

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, December 9, 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  
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman  
Rick Pollitt, City Manager  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Absent; Erik Emely, Councilman

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Mary Taylor; Dan Nelson; Lamont Potter; Mary Nelson; Shelly Hitchings; Tashawna Gaines; Billy Gene Swift; John Dize, and John Tawes.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Lawson noted that at the 5:00 p.m. public hearing, only positive comments concerning the change of Ordinance regarding the requirement for off-street parking, were received.

Mayor Lawson also noted that Councilman Emely was absent from the meeting due to an employment obligation.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Councilman Konapelsky noted that during Mayor and Council Q & A there should be no extensive power point presentation or discussion; it should be added as New or Old Business.

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Mayor Lawson advised that he does not totally disagree, as time is needed to be informed before decisions are made.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Lawson requested a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 12, 2015. Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Councilman Konapelsky inquired about the start of the bulkheading at the depot.

Mr. Pollitt advised that according to Mr. Loar of Davis, Bowen and Friedel, bids should be out in early January, and that they attempted to get the emergency permit, but other permits are required as well.

Mayor Lawson noted that the City would have the schematics to review for the green space before any contract is prepared.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader Ordinance 657 "Minimum Off-Street Parking Requirements"

Mr. Pollitt reviewed the Ordinance and briefed those in attendance concerning the events that led to this Ordinance. He noted that there was no opposition during the earlier public hearing.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept Ordinance 657 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Councilman Atkins made reference on where to set the bar as far as square footage.

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He noted that this ordinance will not benefit the Side Street building. Councilman Atkins noted that the City must be fair to all.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he feels the City is being fair at this point, and those that need to, can apply for a variance. He noted that the former Side Street owner had rented off-street parking, adding that you can never satisfy everyone. Councilman Konapelsky also noted that this can be revisited by future administration.

Mayor Lawson questioned how much space is enough. He advised that this needs to be addressed by the Planning Commission and a parking plan is needed.

Mr. Pollitt made reference to the comments about “one” business being addressed, but 9 total businesses had also been addressed through this ordinance. He added that the Planning Commission will need to work on a plan for comprehensive parking.

The motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Pollitt noting that Councilman Emely, who was absent, had advised that he is in support of the Ordinance for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Privatization of Garbage Collection Services

Mayor Lawson made reference to moving forward with private garbage collection services for City residents.

Councilman Konapelsky requested that the issue be tabled for a work session to review when Councilman Emely is present.

Mr. Pollitt advised that a proposal is needed for review by Chesapeake Waste Industries.

Mayor Lawson noted that the City’s garbage truck is 15 years old and that a new one would cost

around \$157,000. He advised that the City is looking at all aspects of trash collection.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested adopting the proposal in resolution only.

WATER TOWER LEASE AMENDMENT

Mr. Pollitt noted that this is the third amendment to the lease agreement for the Jacksonville Water Tower. He noted that at a recent work session, the Council had requested an engineer's certificate of integrity to add another antennae to the tower.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the amendment contingent upon the engineering report that the added antennae won't compromise the integrity of the tower. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Councilman Atkins also made reference to the wind issue and whether or not the City is receiving a fair price in compensation for allowing an additional antenna on the tower.

Mr. Pollitt advised that per Mr. Sullivan, it is hard to get a consistent standard as far as what other towns are paying.

Council Vice President Scott stated that she would like a comparable, but must assume we are receiving a fair payment per Mr. Sullivan. She noted that other towns have water towers and suggested calling them and inquiring.

Mr. Pollitt advised that Mr. Sullivan could explain his answer more thoroughly. Councilman Atkins inquired if there is any urgency to adopt the amendment. Mr. Pollitt advised that the urgency is on the antennae owners part.

Following further discussion, Councilman Konapelsky rescinded his motion to table the decision until information is obtained. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she agrees.

INFORMATION ABOUT TWO ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AT THE PARK

Mayor Lawson noted that these two buildings are needed for electricity and water at the municipal park. He advised that Mr. Bozman had obtained a proposal.

Mr. Pollitt read the proposal from Jim Davis/Chesapeake Roofing aloud for a total of \$7,500 for both buildings.

Mayor Lawson noted that the roofs on these buildings will match the one on the gazebo. He also advised that this would have to go before the Park Commission for approval.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the bid from Mr. Davis, pending approval of the Park Commission. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins.

During discussion, Councilwoman Johnson noted that the money that would be approved by the Park Commission came from the sale of the Library.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE - ARMORY

Mayor Lawson made reference to the suggestion of Mrs. Cindy Stone, Director of Community Programs, Community Development Block Program, to obtain a Bond for repair of the armory.

Mr. Pollitt advised that the plan would be to save and restore the armory so that it is fully functional.

He advised that Mr. Bozman is working with the County to remediate the mold. He advised that the City wants to keep the facility due to its heritage link to be used as a museum and for cultural events and dances. Mr. Pollitt advised that this is big project and this is the reason for looking at the bonding process through the State budget fund of \$400,000 to \$1M.

Councilman Konapelsky asked that the Council be kept abreast of any developments.

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Mayor Lawson noted that the City may have to ask for funds over multiple years. He also noted that Easton sold their armory to their Waterfowl Museum and Centerville's Armory is now Wye River School.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to move forward with the bond market to restore the Armory. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Councilwoman Scott inquired when the last time was that the City had asked for a bond, that we may be due one. Mayor Lawson advised that he did not know.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Armory is a Maryland Historic Landmark and all construction has to be approved by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Council Vice President Scott suggested brainstorming all options.

Councilwoman Johnson commented on discussion about uses for the Armory before Hurricane Sandy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### TESTIMONY FOR MARYLAND BOARD OF REGENTS – RE: BYRD STADIUM

Mayor Lawson briefed concerning the proposed name change of the University of Maryland College Park's Byrd Stadium and reviewed the history of Mr. Curley Byrd, a Crisfield native, whom it was named after. He also acknowledged that Curley Byrd was a proponent for segregation and prohibited African Americans from attending the college. He advised that he would like to propose to Chairman Loh that the Board of Regents consider making a donation to the library for equipment and asked for the Council's blessing to give his presentation. Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the statement from Chairman Loh that history is not about the past and he stated that he is sick of "politically correct everything". Councilman Konapelsky stated that you have to learn from the past.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the Mayor's proposal to ask for donations from the University of Maryland for the new library. She questioned where Curley Byrd fits in this request.

Mayor Lawson advised that he is asking for a donation to purchase equipment and the acknowledgement of Byrd as part of its history.

Councilwoman Johnson questioned honoring Byrd in the library as she feels this would bring a negative connotation to the library and was not fair to the citizens of Crisfield. She stated that as the only African American member of the Council, she has no problem with recognizing Byrd's contribution to education, but she has a problem with addressing Byrd's practice of segregation, since the negative connotation associated with him was the reason for the renaming of the stadium, and therefore should not be recognized in the new library.

Councilman Atkins noted that there is both good and bad in honoring him with recognition in the new library.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that she is not going to vote in support of the Mayor's proposal to present to the Board of Regents.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he is not going to vote, due to the situation in America at this time.

Mayor Lawson advised that obtaining a donation to the library would help the impoverished.

Council Vice President Scott commented that this proposal sends a mixed message, but how do we make a wrong right?

Councilman Atkins advised that he supports turning a negative into a positive, but he is not sure how, or how the Regents will react to the Mayor's request for a donation for the library.

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Council Vice President Scott stated that she is not clear about the right position. Councilman Atkins suggested taking a proposal later on. Mayor Lawson advised that he feels this needs to be addressed now.

Following further discussion, Mayor Lawson commented that he felt let down by the Council, and felt this was a way to get free funding.

Councilwoman Johnson stated that she is not, by any means, saying that we should turn down any offer of money, but feels the Mayor saying he was let down by the Council was unfair as we are all entitled to our opinion.

#### SOMERSET COUNTY/HURRICANE SANDY – JOB TRAINING

Councilman Konapelsky briefed that the County Commissioners went to the State regarding a job training program and received \$100K in block grant funds. He advised that different classes will be offered in which certification can be obtained.

#### PICTURES OF 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET HYDRANT REPAIR

Mayor Lawson made reference to the outsourcing of this repair and noted that with all of the water issues encountered in that area as shown in the slides, it was better to hire the job out.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND Q & A

Councilwoman Johnson commented Councilman Konapelsky for his work on the Christmas in Crisfield event noting that it was very well put together.

She also noted that the parade was wonderful. She also urged storefront owners to decorate next Christmas.

Councilman Atkins thanked Mr. Pollitt for the update concerning the wind turbine. He also made

reference to any update concerning the airport negotiations. Mr. Pollitt advised that there are none yet.

Councilman Atkins wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Vice President Scott noted that Christmas in Crisfield was wonderful. She also acknowledged that the CHS Band had won First Place in several parade events. She also made reference to the proposed increase in internet speed from Charter.

Council Vice President Scott also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Konapelsky noted several events; Breakfast with Santa on December 12<sup>th</sup> and also the Christmas Show sponsored by the Elks at CHS. Also on 12/19 Ornament Making at City Hall and a Boat Parade at the Marina and the Oyster Drop on December 31<sup>st</sup>. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Lawson noted that Councilman Atkins is working on something to honor the CHS soccer team. He also acknowledged that the CHS Band won first place in three Christmas Parades.

Mayor Lawson noted that First Place Storefront Christmas Decorations went to Landon's Flowers, Second Place to Main Street Flowers and Third Place to Waterman's Inn. He noted that a new award for Best Decorated Block went to Water's Edge, Landon's Flowers and the Weathered Porch. Mayor Lawson noted decorations by the Park Committee at the Gazebo, and noted that he appreciates Mr. Mike Headley's interest in decorating there also.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Elks's pageant this Saturday. He also noted Harvey Linton's house on Somerset Avenue was recognized as the best "Spirit of Christmas."

Mayor Lawson complimented Mr. Billy Gene Swift for the fine job he did in razing the old Tightly's

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building. Mr. Swift noted that the property owner is having him take down the adjacent building as well.

Mayor Lawson also encouraged everyone to support the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday event. He noted that the Heritage Foundation luncheon is on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lawson wished Merry Christmas to all and encouraged people to find the good in everyone.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Danny Nelson thanked the Mayor for the Curly Byrd lesson. He also made reference to looking for the good in people and working to correct the bad.

He also noted that the discussion about the library is a great idea.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

