

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 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
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; Mike Tabor, Chief of Police; Noah Bradshaw, Inspector; Phil Riggin; Raymond Anderson; Danny Thompson; Sarah Rayne, Jenny Tawes; Dan Kuebler; Bonnie Strohmer; Reuben Evans; Eddie Heath; Irving Saltz; Tony Jackson; Richard Crumbacker; Adam & Betsy Thompson; Alan Goldsborough; Elena Goldsborough; David Marquis; Carolyn Marquis, Matt Lawson; and Debbie Gates.

PRAYER, PLEDGE AND INVOCATION

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of June 23 and June 25. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson advised of some changes to the way the meetings would now be held. He noted that during Public Input, the speaker would have to come forward to the table and introduce themselves. He advised that they would have 2 minutes. He also advised that he is encouraging only 2 hour meetings, from 6-8 p.m. Mayor Lawson also advised that he does not want public hearings held before regular meetings. He advised that there will be more work sessions, which will be open to the public, during which time there will be no action, just discussion, with any action done during meetings.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson suggested that everyone introduce themselves.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CHIEF MIKE TABOR, presented his monthly report, noting the reduction in the amount of crime.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about the reduction in crime. Councilman Atkins noted that Chief Tabor had always said that 10% of the criminals commit 90% of the crimes. Chief Tabor noted that this is an all-encompassing program with officers and the community doing the job. He also credited community policing and the SADD program.

Councilman Konapelsky commended the Police Department on their work.

Councilman Emely commended the Chief on the summer uniforms.

Mayor Lawson reviewed Mr. Frock, Director of Public Utilities/Works report, in his absence.

He noted the picture of the wind turbine, which is like the one the City will have and also advised that he conducted exit interviews with the employees who had left the Public Utilities department, who advised that they were leaving for better pay and due to the lack of equipment.

NOAH BRADSHAW, INSPECTOR, presented his monthly report. He also reviewed the chronology of the issues concerning 329 Cove Street, which he had been working on since 2008.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to see the plan of the park walking trail, and where the park bridge is going.

Councilman Emely made reference to the safety hazard of 329 Cove Street. He advised that the City needs to take action now.

Councilman Atkins made reference to putting the demo up for bids or having City Public Works do it.

Mr. Sullivan made reference to taking it to court for a Municipal Infraction, but it would take about 6 weeks.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he could help Mr. Bradshaw with that procedure.

Mr. Sullivan noted that it may be ready for the demo procedure now.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to tear down the house at 329 Cove Street.

During discussion, Councilwoman Johnson commented that she would like to have Mr. Sullivan review the file first. Councilman Emely commented that he does not want to purchase the house and then demo. Councilman Atkins made reference to bidding the demo or having Public Works do the job. Mayor Lawson advised that Public Works does not have the manpower. He also noted that it would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 to demo, but the City does not want to set a precedent.

After further discussion, Councilman Emely amended his motion to have the City Solicitor review the paperwork on 329 Cove Street, for due process, prior to demo.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

MS. GAIL SHELDON, SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR, presented the monthly library activity report, with an update on construction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

322 PINE STREET

Mayor Lawson made reference to an abandoned property at 322 Pine Street. He advised that \$845 in taxes is owed on it and the City could give \$100 to the property owner for the property, to avoid foreclosure. He requested a motion to accept the property for \$100 to be signed over to the City.

Councilman Emely commented that he thought Mr. Steve Evans, adjacent property owner, might want the property. He commented about property owners just walking away

from their property.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that this happens in every City and State.

He commented that this is one of many, and advised that the issue needs to be reviewed.

FORBUSH HARDWARE PROPERTY

Mayor Lawson made reference to purchase of the Forbush Hardware property, which had been sold at tax sale, for City development.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to have the City Solicitor enter into negotiations with the current property owner, for the City purchase of the property.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

PROPOSAL FROM JAYKAL LED

Mayor Lawson reviewed the proposal for the replacement of energy saving bulbs at the Police Dept. and City Hall. The proposal is only for light bulb replacement at City Hall and the Police Dept., at no charge.

At this time, Councilman Emely made a motion to replace the lights (only) at City Hall and the Crisfield Police Department. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY LEGACY RESOLUTION 423

Mayor Lawson made reference to the 5:00 Public Hearing, during which time there was no objection from the public.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to accept Resolution 423. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE AGREEMENT –SOMERS COVE MOTEL

At this time, Mayor Lawson reviewed the assignment of the lease agreement for the Somers Cove Motel. He advised that there is a 40 year lease on the land and it has to be assigned to the new purchaser.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the assignment is straightforward.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired as to the consequences if the City says “no” unless improvements at the motel are made. Mr. Sullivan advised that the City could be sued for breaking the original lease. He advised that the City is bound by the 1978 decision of the Mayor and Council; there is no leverage.

At this time Councilwoman Johnson made a motion to accept the Assignment of Lease Agreement for the Somers Cove Motel. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

RESERVED PARKING REQUEST FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS DURING CLAM BAKE

Councilman Emely advised that there would be a bus carrying Wounded Warriors at the Clam Bake. He advised that they are requesting that the bus be allowed to park at a spot in front of the museum where the back gate opens up and keep the bus parked there so they can have access to it when needed.

Mr. Danny Thompson noted that it was also Councilman Emely's and Hebron Saving's Bank's idea to silence the crowd at 1:00 p.m. and have a ceremony in honor of the Wounded Warriors.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve the reserved parking request for the Wounded Warrior bus. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

EVENT APPLICATION REQUEST – WHEELS ON THE WATERFRONT

Mayor Lawson reviewed the request for the annual Wheels on the Waterfront Event to be held on July 26th.

Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson, and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION – MEETING WITH COUNTY CONCERNING HURRICANE SANDY MONEY

Mayor Lawson made reference to a meeting with Gary Pusey, Technical and Community Services, concerning Hurricane Sandy Money that has been allocated for the Somerset County. Mayor Lawson advised that it will take four to five months for the guidelines to be in place at the County level. He also noted that the County will be hiring a specialist who will handle all of the paperwork.

DISCUSSION - UPDATE ON MULTIPLE GRANT PACKAGES

Mayor Lawson advised that there are 7 different grants that the City is managing.

He also noted that the Park Commission met recently and approved the 3 phase walking trail. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to approve the low bid of Smith Brothers, for \$18,900. He advised that the money will come out of the park grant.

Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson also noted that the Park Commission would like to have Life Rings installed at the piers at Brick Kiln, Collins Street and the depot.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve the purchase of the Life Rings for the piers at Brick Kiln, Collins Street, and the depot. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

Councilman Atkins also noted that the pier at Collins Street needs ladders.

DISCUSSION - CITY MANAGER POSITION - COUNCILMAN KONAPELSKY

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he will be advocating for a City Manager and feels that the City needs one right away. At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to schedule a work session for the discussion of hiring a City Manager. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Scott advised that the Charter needs to be reviewed for the responsibilities and credentials, as well as where the funding would come from.

Mayor Lawson requested that Councilman Konapelsky chair the meeting concerning the

City Manager.

ACCEPTANCE OF CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Lawson made reference to formation and acceptance of a City Commission and reviewed the selection process.

He also made reference to asking the Council to bring in three things that are priorities for them at this time.

Mayor Lawson advised that the Commission would meet four times a year, with the Mayor and Council concerning community focus.

At this time, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adopt the process of establishing a City Commission.

Councilman Atkins made reference to the role of the Commission. Mayor Lawson advised that they would address matters from the community that they think are important. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously

Mayor Lawson advised that this would be drawn up as an Ordinance.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL Q & A AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Atkins advised he had no matters for discussion.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that he had no matters for discussion.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the discussion of the Council's goals.

Mayor Lawson advised that this would be done later on.

Councilman Emely advised that he had nothing for discussion.

Councilwoman Johnson noted that the Park Commission meeting was very productive. Councilman Emely advised that he would like to see the final park plans published in the paper so people could see what it would look like.

Councilwoman Johnson made reference to an inquiry from the Somers Cove Motel owners about a concert in the field in the back of the property. Councilman Atkins advised that they would need an Event Application.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to encouraging activity in the City and commented that she would like to see an event at the Depot every weekend.

Councilman Emely advised that he would like to have a Proclamation prepared for the American Legion for their work done for Freedom Fest and made a motion to that affect. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson commented that approximately 1500 to 1700 people attended Freedom Fest with about 2,500 at the fireworks.

At this time, Mayor Lawson had each member of Council read their goals aloud.

PUBLIC INPUT

Carolyn Marquis made reference to the certificates and funding of Mr. Bradshaw's training classes.

She also suggested burning the Cove Street property, but was advised that it was

too close to other properties.

She also made reference to having a plan for condemned properties and plans for the Forbush building. She also suggested checking with other companies concerning LED lights. She inquired about the members of the Park Commission and also suggested that any City Manager hired have a technology based engineering background.

Elena Goldsborough made reference to the City Commission and advised that youth is needed on the Commission.

Irving Saltz advised that the City needs a suggestion program.

Dan Kuebler made reference to the length of time the Cove Street house has been left standing with many more out there. He also made reference to abandoned vehicles and boats. Mr. Kuebler made the reference to the need for a litter program, with signs, etc. He also thanked the new Mayor and Council.

Mayor Lawson commented that the City spends every day picking up trash.

Councilman Emely noted that the new School Superintendent would be at the next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan,
Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary