

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 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
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer; Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities (see list of others in attendance)

Absent due to prior commitment – James Ford, Councilman; Vacation - Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER, LORD’S PRAYER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dize called the meeting to order, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord’s Prayer. Mayor Dize requested a moment of silence for deceased police detective Ralph Oakes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Lankford made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward and carried unanimously 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 27, 2018 as written. Motion seconded Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

1st PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Truella Tyznik commented that there needs to be a Crisis Intervention hotline in Crisfield that people can talk to immediately. Mayor Dize advised this would be looked in to. Councilman Sheppard advised giving ideas to the Mayor and Council. Chief Tabor also offered his assistance.

Public Hearing – Ordinance Amending Section 112-22(A) of the Crisfield City Code (Special Exception Uses for the purpose of operation of a tea room)

Mayor Dize called opened the Public Hearing and called for any proponents of the proposed amendment to Section 112-22(A) of the Code.

Truella Tyznik, owner of My Fair Lady B & B, made reference to the potential buyer of her business, which is a family from California, who would like to operate a Tea Room to hold elegant events. She advised that they will not purchase unless operation of a Tea Room is permitted. Ms. Lisa Morgan, who accompanied Mrs. Tyznik, inquired about the procedure used to call the hearing to order. Mr. Sullivan explained the Public Hearing procedures and when the Ordinance becomes effective.

Mrs. Tyznik also noted that the potential buyer wants to have a commercial kitchen, which is one of the conditions for purchase, along with being able to operate a Tea Room.

With no other comments from proponents, Mayor Dize called for any opponents. There being no opponents, the Public Hearing was closed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

At this time, Mr. Rick Pollitt, City Manager, presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Mike Tabor, Crisfield Police Department, made reference to the recent passing of Detective Ralph Oakes, who had lost his battle with cancer. Chief Tabor made reference to the details of his funeral service, also noting that Sherriff Ronnie Howard will be handling police

protection for the City for Crisfield allowing Police Department employees to attend the funeral.

Chief Tabor made reference challenging a statement about crime at the recent forum sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and reviewed his quarterly report, addressing criminal activity, showing the decline of crime in Crisfield. Chief Tabor also highlighted grant funding details, noting that the City would not be receiving the School Bus Grant this year. He also reviewed other upcoming activities.

Mayor Dize made reference to the importance of the School Bus Grant. Chief Tabor noted that officers make sure cars don't pass stopped school buses, patrol for fighting off of buses and the like.

Councilwoman Lankford asked for clarification concerning School Bus grant amounts.

Council Vice President Johnson commented concerning the Attempt to Locate on the report handout.

Councilwoman Lankford inquired who makes the determination on the three overdose deaths. Chief Tabor advised that all of them go to the Medical Examiner. He also noted that the recent death was not due to the powerful and deadly drug, Carfentanil.

Councilwoman Lankford noted that there was a new treatment facility open in Wicomico County, located in the old Poplar Hill prison building, which is open 24 hours. She advised that people can come in for treatment and go to work. She commended the Chief on the excellent crime report numbers.

Dennis Parkinson, Superintendent of Public Utilities, reviewed and highlighted his quarterly report, noting that a representative of the water meter manufacturer will be here on July 23rd to look at the 289 meters that don't read. He noted that some of these are newly installed meters that are working, but cannot be read remotely.

Mr. Erik Banks advised Mr. Parkinson that the water meter cover at 319 Locust Street is off.

Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer, reviewed his monthly report highlighting its contents. Mr. Bozman advised that the three drain tiles will be replaced at the Marina.

Councilman Sheppard made reference to drain covers. Mr. Bozman advised that two had been received, but are not on yet, for First Street & Myrtle Street.

Councilwoman Lankford made reference to the bad condition of Tyler Street. Mr. Bozman advised that the City is aware of it's condition, and would like to do another street rating from "bad" to "not as bad". He noted that the City will receive Highway User Revenue in August.

JOYCE L. MORGAN, CLERK-TREASURER'S report was read by Mr. Pollitt. He noted that she is on vacation, but wanted to share the good news that taxes had gone out before July 1st, for the first time. She extended kudos to Jody Soukup, Sandy Landon, and April Sneade for all of their hard work to make this possible.

Unfinished Business – 2nd Reader of Ordinance 677 Amending Section 112-22(A) of the Crisfield City Code (Special Exception Uses for the purpose of operation of a tea room)

Mr. Sullivan presented Ordinance 677 for 2nd Reader. He noted that Councilwoman Scott had attended the May Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the amended language. He noted that a Tea Room is only permitted in a Bed and Breakfast.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the procedures to operate a Tea Room are as follows;

- 1) The applicant must first own a Bed & Breakfast
- 2) If the applicant wishes to operate a Tea Room, he/she must submit a Special Exception application to Code Enforcement Officer Dean Bozman
- 3) Mr. Bozman will submit the application to the Board of Zoning Appeals and a public hearing will be scheduled.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the Public Hearing requirements are; the applicant pays a \$75 fee for advertising and the hearing with the Board of Zoning Appeals is held following the three weeks of advertisement. He advised that this Ordinance would go into effect in 20 days, if passed for 2nd Reader tonight. Mr. Sullivan advised that by his best reasoning, one should be able to operate a Tea Room by Labor Day.

Mr. Sullivan noted that there is no reference to commercial kitchens in the Ordinance and should be left to regulation by the Health Department.

Mr. Sullivan went on to read a letter from Planning Commission Chairman, Billy Drewer, recommending the adoption of the amendment to Chapter 112-22(A) to allow for a Tea Room in a Bed and Breakfast.

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance 677 for 2nd Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

FINAL SESSION OF PUBLIC INPUT

Erik Emely offered his congratulations to the new Mayor and Council. Mr. Emely advised that he is an employee of the Crab Place and noted that their weekend events have been packing out restaurants and gas stations, and asked the Mayor and Council to give them some consideration when making decisions.

Mayor Kim Lawson commented that the hospital bridge needs weed removal, which is usually done by the State.

He also congratulated the Mayor and Council on the adoption of the Ordinance for the Tea Room. He expressed his concern that permitting a commercial kitchen will cause competition with other restaurants, turning it into a restaurant. He also expressed concern that there is one unlicensed B & B in town.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilwoman Lankford stated that she was excited about the meeting this evening. She advised that she wants to work with everyone and wants the Mayor and Council to be of one accord. She also made reference to the changes that have been made in the small town of Cape Charles Virginia, and she would like to see ways to bring tourism here.

Councilman Sheppard thanked those in attendance and encouraged public input. He noted that at the next meeting he would like to introduce sources of revenue for the City and Code Department.

Council Vice President Johnson thanked everyone in attendance. She advised that she shares in the loss of Officer Oakes.

Council Vice President Johnson advised reviewing streets and roads again and report with costs and a ranking of priority. She also noted that Mayor Lawson was the Chairman of the Park Commission.

Councilwoman Ward welcomed the newly elected officials and encouraged everyone to stand together. She thanked the department heads for their reports. She also commented that we need a sign at Rt. #13 and Rt. #413 to advertise Crisfield.

Council Vice President Johnson made reference to the closing of Charlotte Avenue. Chief Tabor advised that he would discuss this with her later.

Mayor Dize noted that Councilman Ford was on a pre-scheduled vacation and thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Dize commented that he was not a good public speaker but was a good manager. He noted that he had met with department heads and he is open-minded. Mayor Dize advised that he campaigned fairly and the past is in the past. He also commented that he would like to see the economy here go back to encouraging businesses to stay open later as it was in the past.

Mayor Dize also noted that he will be attending Det. Oakes' viewing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to convene into closed session. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Gail Lankford and carried unanimously, 4-0.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary