

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Crisfield met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 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 (absent for a portion of the meeting)
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; See list of others on sign in sheet.

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

RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS – FIRE & AMBULANCE

Councilman Emely presented Chief Frankie Pruitt, Crisfield Fire Dept. and Captain Elect Ronnie Hinman, Lower Somerset Ambulance and Rescue Squad, Certificates of Appreciation from the City of Crisfield for their volunteer services.

RECOGNITION OF JUSTIN REED, R.N., AND SUEKAY FORD, R.N.

Councilman Atkins presented Justin Reed and SueKay Ford Certificates of Appreciation from the City of Crisfield for their courageous actions on Friday, March 27th.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Mayor Lawson requested approval of the agenda. Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve as written the minutes from the regular meeting of April 22, the closed meeting of April 22, the special meeting of April 30, and the closed meeting of April 30.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ELECTRIC RATES

Mrs. Morgan reviewed the updated quote from APPI & Constellation at 54 months for \$.07538.

Mayor Lawson also noted that there won't be a penalty if the turbine comes on line. Following further discussion, Council Vice President Scott made a motion to accept the rate of \$.07538 for 54 months.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

CARVEL HALL LEASE

Mayor Lawson noted that the City would be moving forward with the Carvel Hall lease.

RESOLUTIONS NEEDED

Mrs. Morgan advised that several Resolutions were needed for enforcement of parking signs.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the information concerning the signs for 9th, 10th, 11th, Broad Street & Williams Street – open for parking from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a permit needed to park from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. at a cost of \$30 or \$5/day.

Councilman Atkins made reference to enforcement. Mayor Lawson advised that the Police Dept. will be able to enforce by issuing tickets. Approval of adopting a Resolution so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

Mayor Lawson advised that this parking resolution would encourage tourism and prevent all day parking on those streets.

Council Vice President Scott noted that it would make parking convenient for shoppers.

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Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a Greenspace Resolution to eliminate parking in that area, where eight “No Parking Anytime” signs would be placed. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to parking stripes at the Depot and advised that he would like to adopt a Resolution that the last four spots on the end be designated 15 minute only and the other spots 2 hours only with a crosswalk at the end. Also, no 6 wheel vehicles greater than 25 feet(i.e. busses and tractor trailer) beyond the stop sign area. Councilman Emely also requested that skateboard use be prohibited. He made a motion to approve the Mayor’s proposed Resolution, adding that skateboards be prohibited. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the \$3M project to be done by State Highway at the end of May, in which sidewalk on Maryland and Richardson Avenues will be replaced. He advised that the highway will be paved after the sidewalk project is done with red crosswalks installed.

Council Vice President Scott inquired if this was in addition to the \$1.3M from Hurricane Sandy funding for paving. Mayor Lawson advised that it was.

Mayor Lawson also made reference to the need for a Resolution prohibiting the use of delivery equipment such as forklifts, backhoes, and 3 wheel vehicles at the depot. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson also advised that the boat captains would be informed that it is their responsibility to prevent the use of these vehicles when delivering to the boats.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL BY COUNCIL FOR SELECTION BY SOMERSET COUNTY DESIGNEES

Mayor Lawson briefed on a meeting this Monday with street paving engineers and advised that the County would be voting on the selection. He advised that he needs a motion to accept the County's recommendation. Motion for approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilman Atkins, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Jimmy Charles, Public Works Foreman, inquired about the time limit for parking on Main Street.

Mayor Lawson advised that he believes the Code states 2 hours.

ROUGH DRAFT 2015-2016 BUDGET

Mayor Lawson reviewed and highlighted areas of the draft of the 2015-2016 Budget. He noted that the Police Department would be taking a \$40K cut in salaries. He advised that water and sewer would be raised by \$1.50 each, and that the ten administrative departments would be cut by 5%. Mayor Lawson made reference to the loss of EDU payments and possible loss of tax revenues. He advised that the Budget would be voted on for First Reader at the May 27th meeting.

Council Vice President Scott inquired when it would be finalized. Mayor Lawson advised that it must be adopted by July 1, 2015.

At this time, (7:04 p.m.) Councilwoman Johnson arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Lawson noted that the City needs accurate water readings to present to Jean Holloway for the water rate study.

Councilman Atkins made reference to #12(increasing water & sewer rates) and inquired as to how much would be needed to balance out water and sewer. Mayor Lawson advised that the \$1.50 increase

probably would not cover it. Mrs. Morgan advised that she would prepare a findings sheet.

Councilman Atkins made reference to reducing the Lawyer's budget to \$25K. Mayor Lawson noted that the City has not had a realistic \$25K year.

Councilman Atkins commented that the Budget needs to be a realistic plan. Councilman Konapelsky commented that he does not feel the city needs a lawyer present at all meetings and the City Manager will be doing a lot of the work. Councilman Atkins commented that even if we didn't have the attorney present, the most that the City could save is \$7,000.

Council Vice President Scott also made reference to item #12 and advised that we need to know the actual costs, after factoring out one-time occurrences. She reminded that we need to charge enough for water and sewer to qualify for assistance from USDA, and we may have to phase in increases.

TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY – SMALL BOAT HARBOR

Mayor Lawson reviewed the request for a permit of Ingress/Egress from Richard Thomas, who is purchasing a shanty and boat slip at the Small Boat Harbor. Mayor Lawson read the section of the Code regarding the requirements. After a review of documents provided by Mr. Thomas, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the request for Ingress/Egress. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

REVISED CONTRACT OF SALE – 216 MARYLAND AVENUE

Mr. Sullivan advised that the revision to this contract is a Reverter Clause – which means the property cannot be transferred to a 3rd party, and must be used only for public purposes.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to approve executing Contract of Sale. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott. Councilman Atkins inquired about the funds for the purchase of this

property. Mayor Lawson advised the funds were from Federal Mitigation money. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan advised that a motion is also needed authorizing Mayor Lawson to execute all documents concerning the property. Approval so moved by Councilman Emely, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR CITY MANAGER

At this time, Mayor Lawson requested a motion to enter into a discussion with Mr. Rick Pollitt, as City Manager. Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky, seconded by Councilman Atkins, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson commented that this had been a hard road and thanked the Council for their work.

DRAFT ORDINANCE – STORAGE CUBES

Mr. Sullivan advised that the draft had not yet been prepared.

Mayor Lawson noted that at the meeting on April 30th, the Council discussed the need for a way to address the storage cube issue.

Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adopt an Ordinance that Cubes be permitted, with a sticker obtained at the City by paying \$50, for six months, with a possible extension six more months for a fee of \$150.00, and at the end of 12 months, if the Cube has not been removed, Mr. Bozman may then enforce the Code for violation, and may result in having the Cube taken for impoundment.

Councilman Emely made reference to the use of Cubes by Long Term Recovery. Mr. Sullivan advised that these Cubes may be used for construction by Long Term Recovery which would take a longer time period. Councilman Emely then amended the proposed motion to include Long Term Recovery.

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Mayor Lawson explained that others with storage units for rent have to pay taxes on their facility, whereas taxes would not be paid on Cubes.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the motion did not need to be amended for Long Term Recovery.

Councilman Emely inquired how an exception for them would be made.

After further discussion about the need for a proposed Ordinance, Councilman Emely made a motion that this be tabled for the next meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT & Q & A

Councilman Atkins advised he had nothing to report.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is excited to have a City Manager. He also noted that he is continuing to work with John Tawes concerning the Kayak Launch site.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about the status of Comcast.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Comcast backed out of the deal with Charter. He advised that their consultant has spent approximately \$11,000 and the City should get back \$2,500, but will have a system review.

Council Vice President Scott advised having Mr. Sullivan contact CBG.

Council Vice President Scott commented that there is a real momentum in real estate movement and less condos are being sold under duress.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she had met some teachers and students from Germantown who visited here and bragged on Crisfield.

Council Vice President Scott commented that people brag about how nice people are in Crisfield.

Councilman Emely inquired about the status of the Old State Road water leaks.

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Mayor Lawson advised that according to a letter from Mrs. Barbara Outten, the people on the line want to go with the Sanitary District. He advised that he would be sending her a letter requesting a time line and the names of contractors who could fix the current leaks.

Councilman Emely made reference to an email he had sent out concerning Ethics.

Mr. Sullivan advised that the City's Ethics Policy is certified.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that an extreme amount of time was spent on the City's Ethics Policy and Ordinance.

Councilman Emely made a motion requesting a minor change in the Policy. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott for discussion.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the change that is requested will not affect the Policy.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Following the discussion, Mr. Sullivan noted that he has no problem with the amendment, just with being accused of leaving it out intentionally.

At this time Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to table the matter for the next meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mary Taylor inquired about having WIFI citywide. Mayor Lawson advised that no work concerning this has been done by the Council.

She also inquired about blacktop for Norris Harbor Drive. Mayor Lawson advised that he would speak with her about this.

Mr. John Dize inquired if the Cube Ordinance would include 5th Wheels. Mayor Lawson advised that

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it pertained to Cubes and Haile trailers such as the Smith Island Cake Place.

Mr. Marc Good commented that he has containers to stop wind at the boatyard.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary