

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

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. See list of others in attendance.

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Approval to accept the agenda so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of Wednesday, October 14, 2015 and the Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried by Councilman Emely, with abstention of Council Vice President Scott and Councilwoman Johnson, who were absent.

APPOINTMENTS – LINDA RIGGIN, FUND RAISING DIRECTOR FOR THE NEW SOMERSET

COUNTY LIBRARY, appeared before the Mayor and City Council. She reviewed the history

of the efforts involved in the construction of the new library in Crisfield and noted that money for construction is 90% Department of Education and 10% from the County. She advised that this is not for any items to furnish the library and that funds must be raised, with \$500K needed to open the doors at the end of December. She advised that \$142K has been raised so far and reviewed the donation breakdown. Mrs. Riggin also reviewed the schematics of the library and advised that bricks for the walkway are being sold at \$100 each, with room for 485 bricks. She noted that only 46 have been sold so far. She also made reference to larger pledges that are available.

Mrs. Riggin also highlighted the fact that the new library will have a 3D computer.

Council Vice President Scott inquired as to the square footage of the library. Mrs. Riggin advised that it is 12,400 sq. ft.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested setting up a location at the Christmas in Crisfield event on November 28th to sell the bricks.

Mayor Lawson briefed on the history of the property location of the library.

He also inquired if the pledges can be done over an extended period of time. Mrs. Riggin advised that these can be done over a 2 year period.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to possible leasing of the meeting room at the library site for one or two years.

Mayor Lawson advised that he believes raising the \$500K is possible and emphasized the fact

that the library is free to all.

Councilman Atkins inquired if there were any plans to advertise the sale of bricks on the radio.

Mrs. Riggin advised that this could be done.

Councilman Atkins also inquired if there were any tax deduction restrictions. Mrs. Riggin advised that there were none.

Mrs. Kathleen Garten advised that she is excited about the new library and noted that this was one of the main reasons her family moved to Crisfield.

Mr. John Dize noted that he would like to see library employee advancement become available. Mayor Lawson advised that this would have to be addressed through the Library Board.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents. (see attached)

CITY ENGINEER REPORT

Mr. Jason Loar presented updates concerning the county water meters, which have been delivered to the City. He advised that work must be done to ensure a water-tight seal to the cabling to the radio read. He also advised that the wind turbine is due to be delivered to the City in December with plans for the start-up within 30-45 days.

Mayor Lawson asked if construction would take place in the winter, contrary to earlier statements. Mr. Loar advised he believes construction will take place this winter.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the contract with DBF for bulk-heading the seawall downtown. He noted that this needs to be done before winter gets here. He requested an update on the movement of this project adding that it should have been done.

Mayor Lawson advised that he agrees with Councilman Konapelsky. He made reference to receipt of the preliminary drawing and advised that the City will need to prepare plans for the greenspace.

Mr. Loar advised that this is a 4-6 month permit per the State, but construction can begin immediately under emergency provisions, and the permit obtained later.

Mr. Pollitt also noted the flood elevation workshops to be held on November 17 and 18.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed amendment to the Crisfield Zoning Code. As provided by Section 112-13 of the Zoning Code entitled Amendments, the following amendment is proposed: Section 112-69 "Minimum off-street parking requirements" be amended to provide, A. The following are the minimum off-street parking requirements for each use indicated, except that no off-street parking shall be required in the CBD District ***and no off-street parking shall be required for restaurants, gift shops, flower shops, or other similar retail businesses containing less than 3,500 square feet of floor area.*** New language in bold italic.

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the proposed amendment concerning off-street parking and advised that there has been inconsistent enforcement in the past. He also briefed on the recent Board of

Zoning Appeals hearing and advised that the Mayor and Council cannot be involved as the Board of Zoning is an adjudicatory board. He advised that the Board voted 5-1 to deny the request.

Mr. Pollitt advised that he is proposing that the Ordinance be amended as follows;

The following are the minimum off-street parking requirements for each use indicated, except that no off-street parking shall be required in the CBD District ***and no off-street parking shall be required for restaurants, gift shops, flower shops or other similar retail businesses containing less than 3,500 square feet of floor area.***

He advised that this will be presented to the Planning Commission next Tuesday for them to review and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council, with the First Reader in November and the Second Reader in December with a Public Hearing.

Mr. Pollitt advised that there is some public confusion that the Mayor and Council made this decision.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to present the proposal to the Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

During discussion, Councilman Emely suggested that the square footage of floor area should be 5,000 sq. ft. Councilman Konapelsky suggested 4,000.

Mayor Lawson stated that the City is trying to be pro-business. Councilwoman Johnson agreed Mayor Lawson also commented that the Board of Zoning Appeals members are all appointed and some are in excess of their term. He advised that the Mayor and Council can't override their decision.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that the Board of Zoning Appeals did their job and had no choice but to follow the law. He advised that he supports them 100%.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that the City was nailed for the BZA decision the next day and he was never called for clarification on the issue. Councilman Konapelsky advised that Mayor Lawson has always reached out to the City, as well as the rest of the Council, and he was hurt they (the Mayor and Council) were hit so hard by public comments without facts. He urged citizens to call anytime there are questions.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she had asked Mayor Lawson what he could do about the Board's decision.

Councilman Atkins inquired which businesses are close in size to 3,500 feet. Councilman Emely advised that Side Street was. George Tawes advised that his building has 6,000 sq. ft. of floor area. Councilman Atkins noted that Landon's Flowers, in Mr. Tawes' building would not benefit from a law limited to 3,500 square feet.

Council Vice President Scott encouraged business input concerning the proposed 3,500 sq. ft.

Councilwoman Johnson thanked Mr. Pollitt for his idea to draft the Ordinance.

With no further business for discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson made reference to an update concerning paving and advised that there is an additional \$75K in Highway User Revenue that can be used now. He advised that the American Legion road would be paved before winter.

Mayor Lawson advised that 3 places will be paved; 1) the municipal parking lot, 2) 10th Street to Broad Street – 125 feet, and 3) the American Legion.

He advised that he would like a committee formed consisting of Mr. Pollitt, Mr. Bozman, Mr. Jimmy Charles, Councilman Konapelsky, Councilman Emely and himself, to research the bidding process. Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky for the committee to research the bidding process, seconded by Councilman Emely, and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the road that runs by the post office.

Mayor Lawson that this would be part of a 3 phase project.

Councilman Atkins advised that the restoration of Highway User Revenue would be the answer to all of the road problems. Councilman Atkins reminded the council about Mr. Pollitt's email updating Governor Hogan's pledge to restore highway user funds.

Council Vice President Scott commented that this item was not on the Agenda. Mayor Lawson advised that he had just received this information.

Council Vice President Scott inquired as to who decides on the streets to be paved.

Mayor Lawson advised that the Council was given a street grading sheet and that cross sectional streets were chosen.

EVENT APPLICATION

Mayor Lawson reviewed an event application for a Volunteer Appreciation party sponsored by the Chamber. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS, Q & A

Mayor Lawson made reference to the recent Trunk or Treat event held at the Marina. He advised that 185 children registered and 25 trunks participated. He thanked Council Vice President Scott for purchasing 200 children's books to be given out. He also thanked Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Heath for loaning out their 6' crab pot and for Secretary Swift for organizing

the City's participation.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the area between 9th Street and the Customs house and the flowers planted in the parking lot by Mrs. Betsy Thompson. He advised that after the sidewalk is completed in that area, there are plans to install permanent flower boxes on the 12' wide portion of the sidewalk.

Mayor Lawson also thanked Mrs. Thompson and her group for the scarecrows that had been displayed around the City.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to the recent meeting with ambulance squad members concerning needs in personnel.

Councilman Atkins made reference to October being substance abuse prevention month and advised that he will be working with many agencies to put together a presentation involving substance abuse prevention at Woodson school. He invited any council members interested in participating to contact him.

Councilman Atkins made reference to changing the 15 mph speed in front of Whittington Primary, as this is no longer a school.

Councilman Atkins made reference to an obstruction caused by a vehicle parking on the corner of Asbury and Somerset. He suggested painting the yellow No Parking line further down the curb.

Councilman Atkins noted that there are Haunted Houses at Woodson and CHS this weekend and advised everyone to watch out for kids when driving.

Councilwoman Johnson had nothing to report.

Councilman Emely also commented about the new scarecrows. He thanked Mayor Lawson and Mr. Pollitt for the ambulance meeting. Councilman Emely commented that there is a bad

Heroin problem in Crisfield and advised that an ambulance arriving on the scene in 2 minutes can save a life on an overdose call. Councilman Emely reminded about holding workshops in the months of November and December.

Councilman Emely made reference to parking signs downtown. He suggested that no parking passes should be sold for the downtown parking lot; passes should be handled by businesses.

He also advised that there should be no parking on 10th Street from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion that parking in the City parking lot should be free to 2:00 a.m., with no overnight parking in the lot, on 9th and 10th Street, no parking 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and the Police Department sign in the parking lot be taken down. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

Councilman Atkins questioned giving up the \$4,000 made by permit parking.

Mayor Lawson commented that there needs to be 24 hour parking on some City streets.

After further discussion, Councilman Emely withdrew his previous motion. He then made a motion for First Reader that 9th and 10th Street have 48 hour (maximum) permit parking, with free parking in the City lot and no parking from 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.

During discussion, Councilman Emely noted that the boat captains could market permit-parking ticket sales.

Council Vice President Scott noted that it needs to be made clear who issues permits.

She also advised that a "Welcome to Crisfield" sign needs to be placed in the parking lot and there needs to be less "rules" and more "welcome."

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Scott noted that there are two new businesses in the City; Greenbriar Staffing specializing in elder care, and Somers Cove Canvas, located in the former Bank of

Crisfield building.

Councilman Konapelsky presented an update to Christmas in Crisfield and made reference to the huge outpouring of support. He reviewed plans for street closing and also made reference to shutting down the downtown parking lot a week before the event. He advised that he would present a full update at the meeting in November.

PUBLIC INPUT

John Tawes suggested extending the zoning changed to the Central Business District.

He commented that parking between 9th Street between W. Main and Broad Street is conducive for truck traffic. He suggested using 11th Street as an option.

Phil Riggin suggested that the Mayor and Council publish their pro-business endeavors.

He also made reference to SHA signage being promoted by the tourism commission which will be better and more informative. He advised that the Tourism Commission will be presenting this information in January.

Mayor Lawson noted that Mr. Andy Haynie, CPA, of PKS, and is the City of Crisfield Auditor, was present at this evenings meeting.

Lamont Potter made reference to 15 minute parking on Main Street and advised he got a ticket on Sunday when parking in front of the drug store.

John Tawes made reference to Wheels on the Waterfront, where diagonal parking is used to ensure maximum vehicle parking.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M&C102815

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary