC 68116

Lamont Potter commented about preferential paving of streets. He also noted that the youth he works with will be sponsoring four of the boxes next to City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary