

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Corbin Studio & Gallery.

PRESENT

Barry Dize, Mayor  
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President  
Barbara Ward, Councilwoman  
Nelson Sheppard, Councilman  
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., City Manager  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer  
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent; Jimmy Ford, Councilman (in class), Gail Lankford, Councilwoman

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; K.C. Gale; Margo Gale, Sue Ransom; Sam & Mary Davis; Terri Baker; Clint Sterling; Kathy Sterling; Matt Davis; Bob Zerbe; Bryant Owens; Sue & Eddie Heath; Erica Johnson; Tim Howlett; Richard Crumbacker.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11

Mayor Dize requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF COUNCILMAN GREGORY STERLING.

Mayor Dize requested a moment of silence, and read aloud the obituary of former Councilman Greg Sterling. He presented a white rose to Greg's widow, Kathy, and son Clint.

APPOINTMENTS

K. C. Gale, Somerset Community Services, appeared before the Mayor and Council and advised that she would like permission for their service to place some Little Free Libraries in Crisfield.

She advised that they would be assembled and maintained by Somerset Community Services. She noted that they already have 350 books.

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Prior to giving his report, Mayor Dize asked that Mr. Pollitt read aloud a Birthday Proclamation for Evelyn Pasquella, who will turn 105 on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pollitt went on to review the contents of his report. At this time, he introduced Bryant Owens, Chairman of the Crisfield/Somerset County Airport Advisory Board

Mr. Owens, Manager of Bayland Aviation, introduced himself, speaking on his background. He noted that the newly formed group will be meeting the second Monday of each month at the County Commissioners office. Mr. Owens advised that they are trying to do something with the airport that will tie into tourism and businesses at the airfield.

### HEBRON SAVINGS BANK – BOND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READER

Mr. Sullivan noted that this is a Bond Ordinance of the City of Crisfield for Wastewater Facilities Improvements General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Note. He advised that this is a \$4M Waste Water Treatment Plant infrastructure project at three facilities in the City of Crisfield; the City's wastewater facilities, including the Cove Street Pump Station, Rubberset Pump Station and 413 Sewer Mains. He advised that all of this is in need of either repair or replacement and State and USDA funding was approved for the project, with the Bonds to be issued after completion. He advised that interim funding had to be obtained through Hebron Savings Bank. Mr. Sullivan advised that this was a complex funding process and thanked Mr. Jason Loar for his hard work in obtaining funding sources and Mrs. Morgan's hard work with Hebron Savings Bank, as well as Attorney Emily Fustig who is acting as the Bond Counsel.

Mr. Sullivan advised that a motion would be needed for Mayor Dize to sign an engagement letter with Mckennon Shelton and Henn, for them to serve as Bond Counsel to the City in connection with the City's financing of the waste water facility improvements.

At this time, Councilman Sheppard made a motion to approve the Mayor signing the engagement letter with Mckennon Shelton and Henn. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously, 3-0.

At this time, Mr. Sullivan read into record, the introduction to Ordinance #688.

Councilman Sheppard made a motion to adopt Ordinance #688 for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ward, and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the loan is built on the principle of forgiveness. He thanked Mr. Loar again for his financing work.

Mr. Pollitt advised that a Public Hearing would be held at the next meeting, prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Mary Frances Davis made reference to a deplorable property next door to one of their rental properties at 19 Cove Street, noting that she had spoken to Mr. Bozman about it three weeks ago.

Bob Zerbe, Anchor Drive resident, commented about the terrible condition of the road at Anchor Drive.

Tim Howlett commented about the Bond Ordinance and infrastructure repair locations.

Sam Davis stated he was following up on the Peck Miller Project. He noted that he realizes the Mayor and Council don't answer questions during Public Input. He stated that there had been no City workshops held and no committee formed, as promised and voted on 5-0. Mr. Davis advised that he understands the City is in delay-mode, but they are still waiting for the City to sign the letter from Mr. Miller to go to the Maryland Stadium Authority. He made reference to a meeting with Cindy Stone, DHCD, who advised that she didn't understand why the City wouldn't do the gold standard and endorse Mr. Miller's letter to the Maryland Stadium Authority to see if money is available. Mr. Davis made reference to the signature list supporting the Hotel Conference Center, executed by 63 businesses and individuals, signatures collected by Mrs. Davis. He noted that he and Mrs. Davis are not members of the Chamber or GCAC. Mr. Davis advised that he would like to know why this has not been addressed, as things are not getting any better in Crisfield, with restaurants, including his own, losing money when they are open.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Ward commented that it takes time to get things done, but they will get done.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she would love to be able to respond to Mr. Davis.

Council Vice President Johnson advised that streets and roads will be addressed at the next meeting. She commented that she also does not have patience and wants things done right away. She also made reference to her "wish list" that she had mentioned before, noting that a lot of things had not gotten done, but the City had to prioritize.

Councilman Sheppard commented that he is aware of the condition of the Anchor Drive road and feels that this is a priority. He advised that he would like the Mayor and Council to hold some work sessions.

Mayor Dize noted that Mr. Bozman was going to compile a list of the streets in disrepair for the Mayor and Council to review. Mrs. Morgan noted that there is \$80,000 in Highway User Revenue available. Mayor Dize noted that \$80,000 was the cost for the recent paving of Mercury Drive and a small area of Heron Way, so it doesn't go very far. He commented that we at least could consider to tar and chip Anchor Drive.

Mayor Dize noted that the City had a Steamed Crab Tent again this year at Crab Derby. He advised that we made no money, but received a lot of positive feedback. Mayor Dize thanked all of the volunteers that worked hard this Crab Derby, including Mr. Jimmy Charles, the Public Works Department, the Fire Department, EMS and Chamber President Buddy Ward.

Mayor Dize noted that he had attended a recent training session with the Ambulance Squad and Trooper 4 (State Police Helicopter), noting that this is a great asset for the City of Crisfield, being able to fly a patient to Baltimore or Washington in 40 minutes.

Mayor Dize noted that automatic fuel pumps and a de-icer machine are upgrades that will soon be made at the airport. He commented that we would like to get more staff there and more use of the airport.

Mayor Dize advised Mr. Davis that the State has asked the City to hold on the Peck Miller letter until the results of the SAGE study are in.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Mayor Dize requested a motion to adjourn

MC91119

So moved by Council Vice President Johnson, seconded by Councilman Sheppard and carried unanimously, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary