

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Councilwoman
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. City Manager
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Darlene Taylor; Leary Stevens; Jesse Drewer ;William Drewer; Lou Drewer; Vanessa Jones; Charles Bell; and Catherine Brown.

INVOCATION, LORD'S PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Councilman Emely made a motion to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2016, as written. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Pollitt noted that Mr. Dennis Parkinson, the new Public Utilities Superintendent , was not present for introduction, due to a family obligation, and would be here at the meeting in June.

Mr. Pollitt went on to review his bi-weekly report.

Mayor Lawson apologized that he would not be able to attend the Memorial Day ceremony referenced in Mr. Pollitt's report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 437 IT TAKES A VILLAGE – ADOPTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Lawson read the Resolution aloud. He also noted that the City had just held a Public Hearing concerning the application for a Community Legacy Block Grant for It Takes A Village. He noted that no other written comments for or against, had been received.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt Resolution #437. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried with a unanimous vote.

ADOPTION OF CITY OF CRIFIELD RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

Mayor Lawson read the updated Plan aloud, noting this was a CDBG requirement that the City have a current plan in place. Approval for adoption so moved by Councilman Emely.

Councilman Atkins asked if the purpose of this plan was to assist anyone displaced from their residence by the proposed transfer of Whittington primary to the City of Crisfield and ITAV. Mr. Sullivan advised that interpretation was correct. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried, with a unanimous vote.

ADOPTION OF CITY OF CRISFIELD CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Mayor Lawson read the updated plan aloud, noting it was a CDBG requirement that the City have a current plan in place.

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Councilman Atkins noted that that the City had held the first required public hearing per the requirement of the plan, with another one required to be held at further down the road.

Approval for adoption so moved by Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried, with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Lawson advised Ms. Taylor that It Takes A Village has the unanimous support of the City to move forward with the grant application.

Mayor Lawson reviewed the history of the former H. DeWayne Whittington Primary school, most recently the site of Head Start and It Takes A Village. He advised that he wants to see the land conveyed to It Takes A Village in a manner that is appropriate and legal.

FIRST READER - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LOAN AGREEMENT AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD AND HEBRON SAVINGS BANK, FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LOAN TO THE CITY OF CRISFIELD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000

Mayor Lawson noted that this would be a 20 year loan at an interest rate of 2.92%. Mayor Lawson made reference to Councilman Atkins' position regarding this loan and his article in the County Times. He commended Councilman Atkins for his service to the City of Crisfield during his tenure.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion authorizing Mayor Lawson to execute the loan agreement and other related documents by and between the City of Crisfield and Hebron Savings Bank for the issuance of a loan to the City of Crisfield in the amount of \$500,000.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

During discussion, Councilman Atkins questioned if any thought had been given to 2017,2018 or 2019, since we will only be able to pave a few roads with this amount of money, but what happens when other
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roads need paving years from now and the interest rate has increased from the current rate offered.

Mayor Lawson commented that the City's delay to pave roads has cost us more in the long run and he hopes to see an increase in the amount of HUR the City receives; then the \$500K can be paid with the base HUR funding. He noted that many streets can wait no longer for paving.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he supports Councilman Atkins 100% and read Councilman Atkins article. He noted that there was still no public in attendance concerning the matter. Councilman Konapelsky advised that there is still time to change the vote adding the he does not reflect the feelings of the three other Councilmembers.

Councilman Atkins again expressed his concern about what happens with future roads.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that she is trying to think positive about getting the HUR funding. She added that she would like to be able to ride on our streets without busting a tire and that she feels we need to move forward.

Councilman Atkins stated that he is worried about the City's future and made reference to the purchase of property on Charlotte Avenue, a derelict property that no one wanted, that has now cost the City more than anticipated, and has been recognized as a decision the City should not repeat.

Councilman Emely advised that we cannot predict the future. He questioned Councilman Atkins if it was better to leave the derelict house on Cove Street and doesn't feel this affects the Borrowing Ordinance.

Councilman Atkins commented that tax dollars have never paid for roads. He advised that at the time, acquiring the property from the burned house on Cove Street might have seemed like a good idea to some members of the council, but now he believes most members of the council recognize that policy should not continue.

At this time, Mayor Lawson called for a roll call of the vote. Councilman Emely, Councilwoman Johnson and Council Vice President Scott voted “aye”. Councilman Atkins and Councilman Konapelsky voted “nay”. Motion carried 3 to 2.

FIRST READER – ORDINANCE - GARBAGE FEE INCREASE

Mayor Lawson advised that this would increase the residential garbage fee from \$10 to \$12, with \$1 to be put aside for the standard cans.

Mr. Sullivan advised that he is working on a draft of the contract between the City and Chesapeake Waste.

Councilman Emely inquired if there was a public bid opening for garbage collection providers.

Mr. Pollitt advised that there was.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for the increase in garbage fees from \$10 to \$12 on July 1, 2016, for first reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott.

During discussion, Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the City would have to purchase these new cans.

Mayor Lawson advised that if we extend the contract with Chesapeake Waste for two years, they will provide the cans. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she was concerned that residents would have to purchase the new cans as well as see an increase in the charge.

Council Vice President Scott inquired if Council is voting on the increase, and approving Chesapeake Waste. Mayor Lawson advised that they are just voting on the increase. Council Vice President Scott inquired about voting on the provider. Mayor Lawson advised that they had already been selected.

Mrs. Morgan noted that we are waiting on the preparation of the contract with Chesapeake Waste and advised that this Ordinance will not have to be changed if the City goes back to doing garbage

collection.

Councilman Atkins noted that out of the \$12, \$1 will go towards offsetting the cost of the cans, at \$8,950. He inquired if the citizens will own the cans. Mrs. Morgan advised that they will not.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the sample can, and noted that the standard cans currently used by residents cause extra weight at the landfill due to water getting in them.

Mrs. Catherine Brown commented that she could not handle a can that size.

2ND READER – ORDINANCE #660 HOTEL RENTAL TAX

Mayor Lawson reviewed this ordinance for 2nd reader, noting that it calls for a 2% room tax, and does not apply for Bed and Breakfasts or condo rentals. Approval for 2nd reader of Ordinance #660 so moved, by Council Vice President Scott, seconded by Councilman Emely, and carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FROM RICKY THOMAS TO PLACE A SMALL BUILDING ON CITY PROPERTY AT THE SMALL BOAT HARBOR

Mayor Lawson noted that the request had been tabled from the last meeting to review the fee schedule.

He advised that the current charge is 5 cents per foot per year, with a 3% increase clause, per year.

Mayor Lawson noted that Mr. Thomas keeps his property at the small boat harbor in good order.

Mayor Lawson suggested that Mr. Pollitt and Mr. Sullivan enter into negotiations with Mr. Thomas for a fair and equitable lease. So moved by Councilman Emely and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson.

Mr. Thomas noted that he would like to construct a 20 ' x 20 ' building, not a 10 ' x 20 ' building.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson presented for First Reader the 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Pollitt also noted that there would be a budget work-session on Thursday, June 2nd at 5:00, as Davis, Bowen and Friedel would not be doing their sewer study presentation at 4:00 that day.

Councilman Atkins noted that this could be adopted for First Reader, as there is no plan to increase water and sewer or taxes.

Councilman Emely made a motion to adopt the 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance for First Reader.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky.

During discussion, Councilman Konapelsky suggested looking at a 10 year lease with the boat captains for a \$5.00 per day fee for use of the depot, along with placing a plaque recognizing the boats and their hours.

Councilman Emely commented that these boats have been bringing money to Crisfield for over 115 years. He suggested a 5 year lease of \$250 per year.

Mayor Lawson thanked them for their input. He also noted the depot renovation with walkway and lights and the potential to obtain the Somers Cove Light.

With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A, REPORT

Mayor Lawson noted that the concrete work is being finished on Wynfall and the paver will be back when the concrete work is finished.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the two auxiliary buildings at the Park and advised that these are the water and electricity resource buildings.

Mayor Lawson made reference to discussion with the State and others concerning the greenspace at Dixon Street and the kayak grant of \$28K which is still out. He noted that a property owner he had met with recently, was upset that Joey Paden had advertised their property for use as a proposed kayak trail without going through the proper channels and getting permission.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he would like to meet with the boat captains before the next regular meeting. Councilman Emely advised that he would contact them and made reference to the depot being maintained by the State. Mayor Lawson advised that we can enter into an agreement with the boat captains due to the commercial process. He advised that the fee could be passed after the budget was adopted.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she is glad for the progress of adopting the Hotel Rental Tax Ordinance. She also noted that the Crisfield High School awards ceremony with the presentation of the Challenge Coins , was well received by the students.

Councilwoman Johnson commented that the City had also made progress tonight by our adoption of the Resolution in support of the grant process for It Takes A Village.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the paving of Lori Quinn Drive and where the funding came from for paving to the dock. Councilman Konapelsky advised that this was done with additional Hurricane Sandy funds. Mayor Lawson added that there was a savings because the cost to remove the old tanks on 4th Street was not as high as anticipated and Mrs. Cindy Stone, CDBG, granted permission to use this savings to finish paving to the beach, as its patrons are mainly LMI, which was required for use of Sandy funds.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the beautification of the nacelle on the Wind Turbine and

presented pictures of crabs. He advised that it must be a Vector Graphic to provide proper clarity.

Councilmembers all concurred they liked the red crab, with Council Vice President Scott advising she liked the blue one as well.

Councilman Atkins also made reference to fishing licenses and free fishing at the Depot. He noted that Pocomoke has an area for fishing that doesn't require a license.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to return to his Action List. In reference to the flagpoles at the depot, he suggested the purchase of rubber clips to prevent the loud banging. Councilman Emely suggested removing the signs at the depot this weekend.

At this time, Councilman Emely entertained a motion to open the downtown parking lot back up this weekend.

Councilman Emely made reference to the Small Boat Harbor and noted that Mr. Bozman had addressed some areas that needed to be cleaned up. He advised that a Boat Harbor Commission is needed.

Councilman Emely made reference to 15 Dollar General shopping carts being found behind the Black Eyed Susan apartments. He advised he had spoken to the Dollar General Manager about this issue.

Councilman Emely advised that the fire department is getting a new fire rescue boat, which is in need of equipment. He advised that the fire department will be giving rescue truck 208 to the City and is asking in return for an enclosed trailer or shed.

Councilman Emely advised that Mr. Bozman is working on surplus property.

Mayor Lawson advised that there will be three building lots.

Councilman Emely also invited everyone to the Memorial Day service.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Lou Drewer inquired about the status of the Head Start building during the interim of its demolition, as it is in bad condition.

Mayor Lawson advised that the county currently owns the property.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he is currently working with the State on scheduling the demo.

Mrs. Drewer inquired if the fence would be coming down. Mr. Sullivan advised that the county controls this issue.

Mrs. Drewer also made reference to the condemned house on Elzie Lane and how long it can stay that way. Mayor Lawson advised that it can be as much as 15 years, as the homeowner walked away from the property.

Ms. Darlene Taylor advised that she still needs to resolve the issue of the sub-recipient agreement.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary