

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, April 15, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison  
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock  
Council Members: Diane Downing,  
Dale Trotter, R. Scott Holland, Esther Troast  
City Manager: Robert L. Cowger, Jr  
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie  
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Call to Order, Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 8, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from Council meeting April 8, 2019 (Trotter, Downing passed) @ 6:31 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed

Review and Approval of Bills:

Motion to approve and pay bills on current bill list (Troast, Trotter passed) @ 6:32 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed

Approve Boat Slip Rental Policy:

Planning Director Brandewie was contacted by a staff member of DNR with the news that Pocomoke City has been tentatively awarded grant funding for the marina. She had questions regarding the availability of public slip availability. She suggested in having a policy that reserves a certain number of slips that are available to the general public. Cypress Park was funded with Land/Water Conservation Funds and as a condition of receiving those funds the park has to be available for public use. A few other suggested changes are to eliminate the no live-aboard during the winter months restriction and to eliminate the \$12.00 per day electric charge and just allow daily meter reading.

Motion to approve the new boat slip policy (Downing, Trotter passed) @ 6:33PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed

Discuss Comcast Commencement of Renewal Process:

City Manager Cowger said it will be time to renew with Comcast. The City has 6 months to approve the new contract. On page 2 is their formal process. They have a franchise with the City. The tax-payers pay the franchise fee. Councilmember Nock has gotten calls from citizens. They feel that they are already paying State, County and City taxes. They don't feel they should pay a \$6.00 franchise

tax also. City Manager Cowger has also gotten complaint calls from citizens concerning fees and services. The representatives name is Chris and he needs to come to one of our next Council meetings to go over the contract.

Action: Contact Comcast Rep, Chris, to attend upcoming Council meeting to discuss franchise contract.

#### Discuss Discovery Station Building:

City Manager Cowger said he received a letter from Stacey, Discovery Museum Director, is having a board meeting next week and the letter has some things she would like the City to address. One item is a written agreement for the temporary use of the office space in the old gas station. Updates have been made so the Recreation Director has her own access. They still use the bay area for the kids and that is still set up. The other 5 items are maintenance. Some of those items will have to be addressed as budget items. Stacey asked for a 25-year lease for both buildings so they can sell naming rights. City Attorney Leslie said it sounds like they are looking for sponsors. Council agreed that Stacey needs to come in and explain exactly what they intend to do with naming rights. Councilmember Nock said he remembers her saying something about naming rights last time she spoke to the Council. He said he has also seen some of the areas that need repairs. He feels that repairs should be done as soon as possible. City Manager said he can put out an RFP for bids/estimates for repairs.

#### Approve Charter Revisions:

City Attorney Leslie said he wouldn't recommend changing small descriptive words. C-23, all new hires for departments heads need to approve or be brought to attention of. Councilmember Nock said the Council will want to approve. C-30, Board of Elections, do we mean City Clerk can appoint workers to the Board of Elections because it is supposed to be an independent nature to protect against any fraud by the City. Councilmember Nock said the Board of Elections already has 2 alternate members. The is if the City Clerk herself needs any assistance she can appoint someone for a duty. This can be posted for a public hearing 21 days in advance of the public hearing date. It requires 2 public readings of the resolution.

#### Update Council on Recreation Program Facilities:

City Manager Cowger said with the changing of the weather he has met with the recreation Department. The Director would like to use several City locations for exercise programs and events. Cypress park and the golf course for yoga and Market St for the 100-mile walk. Council had no objections for use of City locations by the Recreation Department.

#### Finalize Other Revitalization Committee Appointments:

City Manager Cowger said the Council has nominated 2 people at the last meeting. We need 3 more to start scheduling meetings. Councilmember Troast said she would like to nominate Travis Cowger. He would be very beneficial to the committee. Councilmember Nock said Tim Taylor has not been present for the last 2 meetings so Councilmember Downing needs to look for another nominee. Councilmember Trotter nominates Kyle Pilchard. He accepted the nomination to the Revitalization Committee.

#### Council Comments:

Councilmember Holland said he was happy to see cleaning up of the walking trail downtown. Mr. Paul Becker took students there to assist in clean-up. It was good to see the community involved.

Audience Comments:

Vincent Leef, 118 Maryland Ave, Mr. Leef said he was interested in an appointment to the Revitalization Committee. Councilmember Nock accepted the appointment and Mr. Leef joined the Revitalization Committee.

Laurie Kamps, 1306 Dorchester Ave, she is here tonight as a concerned citizen. She has been hearing for over a week that the City is going to fire the City Manager. There rumors have her baffled and concerned. The City finally has someone who doesn't sit behind the desk all day. He is outside where he needs to be in the community seeing what needs to be done and knows what is going on. She lives in the Heights and as most people know the water is an issue there. She isn't complaining about Russ Blake but he was never seen outside of the office. She came to talk to Mr. Cowger about a water issue. She had a bill for over \$200.00 and Mr. Cowger went above and beyond to figure out what the problem was. She has seen him in a manhole digging and pushing snow. Why do you want to get rid of somebody who puts this City first? She has never seen it look better. He has a vested interest because he lives here. If she had time, she would have rallied more people to support the City Manager. She hopes he maintains the position.

Wendel White, Pocomoke City, asked what was being done with the old railroad station? It was dedicated to Bishop Isaac Jenkins City Manager Cowger said right now there are 30-years of records being stored there. If there is any interest in doing something with the building it can be brought before the Council. There are also prayer services at Living Water Church on Bypass Rd at 6:00AM.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Trotter, Nock passed) @ 7:00PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed

Motion to open closed session (Holland, Trotter passed) @ 7:01PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed

Adjourn to closed session under the provisions of Sec. 3-305 (b), (1) of the General Provisions Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Approved: *K.M. Beckett-El Solch*  
City Clerk