

Minutes

The Mayor and City Council and Department Heads met in regular session on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

Present

Percy J. Purnell, Jr., Mayor
LaVerne Johnson, Council Vice President
Raymond D. Anderson, Councilman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Mark Konapelksy, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, Attorney
Mike Tabor, Chief of Police
Noah Bradshaw, Inspector

Absent due to surgery – Councilman Kimberly B. Lawson

Also in attendance, Valerie Swift, Secretary. See list of others in attendance.

Mayor Purnell called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He also advised that the Resolution of Respect for Blancia Cottman would be read later on.

At this time, Mayor Purnell read aloud a Resolution of Respect for Anthony Ward. Council Vice President Johnson noted that this presentation had been on hold, as Anthony Jr. had been tied up with funerals.

Mayor Purnell also presented a Birthday Proclamation for Miss Frances Horsey in honor of her 104th Birthday on September 19th. Council Vice President Johnson also advised that there would be a celebration at the nursing home on the 19th, and at that time, the Birthday Proclamation would be read and presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Purnell requested approval of the four sets of minutes from the previous meetings. At this time, Council Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of 7/30/12, 8/8/12, the Regular Meeting of 8/8/12 and the Special Meeting of 8/15/12.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Eugene Evans appeared before the Mayor and Council to follow up on his previous proposal to sell the boatyard property to the City for \$1,500,000.00.

Mayor Purnell advised that the City would have to have the money and the need for the property and at this time, has neither. Councilman Konapelsky commented that the City has too many capital projects at this time.

Mr. Evans commented that the purpose of the industrial park is to create jobs, and if the City is waiting for grants, they could be waiting a long. He stated that he feels his property would be a nice addition to the end of City limits.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Mike Tabor presented his monthly report, highlighting its contents. He also presented a video of the shooting that had occurred at the Housing Authority during Labor Day weekend.

Mayor Purnell commented that it is not acceptable to live in this kind of situation. He made reference to the petition that had been circulated concerning officers and advised that the Chief is looking into the matter. Mayor Purnell also made reference to the two officers reactions when confronted with 50 people.

Ms. Phyllis Wise made reference to the petition and asked for a written statement from CPD.

Following further comments and discussion from several Housing Authority residents regarding the crab derby weekend events and police protection methods, Mayor Purnell asked for help and cooperation from everyone.

Councilman Atkins made reference to a request from Chief Tabor for Bullet Proof vests to be purchased with seized funds.

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the release of seized funds for the purchase of Bullet Proof vests. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS CONT'D

Chris Parks, Housing Specialist, Somerset County Technical and Community Services, appeared before the Mayor and City Council and advised that by late October, the County will be receiving housing rehab money that will be available to the City. He advised that there hasn't been a targeted amount for either area. He also advised that it will be based on age, income and disability. He also advised that the property must be owner occupied, not a mobile home, and income is on a sliding scale. Mr. Parks also emphasized that the homeowner must have Homeowners and Flood Insurance. He advised that once the money is released, it will be advertised.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS CONT'D

Mrs. Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer, presented and reviewed her monthly financial report for July through August.

Mr. Noah Bradshaw, Inspector, presented his monthly report highlighting its contents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Purnell presented for 2nd Reader Ordinance 620 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 106-17 Entitled Vehicles and Traffic Parking Time Limited - Beginning at the south east corner of 6th and W. Main Street, two 15 minute parking spaces, heading in the Easterly Direction, shall be designated with proper signage. Approval for 2nd Reader so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

FOLLOW UP – PINES MOTEL MATTER

Attorney Michael Sullivan presented and reviewed a power point presentation concerning legislative options discussed at the August 15th meeting concerning the Pines Motel.

During discussion, Mayor Purnell commented that he would like a fence put around the area right now to prevent trespassing into people's backyards.

Councilman Atkins commented that he feels the City should look at the Rental Agreement and Crime Free agreement.

HUCKSTERS LICENSE – RE-WRITE

Mayor Purnell reviewed the revised Ordinance. It was discussed concerning the fairness of someone setting up a temporary business versus someone with a permanent fixed business. Councilman Konapelsky commented that he feels that it is ok to huckster during special events.

BAY RESTORATION RESOLUTION 403

Mrs. Morgan briefed the Mayor and Council concerning this resolution which would relieve qualified homeowners from having to pay the Bay Restoration charges. At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept Resolution 403. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Johnson and carried unanimously.

LOAN REFINANCE BORROWING RESOLUTION 404

At this time, Mayor Purnell reviewed a resolution to borrow money for the refinancing of four City loans. At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the Borrowing Resolution. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

LOCAL RESOLUTION 405 – STRATEGIC DEMOLITION AND SMART GROWTH

Mayor Purnell reviewed the resolution and advised that it was required by the State for the \$275K grant that the City was applying for to purchase the building next to the Depot, with plans to tear it down for parking.

PUBLIC INPUT

John Dize offered public input concerning the hucksters license discussion.

George Friedley commented that he feels that more citizen input is needed before 2nd readers of ordinances are done.

Councilman Atkins suggested expressing opinions to the Mayor and Council between readers.

Council Vice President Johnson suggested putting the first session of Public Input back on the agenda.

Irving Saltz commented regarding the budget's cash balance.

Joe Lehrer commented that the meeting concerning the Pines Motel was a great meeting. He also noted that the motel has been hiring tenants as maintenance men.

Mayor Purnell commented that the motel was well run years ago but the new owner had allowed anyone to stay there. He advised that the City is trying to come up with a legal way

to manage the issue.

Jeneen Campbell made reference to the issues at the Housing Authority and commented that people need a voice. She stated that it is a good idea to fence off the motel. Ms. Campbell commented that the curfew at the Housing Authority was a good thing and that she appreciates police presence there. She also stated that the problems came from another area. Ms. Campbell also advised that if she sees a crowd gathering she will not hesitate to call the police.

George Friedley commented that CPD has a good response time.

Ella James, 315 Locust Street resident, commented that the tenant next door, who is her neighbor, is awful and shows no respect.

M&C Q&A AND COMMENTS

Councilman Atkins noted that Speed Cameras will be addressed at the next meeting.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that a First Session of Public Input should be added to the October agenda. Councilman Anderson concurred.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that she wished the earlier crowd hadn't left. She also noted that she was aware of Mrs. Miles' situation.

Council Vice President Johnson also noted that the Resolution for Mrs. Cottman would be presented at her church on Sunday at 3:30.

Mayor Purnell the permits for the depot project will go before the Board of Public Works this week.

Mayor Purnell also briefed on the status of Carvel Hall renovation.

He also made reference to deciding on paying a share of the Buy Boat festivity cost.

Mayor Purnell made reference to an issue involving a sewer mishap that had occurred at Lee Roy Carson's property at Hammock Point, several months ago. He advised that the City is waiting on a final determination from our insurance company.

Mayor Purnell also noted that two new certified police officers had been hired.

Council Vice President Johnson commented that Mayor Purnell does a 24/7 job for the City.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary