

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor  
Erik Emely, Councilman  
Mike Atkins, Councilman  
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman  
Richard M. Pollitt Jr., City Manager

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary

Absent: Council Vice President Scott & Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson; Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer; Dean Bozman, Code Enforcement Officer.

See sign in sheet for others in attendance.

Mayor Lawson noted that a quorum was present with three Councilmembers, with the absence of two members of Council, Council Vice President Scott and Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER AND 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 Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 23, 2015 and the Public Hearing at 5:30 on September 23, 2015.

Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 23, 2015 - regular meeting and public hearing. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

COUNCILMAN ATKINS PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

At this time, Councilman Atkins presented and read aloud a Resolution declaring October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Crisfield.

Mayor Lawson thanked Councilman Atkins for presenting the Resolution. Councilman

Emely made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

During discussion, Councilman Konapelsky commented that it is sad to have to present such a resolution because of the drug abuse in the world today. He also commented that the signs up and down 413 are filled with depressing ads pertaining to drug abuse assistance, STI prevention, etc. He advised that he supports the Resolution, but is sad that there is now so much focus on these types of issues.

Mayor Lawson commented that this is a national problem and it is sad that the State of Maryland has to purchase billboards to address these subjects. He added that the City is just endorsing the policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to an agenda item for the next meeting; Mrs. Linda Riggin, who is the fundraiser for the content of the new library. He noted that Mrs. Riggin will be

appealing to the Council for funding. Mayor Lawson also noted that the library offers exposure for education of various people and he encourages donations and support.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police Mike Tabor presented his quarterly department head report, highlighting its contents.(see attached) He reviewed crime statistics as well as community events.

Councilman Atkins inquired about CSAFE. Chief Tabor advised that this is the same thing as CAGES.

Mr. Adam Thompson inquired the difference between a theft and a robbery. Chief Tabor advised that a theft is stealing something, but a robbery involves stealing something but using a knife or a gun.

Cokie McCready suggested talking to former drug users to see how they can help with drug problems. Chief Tabor advised that he does have C.I.'s in the City.

Robert Hooks made reference to use of the sub-station. Chief Tabor advised that it is co-shared with the Sheriff's Department.

Cokie McCready made reference to the money the City is paid for the police department being in the substation.

Mayor Lawson advised that the Housing Authority doesn't have its own security, so the City is paid \$10k on a quarterly basis for our officers being utilized there. He advised that the money is used to offset the cost of community policing in lieu of taxes from the Housing

Authority. He also advised that there is a formula that is used to arrive at the figure.

Councilman Emely advised Mr. McCready that he would rather the police officers be mobile then sitting in the substation.

Chief Tabor noted that the Housing Authority receives a monthly report about the work that the police department does there.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to the new cameras in the Housing Authority purchased through money obtained by Councilman Konapelsky.

Mr. Hooks inquired if the monthly report is available to the public. Chief Tabor advised through the Public Information Act.

#### DOMINIC DILEGGE – DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES

Mr. Dilegge reviewed his quarterly report. (see attached).

Councilman Atkins inquired about the chlorine exposure at the Jacksonville Well. Mr. Dilegge advised that this had been addressed, one bid received and requesting other bids.

Councilman Emely inquired if Mr. Dilegge was down on employees. Mr. Dilegge advised that he was down two employees.

Councilman Emely inquired if Public Utilities now repairs all water leaks. Mayor Lawson advised that it does not repair those with extreme surfaces.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired if being two employees short is causing hardships. Mr. Dilegge advised that the Department is handling it and there are some promising applications.

Councilman Emely inquired if anyone is attending classes. Mr. Dilegge advised that they are not attending yet, and the employee that was in the works to be scheduled for classes, took another job.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the City will be starting employee evaluations which will enforce training for licensing.

Mayor Lawson made reference to Hurricane Juaquin and noted that at that time, the Mayor's power usurps to Emergency Management Officials. He advised that City employees handled anything that occurred and people were in place to deal with issues.

#### CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Rick Pollitt, City Manager presented his bi-weekly report, (see attached in minutes) briefly highlighting its contents.

Mr. Pollitt noted that Mr. Dean Bozman was absent from the meeting due to a death in the family, but had prepared his report for Mayor and Council review.

Councilman Emely also inquired if Public Works was fully staffed. Mr. Jimmy Charles advised that they are down one mechanic. Mr. Pollitt advised that those job duties are also being evaluated.

Councilman Atkins inquired about the members for the Housing Authority Re-location Planning Project discussed in Mr. Pollitt's report. Mayor Lawson advised that there will be 7 to 9 members, total.

Councilman Emely advised that he is ok with recommending Mr. Pollitt and Councilwoman Johnson to the Planning Project Board, but feels the community should be involved. Mayor Lawson advised that there will be representatives from certain different agencies. Councilman Konapelsky advised that many are from the Planning and Zoning Office.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Pollitt and Councilwoman Johnson to the steering committee for the Housing Authority Re-location Planning Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Councilman Konapelsky commented regarding blacktopping the road to the American Legion, that the State restricts using Sandy money as the area must qualify as LMI, but LMI residents use the beach all summer.

Mr. Pollitt commented that he has approached state officials in the past with this information, for an appeal for the use of funds to pave this road.

Mayor Lawson noted that the State had not written that we can't use the money to pave there, but this area is impacted by Water's Edge residents. He suggested looking what is leftover from the \$1.3M and then re-categorize and look at other areas.

Councilman Konapelsky encouraged staying on this thought process.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he believes we can make an excellent case due to the people who use this road.

Councilman Atkins commented that restoring Highway User Revenue is the answer to road

problems.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the long standing practice of having only one regular meeting during the months of November and December. Councilman Emely advised that he has no problem with this as long as a work session is scheduled.

Councilman Emely made a motion that one regular meeting will be held in November and December, with a work-session in between. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### SECOND READER – CUBE ORDINANCE #656

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the Ordinance, which was created, due to Cubes that had become more than temporary in the City. He noted that the company name on the unit category on #8, page 5, needs to be removed.

Mr. Pollitt also reviewed the application and extension process required in the Cube Ordinance.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to adopt the Cube Ordinance for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader, deleting the wording of company logos and names. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried, three in favor, with two members absent.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the City would do an inventory of the existing Cubes only in the R-1 through R-4 District.

#### PROPOSAL TO OVERSEE THE SITE OBSTRUCTION MITIGATION PROJECT AT THE AIRPORT FROM AECOM

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the proposal from AECOM for project management. He advised that this does not impact the 4 mitigation alternatives but is a proposal to hire AECOM to review the process, at a cost of a little more than \$8,000 to the City.

Mayor Lawson advised that a motion would be needed to take \$8,000 to \$8,999 from the General Fund, which is our share of the \$390k project.

Councilman Atkins noted that the cost to the City would be closer to \$10K, but it has to be done.

Councilman Emely commented that this is a hard decision for the Council due to the lack of funds, but has to be done.

Mayor Lawson advised that the County wants a response and the City has to commit.

After further discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to accept the proposal from AECOM as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously, three in favor, 2 members absent.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that this should have already been budgeted and the City has no choice.

Mayor Lawson commented that the City did not budget for a new garbage truck, but also needs one of those. He applauded the Council for this decision.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None

M&C101415



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A

Councilman Konapelsky briefed on the planned Christmas in Crisfield activities for Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. to be held in the Annemessex Square Parking Lot.

He advised that there will be different vendors, workshops, the Crab Pot Christmas Tree, an ice sculptor, sing-alongs, a train ride around the event, and Christmas tree sales.

He advised that he would like to have one lane closed in front and around the event. He also advised that a 1<sup>st</sup> Annual ornament would be for sale and there will be live music.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he is also reaching out to the Governor, Senators, and Delegate. He noted that there are also plans for a North Pole with signs.

Mayor Lawson requested a resolution to endorse the Christmas in Crisfield events.

Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously with three votes in favor and two members absent.

At this time, Councilman Atkins left the meeting. Mayor Lawson advised that at this time, no quorum was present.

Councilman Emely addressed several items; 1) Legion paving – He advised that they will be donating \$100,000 in the community this year., 2) a question for the Park Commission – why was the hydrant there moved, how is park money being spent and what money is available. 3) the Ambulance Squad needs two fulltime and 8 part-time EMT's. He advised that a work-session is needed. 4) Parking Signs on all streets should read "No Parking" 2:00 a.m to 6:00

a.m. with the City lot the same. He suggested that the boat captains sell tickets for parking and advise people where to park.

Councilman Emely made reference to the status of the garbage truck, the Crisfield Committee; first meeting and when, and the reinstating of the Action List.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a water line issue behind Natchytaco, which needs to be connected to the main. He advised the road will have to be cut and wants Bozman Paving to pave over the cut.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the City Advisory Committee and advised that considerations must be given on how to meet within Open Meetings guidelines. He advised that he would reply to Councilman Emely at the next meeting.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Wise property/Park and advised that the obstruction has been removed and will be moving forward with the maintenance buildings. He advised that there will be electric service to the Park.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Terry Pehan reminded everyone about tomorrow's first "Third Thursday" event downtown. He suggested using members of the City Advisory Committee on the Housing Authority Relocation Study Group.

Mr. Pehan made reference to the tree mitigation at the airport for which 13 easements from

property owners will be needed. He advised that AECOM is the agent and it will cost at least a quarter to half million dollars to get easements.

Robert Hooks commented about being appointed to the Tenants Advisory Board. Mayor Lawson advised he is researching to see if it is a Mayor appointment. He advised that it hadn't been done by the Mayor before.

John Dize made reference to the paving of the Anchor Drive cul de sac. Mayor Lawson advised that Bozman Paving got the bid and it should be done soon.

Cokey McCready made reference to underprivileged children not being taught values and discipline and encouraged the City to help through the Community Center.

Dr. Kerry Palakanis thanked Councilman Konapelsky for his work on Christmas in Crisfield. She commented that negative billboards address the issues of today. She also commented that there needs to be resident representation at the Housing Authority for their input in the relocation study.

John Dize noted that Christmas in Crisfield coincides with Small Business Saturday, which is also November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Lamont Potter commented that mass drug addiction is a reality. He advised that he is a facilitator for abstinence at the Community Center.

Mr. Potter commented that the new library will be a good resource.

Mr. Potter commented that the relocation study for the Housing Authority was a sensitive

matter and the residents need uplifting. He suggested a sub-committee.

Dr. Kerry Palakanis made reference to the fact that Verizon is not taking any new internet customers. She stated that this is critically essential for the growth of the community.

Terry Pehan commented that Verizon needs a guaranteed number of users.

Dr. Palakanis suggested applying for a RUSH grant and going before the State to present a case. Mayor Lawson requested that Mr. Pollitt locate a contact.

Robert Hooks made reference to the handicap crossings for the library. Mayor Lawson advised that they will be installed with the new sidewalk.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary