

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, September 3, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Councilwoman Monda Marsh
Council Members: R. Scott Holland,
C.L. Marshall, Diane Downing,
Brooke Cottman
City Manager: John Barkley
Attorney: Michael Mathers
City Clerk: Melinda Stafford

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Councilmember Marshall and Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of July 22, 2024 & August 19, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2024 by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Marsh. Individual votes Councilwoman Cottman-aye, Councilwoman Downing-aye, Councilwoman Marsh-aye, Councilman Marshall-aye, Councilman Holland-aye. Mayor Nock asks for a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2024. Councilman Marshall motioned that he would like to amend the minutes to reflect that there were not any drugs found at the Pocomoke Fair but they were as a result of a traffic stop. Motion with the amendment seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes.

Review and Approval Current Bill List

Councilman Marshall questioned the vendor Waste Management. He asks for clarity as to why the City uses them. Motion to approve current bill list made by Councilman Holland, seconded by Councilwoman Marsh. (passed)

Ordinance No. 2025-O-2 Cannabis Moratorium Extension

City Manager John Barkley explains the reason for the extension. Mayor Nock asks what the differences between the Resolution and the Ordinance. City Attorney Andrew Illuminati was not in attendance. His replacement Michael Mathers attended. Mr. Mathers explained what the differences are and why the resolution needs to be passed. The Resolution will fill the gap for the two days between the first reading and the second reading due to an advertising error. Mayor Nock has remarks about the timing. Councilman Marshall stated he believes there should be an Emergency Resolution concerning this. John Barkley stated when the original ordinance was read. Mr. Mathers explains that this would cover the gap between September 14, 2024 and the 16th in which there would be no moratorium. Mayor Nock lets council know that the vote should be reflected in the minutes. The council asks Mr. Mathers questions. The Mayor asks why and when the city clerk didn't receive the paperwork sooner. There is a motion to accept the Emergency Resolution by Councilwoman Marsh and seconded by Councilman Holland. Motion passes. Mayor Nock comments on Open Meeting violations. Councilwoman Marsh retracts her motion. There is conversation on how to proceed with the motion based upon the advertising error, ordinance and resolution. A motion to remove item number 4 from the agenda was made by Councilman Holland and seconded by Councilwoman Marsh. Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 2025-O-1 Ethics Second Reading, Public Hearing, Vote

Mayor Nock has the second reading of the Ethics Ordinance. City Manager John Barkley takes over reading of the ordinance at page 19. There were no comments during the Public Hearing. A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Councilman Holland and seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes.

Worcester County Development Center Auction Donation

Stephanie, the Executive Director of the Worcester County Development Center explained who and what the development center does and whom they serve. She stated the center will be having a quarter auction and she gave an overview of what it is. She is looking for donation items for the auction and monetary donations as well. Q&A with Councilwoman Marsh suggests to become members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Pocomoke association. She will need to speak with Barkley. Mayor Nock shares that she is looking for a monetary donation. She stated that \$600 dollars would go to buying an iPad from Verizon to serve one of her clients. There is a motion on the floor to give the center \$600 for a new iPad by Councilman Marshall and seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes.

Approval of One Day Special Alcohol Permits

Approval for the American Legion was motioned by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Downing. Councilman Marshall opposed. Mayor Nock states that if no one is not here to answer questions, they do not go on the agenda. There was miscommunication he was asking for a one-day alcohol permit. They do not need a special event permit. Permit for the Marva Theater. Worcester County has their forms online and the representative did so. He is needing a statement from the City Council approving the request as stated by City Manager John Barkley. Representative explains the event and how they will control the alcohol. Motion to approve by Councilman Holland and seconded by Councilwoman Marsh

Comments

a. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Councilwoman Cottman –None.
2. Councilwoman Downing – None.
3. Councilman Marshall – Welcomes back Councilwoman Downing
4. Councilman Holland – Be cautious of back to school and children getting on and off of the bus.
5. Councilwoman Marsh –

b. Comments from the Mayor

Its great to be back. The council has many things to wrap up before the end of the year. Talks about the rental and licensing procedures and where the new offices are located. Mike Wyatt will be starting inspections in the coming week. He feels like this is the best legislative resolution that has been put forward. He is proud to serve with the council and City Hall needs to have an in-service day to do paperwork and other things. He talks about the Ethics Commission and members forthcoming. Council do not forget to turn in your streets and sidewalks. The Arts Commission will be meeting in Council Chambers on the 12th at 6pm.

c. Comments from the City Manager

The RFP for the Streets and Sidewalks projects is complete and hoping to have a bid meeting mid to late September which sold line up with the last meeting and would like to have all area to be worked on by the last week of September.

d. Comments from the Audience

1. Collette Outten wants to hold a small 5K on Saturday December 21st. Chief Hancock is aware of the run. She has done a trial run of the 5K. No streets will need to be closed. Mayor Nock says this is a great event with the holiday lights and the night after the Mayor's Old Fashion Christmas. She would like to use the pavilion for refreshments. Registration is not open but will be soon.
2. Nora Tullar states since the water lines are moving along, it is now leaving weeds and little trees along and on the sidewalk.
3. Beth Walston has correspondence from the city manager and Mike Wyatt and is in the process of a deed transfer from a nonprofit and found out there is a lien against the property. Her nonprofit is looking to have the fees waived so the transfer to the non-profit Project Success. The Mayor spoke to Mike Wyatt about the fees and the stipulation he wanted to add is he wanted the time to take care of the house is 90 days. Councilman Marshall asked how long will it take to take care of the house. Ms. Walston answered 90 to 120 days as they have to raise additional monies. Councilwoman is recusing herself. Mayor Nock stated her fees will be waived and have 120 days from the day the title is transferred and take care of the property. If not, she will be liable for \$2700.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 to adjourn open session and open closed session pm made by Councilman Marshall, seconded by Councilwoman Marsh (passed)

Motion to adjourn closed session and open open session made at 8:25pm

Approved: _____



City Clerk

Agenda items may or may not be considered in sequence. This agenda is subject to change to include the addition or deletion of items, including executive/closed session.