

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 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
Rick Pollitt, City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Robert & Susan Lehman; Richard Crumbacker; Chris Hartman; Tony Stockus; Jason Loar; Kathleen Garton; Keith Campbell; John Dize; Brian Julian and Peg Manning.

LORD'S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the agenda for this evening's

meeting, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the closed meeting of July 22, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 22, 2015, with minor corrections. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Rick Pollitt presented his bi-weekly report, highlighting its contents.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the item concerning Drone Testing and inquired as to the reason the Crisfield/Somerset County Airport is so beneficial.

Mr. Pollitt advised that it is beneficial because there is not a lot of air traffic and it is isolated.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that the use of land and water and governed

air space is the perfect area.

Council Vice President Scott noted that it compares well with other airports that were looked at.

Councilman Emely commented that the main proposal of drones was for agriculture observation and expressed concern about use for observing watermen. Councilman Atkins advised that the proposal also talked about water.

Mr. Pollitt noted the potential for search and rescue and law enforcement.

Mayor Lawson noted that drone testing has a phenomenal growth factor.

Councilman Emely advised that he wouldn't vote for DNR to use drones to observe watermen, adding that he may have missed the meeting when this was discussed.

AIRPORT ALTERNATIVES FOR THE AVIATION EASEMENT

Mr. Pollitt advised that the County Commissioners want to go with Alternative 4 as presented by AECOM, which states Avigation easements on 13 parcels and removal of obstructions which currently penetrate the 15CFR Part 77 surfaces for only RW 14-32 on-Airport and off-Airport (close the turf runway).

Mr. Pollitt commented that if the turf runway is closed, we may never get it back and he doesn't want the City's hands tied. He advised that he recommends that the decision be delayed for 9 months to a year.

At this time, Mr. Tony Stockus – AOPA, and Mr. Chris Hartman, Coordinator of the Aviation Program for UMES, presented information concerning the airport.

Mr. Stockus advised that they are here as a resource. He advised that the airport is an asset. He noted that the grass strip at the airport needs to be rolled out.

Councilman Emely inquired as to why the runway should be closed. Mr. Hartman advised that option 4 is the cheapest option.

Councilman Emely advised that property owners in the area will lose property if trees are cut down due to mitigation.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired as to what closing the runway will have to do with cutting down trees. He inquired if closing this runway will hurt future UMES ventures. Mr. Hartman advised that it may, when a new Mayor and Council come on board and question the mowing of the grass runway.

Councilman Emely stated that he feels the runway will continue to be cut.

Mr. Buddy Ward commented that closing the grass runway will impact the

future of the airport.

Mr. John Tawes commented that his brother-in-law does aerial commercial application and likes the grass runway as the landing is easier on the plane and is also safer for an aircraft in distress.

Council Vice President Scott commented that she is hearing experts say keep it open and doesn't know why the County is saying otherwise.

Mr. Hartman also noted that in a cross wind situation a pilot would want to use the grass strip because it is wider.

Dr. Kerry Palakanis commented that it would devalue the airport and inquired if the homes were there prior to the airport. Councilman Emely advised that this is due to new FAA rules.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the history of the airport and advised that it is needed for economic development. He advised that FAA funds the airport and also noted that the tarmac and paved runway need to be repaved in the near future.

Mayor Lawson stated that Option 4 impacts the fewest people and is the cheapest, but is also short-sighted. He advised that the City needs to take the

time and examine alternatives.

Mrs. Sue Lehman, Annemessex Ridge resident, stated that she is in favor of keeping the grass runway open. She advised that the airport has so much potential and needs to be developed.

Mr. Stockus advised that we need to work to make the airport an economic generator.

Council Vice President Scott inquired if the FAA requires that the County Commissioners make the selection if the City can't make the choice.

Councilman Atkins noted that to get FAA funding, an alternative must be selected.

Council Vice President Scott inquired if there are other alternatives. Mr. Pollitt advised that there are none, but the City needs adequate time to prepare an economic development plan for the airport. He advised that it is responsible for the Mayor and Council to ask the County Commissioners for time.

Councilman Emely inquired who gets the final decision. Mayor Lawson advised that we are in equal partnership with the County.

Councilwoman Scott commented that if the City had an economic development

plan that included the airport, making a decision on this would be clearer in terms of our future plans, but we have no plans at this time.

Mr. Pollitt commented that he feels if we close the runway it may be gone for good.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that if the City comes up with a plan, it may be enough for the County Commissioners to listen.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she agrees not to close the runway and also agrees to take six months to look at a plan.

Mr. Pollitt noted that if the grass runway is closed, the City would have to obtain easements to re-open it.

Councilman Atkins advised having Mr. Stockus have AOPA look at the analysis and proposal.

Mr. Stockus advised that he would look into this and feels there are other alternatives and also suggested that ACOM come down.

Councilman Emely advised that it falls in the City's hands. He stated that tourism has to promote tourism. He advised that there needs to be docu-

mentation of landings on the grass runway since we need statistics to back keeping it open. He advised that he agrees on giving 5 months for research.

At this time, Mayor Lawson requested a motion.

Councilman Emely made a motion to inform the County Commissioners that the City supports delaying a selection of alternatives for a minimum of six months in order to assess the potential impact of closing the turf runway on the City's future economic development efforts. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Council Vice President Scott also added "along with the Pilots Association." Motion carried unanimously.

PARKING ORDINANCES

Mayor Lawson reviewed Parking Ordinance for First Reader as follows;

1) An Ordinance Amending Section 106-21 of the City Code entitled "Special Purpose Parking Zones" pertaining to the mail carrier load/unload designated parking space.

Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

2) An Ordinance Amending Section 106-17 of the City Code entitled "Parking

Time Limited” pertaining to the Annemessex Square parking lot – free parking from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and overnight parking permit required.

Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Atkins and seconded by Councilman Konapelsky. During discussion, Councilman Emely stated that there are 13 parking spaces there and 7 cars parked there have 3 month permits. He advised that he feels the City should eliminate permit parking.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he feels Jay Tawes should have covered the damage to the other side of the lot during the demo of his building.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the permit findings that he had compiled and advised that 9 out of 10 vehicles parked had permits, but only 2 had 3 month permits. He advised that he doesn’t feel it is a parking problem just a “people” problem.

Councilman Emely questioned the sign saying Permit Parking there and how we can charge tax payers to park in the lot.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he agrees that no permit should be sold.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she does not like the appearance of the parking lot sign. She also made reference to information needed on where to buy parking permits and suggested an information kiosk.

Motion carried with abstention of Council Vice President Scott, opposition of Councilman Emely and votes of aye from Councilman Konapelsky, Councilwoman Johnson and Councilman Atkins. Motion carried 3 to 2.

3) An Ordinance Amending Section 106-17 of the City Code entitled "Parking Time Limited" pertaining to the East Side of the Depot, 13 spaces preceding the last 4 spaces. Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

4) An Ordinance Amending Sections 106-17 of the City Code entitled "Parking Time Limited" pertaining to the East Side of the Depot, 4 spaces at the end, 15 Minutes from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 hours from 12:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Atkins, Seconded by Councilman Emely, and carried unanimously.

5) An Ordinance Amending Section 106-14 of the City Code, entitled "Parking Prohibited at all Times" pertaining to the 4 spaces at the end of the depot used

for vehicle turn around, only. Approval for First Reader so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

EVENT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Pollitt advised that he would defer approval of the Event Applications to the Mayor and Council.

1) Annual Crab Derby Parade – Approval so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

2) Crab Derby 10K Race – Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

3) Concert – 3rd Thursday event October 15, 2015. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, for this 3rd Thursday event, only, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

PENDING APPLICATIONS

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Event Application submitted by Jay Tawes for an event on Thursday, September 3rd. Mr. Buddy Ward advised that this event needed to be rescinded.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to rescind the Event Application, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to the Beer Fest Application submitted by David and Carolyn Marquis. He requested that it be deferred until the next meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION, Q & A

Christmas in Crisfield – Councilman Konapelsky – Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like to work with the Chamber and other groups to schedule events the entire month of December.

Councilman Emely made a motion to nominate Councilman Konapelsky as coordinator for Christmas events. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Councilman Konapelsky also made reference to 1) the damage to the downtown parking lot due to the demolition of Mr. Jay Tawes' building and 2) The article in "Sound Off" concerning depot deliveries. He advised that the County dock is the place for heavy loads, not the City dock. He advised that he is bothered that it made the City seem unfriendly.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she would like to give some positive shout-outs to the progress of the new library construction and the new sidewalk construction. She noted that the Wheels on the Waterfront was a good event with some great aerial photos taken. She also commented on the touch of color the umbrellas in the picnic tables on the green space bring.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that a friend of hers had made several positive comments about Crisfield. In reference to Group Homes in the City, she advised that money is being spent here at Food Lion and Tawes Brothers. She also made reference to a noise violation due to a constantly running trailer unit parked on the street in an area. Mr. Pollitt advised that this is being addressed.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the propose kayak launch and the email he had sent councilmembers. He advised that he would be preparing an analysis.

Councilman Emely advised that the trash cans need to be put back at the depot.

Councilman Emely made reference to Roads and Codes which need to be concentrated on. He advised that there needs to be a Board established to review this.

Councilman Emely also made reference to the meeting with the Small Boat

Harbor concerning cleanup. Mayor Lawson advised him to meet with Mr. Pollitt.

Councilwoman Johnson inquired about the City Commission reviewing City Codes.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to the great aerial shots of Wheels on the Waterfront. He advised they were taken from the Fire Department's ladder truck. He congratulated John and Jenny Tawes on a great event.

Mr. Buddy Ward advised that \$1,900 taken in from the event went to the new radio station.

Mayor Lawson also advised that he agrees that the trash cans need to be put back downtown, but need attached fixed lids to keep people from depositing their household trash.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the SHA sidewalk replacement project and advised that some of the access cuts need to be eliminated. He asked the Council to look out for any areas that need to be eliminated.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would like to encourage the Council to visit with the City Manager weekly.

He also commented that our airport is considered one of the best for pre-flight training.

PUBLIC INPUT

Buddy Ward briefed the Mayor and Council on upcoming 3rd Thursday Events.

John Tawes noted that his brother in law has made many landings at the airport and prefers the grass strip.

John Dize thanked the Mayor and Council for the work on Christy Drive. He also made reference to a ditch drainage problem at Judy Smith's on Anchor Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary