

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Percy J. Purnell, Jr., Mayor
Raymond D. Anderson, Councilman
Kimberly B. Lawson, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, Attorney

Absent: Council Vice President Johnson and Councilman Mike Atkins

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Richard Crumbacker; Sue & Eddie Heath; William & Linda Slipper; Dave & Carolyn Maquis; Norman Smith; Donna J. Smart; Michele Warner; Irving Saltz; Butch Mills; John Dize; Lamount Potter; Randy Laird; Arnold B. Ajello; Tina Newman and Paula King.

INVOCATION – PRAYER AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Lawson made a motion to defer the minutes until the next meeting when the other two Councilmembers are present. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CITY MANAGER DISCUSSION

Councilman Konapelsky commented that in the City a solid police department, government and economic development is necessary, therefore he feels the City needs a City Manager. He advised that a sub-committee is needed to determine the qualifications and look at the budget in order to be able to look at City Manager applications for the new budget year, and get the posting at Salisbury University, UMES and local offices. Councilmen Anderson and Lawson agreed to serve on the sub-committee with Councilman Konapelsky. Mayor Purnell advised that he would schedule a meeting with Russ Blake, Town Manager of Pocomoke, to get a briefing on job duties. He commented that it would be hard to draw from other cities when offering a lower salary.

POLICE DEPARTMENT LOCATION

Councilman Konapelsky commented that where the police department has relocated is a good location for businesses and is a more friendly location. He advised that the City needs to know what residents want. He added that he feels the former building would be good for the expansion of City Hall.

At this time, Councilman Lawson requested anyone in support of the new location to come forward, one at a time, to speak. Speakers were as follows;

David Marquis commented that the City's priority is the safety and security of the citizens. He advised that he has had no problems at his business since the police department had relocated. Mr. Marquis commented that Main Street is no longer the center of the town; businesses are downtown, as well as condo owners. Mr. Marquis commented that he understands the money issue and suggested looking for grant money.

Carolyn Marquis commented that CPD has a retention issue and made reference to the old

location being a reason. She also commented about businesses being located downtown as well as the funding issue. She suggested trying the location out for a year.

Benjamin "Butch" Mills, former CPD officer, commented that the old building was an embarrassment, with unsanitary carpet and a leaky roof, which he stated caused him to have allergies. He also stated that it was an unsafe environment, not bulletproof, small and out of the way, and everyone shared a desk. He commented that the new building would boost the officer's morale and also suggested trying it for a year.

Tina Newman, sister of Rick Taylor, advised that she agrees it is not a safe place and there would be too much confusion if they had to move back to the former building. She suggested fund raisers.

Mayor Purnell advised that he had tax payers call him today who don't want them to stay at the new location. He advised that he had checked for mold and mildew and found none. He also commented that the budget this year has an \$80K overrun. He advised that this is not a council decision, but a decision that the Mayor would make.

Councilman Lawson commented that the Mayor and Council don't have to listen to public input, unless invited. He noted that this Mayor and Council had obtained about \$24M in grants during their time in office. He also commented that only 45% of City residents pay property taxes. Councilman Lawson made reference to the long list of City equipment that is needed as well as road paving. He stated that having a police department downtown is not a priority when we can move them back to the old one, rent free, rather than pay the outrageous \$3,000 a month rental fee.

Mayor Purnell made reference to an earlier comment about a shortfall on the depot and advised

that there is no shortfall. He noted that CDBG will not fund a police building.

He commented that the City has a great Chief and police department, but the City doesn't have the money. He advised that he understands Councilman Konapelsky's and everyone else's position, but the City cannot afford the building.

Arnold Ajello suggested switching City Hall and the Police Department. Mayor Purnell advised that it would be too small.

Mayor Purnell closed by commenting that the City is solvent, but there is no new money coming in.

Ordinance & Charter Change Resolution re: outside water lines

Attorney Michael Sullivan reviewed the Charter Amendment Resolution deleting C9-9 entitled " Extensions of systems beyond boundaries". He made reference to the procedures for adopting Charter Change Resolution and advised that it would be posted for 40 Days for referendum.

Mayor Purnell briefed on the situation with the Outten water line and advised that he is working with CDBG for funding with the Sanitary District.

At this time, Councilman Lawson made a motion to adopt the Charter Amendment Resolution deleting C9-9. Motion seconded by Councilman Anderson and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed an Ordinance striking Sub-section 109-9 Extension Beyond city limits.

Councilman Anderson made a motion to adopt the Ordinance for First Reader. Motion seconded by Councilman Lawson and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGE ORDER – CARVEL HALL ROOF

Mayor Purnell explained and reviewed the modification to the Carvel Hall roof, which would cost \$6,121. He advised that it is covered 100% by grant funding.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the change order, based on USDA approval. Motion seconded by Councilman Lawson and carried unanimously.

BID OPENING – DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS ON 7TH STREET

Mayor Purnell requested that this be tabled until land appraisals are received.

BORROWING RESOLUTION - POLICE CARS

Mrs. Morgan reviewed a Borrowing resolution in the amount of \$8,602, the balance due for three police vehicles purchased as a result of Hurricane Sandy. She noted that the light bars are not included, but will be reimbursed through insurance. Mayor Purnell advised that the City will be using its line of credit.

At this time, Councilman Anderson made a motion to accept the borrowing resolution, seconded by Councilman Lawson and carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS – BEACH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Morgan advised that the Beach Committee should handle their own money, with any improvements to the beach requested in writing. Councilman Lawson noted that improvements must be run by LGIT. Mayor Purnell advised to check with the Legion first.

EDU REQUEST – SMALL BOAT HARBOR FROM FRED TULL ON BEHALF OF JUKE MARSHALL

Mr. Bradshaw reviewed the request for EDU. Approval so moved by Councilman Konapelsky,

seconded by Councilman Lawson and carried unanimously.

REQUEST FROM LARRY SHANKS FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF AIRPLANE HANGAR

Mayor Purnell reviewed the letter of request for transfer of ownership of an airplane hangar from Larry Shanks to Craig Stevens. Approval so moved by Councilman Lawson, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

REQUEST FROM GREG CAIN FOR WAIVER OF SEWER CHARGES AT THE CRAB PLACE

Mayor Purnell reviewed the letter from Mr. Cain for a waiver of sewer charges which had increased during the hurricane when a line to the ice machine came loose.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Lawson made a motion to deny the request. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

OFFER OF LAND DONATION – CORNER SOMERSET AND CHESAPEAKE

Mayor Purnell reviewed a letter offering a donation of a lot on Somerset and Chesapeake Avenue owned by Lloyd Tyler and Phil Rayfield. Councilman Lawson requested that the square footage be obtained to see what the lot could be used for and bring the request back at the next meeting. Councilman Konapelsky also suggested green space use.

EVENT APPLICATIONS

Crisfield Pride Lodge – Organization Weekend – April 19, 20, & 21. Councilman Anderson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Jaycees Soft Shell Metric Century Bike Ride – Sat. May 25th. Councilman Lawson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Anderson and carried unanimously.

Soft Shell Spring Fair – May 26th. Councilman Konapelsky made a motion , contingent upon

SHA letter of approval for street closing. Motion seconded by Councilman Anderson and carried unanimously.

COUNTY TO RUN ELECTRIC SERVICE AT BRICK KILN

Mayor Purnell noted that the County would be running an electric service at the beach.

Mr. Randy Laird interjected that it had not been approved by the County Commissioners yet. He advised that they were not running it to the bath house, just installing the service.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Lawson made a motion to endorse the installation of the electric service, with the current bill coming to the City. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Councilman Lawson made reference to the earlier discussion regarding a City Manager and made a motion to create a sub-committee for the preparation of hiring a city manager. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mayor Purnell made reference to a request from Ryan Waters for the Woodrow Wilson Community Center for money to replace uniforms that had gotten ruined during the hurricane. Mr. Waters advised that the Housing Authority had paid \$1434 up front, and this would be for a reimbursement.

Following a brief discussion of what was given to other organizations and where the money was going to come from, Councilman Lawson made a motion to donate \$250. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Norman Smith addressed the issue that there are no places for skateboarders to skate.

Councilman Anderson reminded Mr. Smith that the City had looked into this before, but liability insurance was too expensive. Mayor Purnell commented that a skateboard park is a big investment.

Councilman Lawson commented that it takes a youth movement to raise the money and build one. He encouraged them to get involved with the Beach Committee.

Mrs. Paula King commented that some skateboarders are destructive of others' property.

Arnold Agello suggested the Marina.

Mrs. Sue Heath commented that the Salvation Army was to develop one years ago.

Mrs. King made reference to a property owner's son riding around a golf cart. Mayor Purnell advised that golf carts are illegal.

Mrs. Donna Smart inquired as to the status of the Pines Motel and the proposed Ordinances to govern its tenants. She advised that there is still crime going on.

Mayor Purnell advised that Social Services places people in the Pines. He advised that the City can't shut it down, or tell the owner who to take or tell Social Services to stop. He advised that the owner has complied with everything but who he takes in.

Councilman Lawson commented that Hurricane Sandy pushed everything back, but it is time for action.

Councilman Konapelsky requested that police presence be stepped up on weekends.

Mrs. Smart advised that the residents of Columbia Avenue, Somerset and Myrtle need help.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the City had looked at Public Nuisance Laws, but it was not a smart way to move forward. He advised that the Council would have to define what a tenant is and follow rental registration laws, but it can't apply to only the Pines, it must be across the board. He advised

that to solve the problem, there will be collateral results.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that there needs to be more police presence.

Mayor Purnell suggested biting the bullet and passing the law, with anyone renting to a tenant for more than 10 days being subject to the law, even though it may affect others.

Councilman Lawson advised that he agrees with 24 hour police presence.

Mrs. Smart asked that the City weigh the collateral damage against the safety of its long term residents.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that the City would meet with the Chief. Councilman Lawson made a motion that a hard police presence be established at the Pines. Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Lamount Potter commented that he doesn't agree with the City only contributing \$250 toward the Community Center. He also commented that he had never seen the City make any contributions to poverty level kids. He stated that the group needs the City behind them, or nobody else will be. He also thanked Councilman Konapelsky for his comment at the last meeting about working with the Housing Authority.

Carolyn Marquis commented that she feels there is a way to address the Pines without hurting other establishments. Mayor Purnell commented that Mr. Sullivan has researched every avenue.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Mayor Purnell made reference to the status of Carvel Hall, the depot and the wind turbine.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to

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adjourn, seconded by Councilman Anderson and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary