

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council held a special meeting on Monday, July 28, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall, for the purpose of conducting a work session concerning 1) Carvel Hall, 2), City Streets, and 3) Beautification.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary and Richard Crumbacker

Councilman Atkins made a motion to open the work session meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Lawson began the discussion concerning Streets. He advised that he does not know when the City will get our portion (\$1.3M) of State money from the County to pave streets. The Mayor noted that last year, the City received \$60K from Highway User and will be getting \$70,300 this year. He advised that this can be spent anywhere in the Transportation Budget.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would like to consider spending this money in areas

where we cannot use the State money, which must be spent in Low to Moderate Income neighborhoods. He advised that there are three cul-de-sacs that need repair; Hammock Pointe and two on Anchor Drive.

Councilman Konapelsky stated that Hammock Pointe is beneficial for boat launching and would like to see Norris Harbor done. Mayor Lawson suggested cutting and paving with tar and chip and then blacktopping the end cul-de-sac.

Mayor Lawson reiterated that the \$1.3M can only be used in LMI.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to paving at the end of Wellington Beach Road. Mayor Lawson advised that a ruling would have to be made concerning this area. He also noted that the last cul-de-sac that was done cost \$37K and the job can go out for bids and price quotes obtained, then the Council could review and make decisions. He also advised that George and Lynch has the State paving contract and suggested bidding these areas out along with the streets in LMI neighborhoods to save money. Mayor Lawson advised that he would get prices for Hammock Pointe and Anchor Drive. He also noted that between the Forbush building and bank are also bad, but may qualify to be done with the \$1.3M.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the Street Ranking sheet and advised that the life expectancy of paving is 20 years. He asked the Council to break up \$1.3M into two parts looking at major streets and secondary. He advised them to rate the streets and bring their findings back to the 2nd meeting in August.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she appreciates Mayor Lawson giving a perspective on streets and funding.

Mayor Lawson made reference to beautification and asked Council Vice President Scott to speak on this topic. Vice President Scott advised that she had asked Katrina Collier to be head of the committee, and she is already generating ideas regarding Crisfield being the Crab Capital. She also advised that she has asked Jean Pittman to serve on the committee.

Mayor Lawson advised that Beautification was put on this agenda because it is high on three councilmembers list.

A discussion followed concerning the re-design of 9th Street to the depot with plantings and underground utilities.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that a lot of people use this end of town, so it should also be focused on. She also made reference to the need to improve neighborhoods and derelict houses as well as stating that many people are more worried about the need for jobs.

Councilman Atkins suggested that the City put out no littering signs.

Councilman Emely made reference to trash at the City Parking lot under the bushes. He also made reference to three Chamber signs that need to be updated. Councilman Atkins suggested putting up a map with business cards.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested that the Council clean up the City Parking lot themselves.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to see five to six reserved spaces on the backside of the lot for paid parkers.

He also stated that the City needs to find a way to get rid of the burned house on Cove Street.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Economic Recovery Commission applied for a grant for 10 directional and historic signs, but was turned down.

Mayor Lawson made reference to parking on Williams Street. He advised that eight vehicles are parked on Spruce. He suggested changing “Dusk to Dawn” to “Midnight to 6:00 a.m.”

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the road to the Ice Cream Gallery and inquired if it had been closed to vehicle traffic. Mayor Lawson advised that it hadn’t been closed yet, due to sewer issues in that area.

Councilman Emely inquired if it would be okay for him to contact Mr. Louis Hickman, Somerset County Detention Center warden, to have inmates clean up the downtown parking lot and trim the bushes. The Mayor and Council concurred.

Mayor Lawson also advised that he will have a barricade put in the middle of Goodsell Alley.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that she had received a complaint that the water spigot at the depot sprays.

Council Vice President Scott advised that she will meet with the Chamber tomorrow to find out about the three outdated signs.

Mayor Lawson briefed the Council concerning a letter of complaint about the Fire Department and how it was being handled.

Mayor Lawson made reference to the earlier visit to Carvel Hall.

Councilman Emely commented that it is wet inside with about three feet of water in the storage area. She inquired as to what motivated the use of the building.

Councilman Atkins advised that the initial proposal was for an Industrial Park and there had been discussion about using poultry waste to generate electricity. Councilman Konapelsky also added that there were talks about plans for an olive oil business.

Council Vice President Scott advised that to make the location work the City would need an incentive package. She went on to comment that the City needs to focus on tourist related matters, as the SRP indicates. She advised that she feels Carvel Hall is a longshot. Councilman Konapelsky noted that the grant funding for Carvel Hall was for basic things.

Councilman Emely commented that he feels that a consultant is needed to say what can be done with the building. Councilman Atkins commented that a consultant would cost the City. He noted that the Brownfield location prevented the cake company from going there.

Mayor Lawson suggested asking Mr. Danny Thompson, EDC, to have a top notch firm look at the site. He advised that it would take at least \$75K to clean up the outside. He stated

that he was dismayed at the building's condition and that professional input is needed.

Council Vice President Scott suggested seeing if CDBG would pay for a consultant.

Mayor Lawson noted that there is \$230K left in the grant.

There being no further business for discussion and no meeting scheduled for the following Monday, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary