

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman,
Esther Troast, Dale Trotter, George Tasker
City Manager/City Attorney: Ernie Crofoot
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting as presented.

Ms. Kasey Decker representative from United Way to present check to Pocomoke City for a successful fundraising campaign:

Mayor Morrison introduced Ms. Kasey Decker from United Way.

Ms. Decker stated that she had Dr. Annetta Wallace with her tonight, she is Pocomoke High School principal.

Ms. Decker thanked the Mayor and Council for having them tonight. She stated they were there to do a check photo presentation for United Way. She said it was such an incredible success this year, thanks to the employees, council and the leadership of Mr. Crofoot, Mrs. Sullivan and Chief Harden the donation contribution was up by 20% this year and raised close to \$4,000. She stated that the local United Way outside of the local government is the largest of local programs delivered by 33 local non-profits. She thanked the Mayor and Council again for their support.

Mayor Morrison thanked Ms. Decker and Ms. Wallace for coming out and working the the City employees.

Swear in new alternate member of Board of Elections Supervisor. (Patricia Hindle Forbush).

Mayor Morrison swore in alternate member of Board of Election Supervisor Patty Forbush.

Appoint alternate member to the Board of Elections Supervisor:

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to appoint Corey Dean as an alternate member to the Board of Elections Supervisor.

Public Hearing Ordinance 429 to make changes to Zoning Code Section §230-34 (G), §230-35 (F); §230-41 (L); §230-42 (F) §230-48 (P); §230-49 (G); §230-63 (L); §230-64 (E); §230-71 (M); §230-72 (E); §230-78 (N); §230-79 (Q); regarding solar panels.

Councilman Trotter, seconded by Councilwoman Downing to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 429 to make changes to the Zoning Code Section §230-34-79.

Mayor Morrison stated that the Board of Zoning Appeals recommended to the Planning and Zoning Commission to make the changes to the Zoning Code. They felt that this would speed the process up of installing solar panels.

City Manager Crofoot stated that to install solar panels now, a public hearing would be scheduled before the Board of Zoning Appeals and at cost of approximately \$650. He stated that it would be a time savings as well as less money to install solar panels. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission had already had a public hearing on this case and it is recommended for the Mayor and Council to pass.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to close the public hearing on Ordinance 429, to adopt changes to Zoning Code §230-§230-34 (G), §230-35 (F); §230-41 (L); §230-42 (F) §230-48 (P); §230-49 (G); §230-63 (L); §230-64 (E); §230-71 (M); §230-72 (E); §230-78 (N); §230-79 (Q).

Second reading Ordinance No. 429 to make changes to Zoning Code:

Mayor Morrison read for the record Ordinance No. 429 to make changes to the Zoning Code.

In a motion (Tasker, Totter passed) to accept Ordinance No. 429 to make changes to the Zoning Code §230-§230-34 (G), §230-35 (F); §230-41 (L); §230-42 (F) §230-48 (P); §230-49 (G); §230-63 (L); §230-64 (E); §230-71 (M); §230-72 (E); §230-78 (N); §230-79 (Q).

A representative from GMB to present the hydraulic study in Pocomoke Heights:

Mr. Scott Getchell, Project Manager and Executive Vice-President Mr. Pete Bozick gave an update on the water system hydraulic modeling. Mr. Getchell stated that they had done several model scenarios. They recommended that the City consider the following:

1. Increase the finished water chlorine residual at the Water Treatment Plant to a residual higher than the current <2.0 mg/L but not to exceed 4.0 mg/L.
2. Install a supplemental Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach) feed system at the water tower located next to Wasterwater Treatment Facility. This will boost the chlorine residuals and pH on the southern end of the city.
3. Manually flush a fire hydrant located as close to Arby's/Goose Creek as possible. The hydrant should be flushed twice a day, 30 minutes each time. This flush routine might be scaled back over time considering field conditions. City Staff are currently flushing the hydrant behind Dunkin Donuts and it appears to be an adequate location.
4. Develop and implement a unidirectional flushing plan (UDF). UDF is more effective than random flushing in cleaning out sediment and organic matter within the distribution system.

Mr. Getchell stated that the City had already begun to use the strategic flush point. Based on field data provided by City staff over the last few weeks, the conditions in the Pocomoke Heights have improved.

Ms. Monna VanEss asked if other areas of town will be fixed.

City Manager Crofoot stated that all areas in town will be fixed, but we are working on the worst areas first.

Mayor Morrison thanked Mr. Getchell and Mr. Bozick for coming down and giving us an update on the water hydraulic study.

Emergency Reading Res. No. 505-USDA loan for Clarke Ave Pumping Station Rehabilitation:

City Manager Crofoot stated we have a million-dollar grant from the state, we have a loan commitment, that you have already authorized. They need a formal resolution to move the loan forward and this is their resolution.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution NO 505 for a USDA loan to rehabilitate Clarke Ave. Pumping Station. Roll call: aye: Tasker; Troast, aye; Downing, aye; Trotter, aye, Hirshman, aye. There were no nays and no absence.

City Manager to present certification of Hardwire, Inc for Enterprise Zone credits:

City Manager Crofoot stated we currently don't have anyone getting Enterprise Zone property credits. Mr. Ryan Wendell from Hardwire stated that they would like to apply for the Enterprise Zone credits. This is a good thing for the business and a good thing for us to have these jobs.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the certification of Hardwire, Inc being in the Enterprise Zone credits.

Authorize road culvert repairs at Cypress Park:

City Manager Crofoot stated that the bridge on Bridge Street with asphalt overtop due to the storm this past season is crumbling. We did not do a formal bid but we do have three bids. One from Beauchamp's in the amount of \$40,000; Reynolds in the amount of \$36,850 and Bozman Paving in the amount of \$19,484, I don't know why they are so much lower, but they have done other work for us and do a good job. This job needs to be done right-away, we have events coming up in April, this was not a budget item, but I'm requesting that you approve this item for Bozman Paving in the amount of \$19,484.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to accept the proposal from Bozman Paving, LLC in the amount of \$19,484 to repair the culvert on Bridge Street. We are waiving the formal bidding process for this, as we do have three bids.

Councilman Trotter asked if we could put something there besides the traffic cones, as people are moving the cones and driving thru. We can put the barricades that we use to close the streets until it has been repaired.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison read a thank you letter from Ken & Kathleen Palmer, thanking the EMS for their professionalism, kindness, patience and understanding as they have been taken to the hospital twice each in the past month. They also included a donation to the Ambulance Department.

Mayor Morrison read a letter from American Cancer Society requesting the use of Pocomoke Fair Grounds, stage and tent for this year's Relay to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

Mayor Morrison read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce thanking us for the past support, and they are requesting that their budget from the City be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 this year. Mayor Morrison stated that we will be working on the budget soon.

City Manager Crofoot asked for approval of purchasing a couple of computers to help out in the Housing Department. We will be getting a free GIS assessment with a graduate student from Salisbury provided by Professor Scott. Also, I would like to have the person who is familiar with plats, maps index them. Both of the activities should have GIS capable capacity of computers. We have gotten a price from Newegg who has been our regular supplier for a long time and we get two computers like the equipment we purchase for the Circuit Rider position that cost would be \$1,756.58, he would like to have the Council's approval to make that purchase. Dr. Scott and his staff, and students have done remarkable amount of work around the state, some they have done for free. The critically area maps wouldn't have been as far as along without them.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to purchase two computers from Newegg in the amount of \$1,756.58.

Council Items:

Councilwoman Troast said that a couple of months ago, Mr. Merrill Lockfaw, County Commissioner, came to one of our meetings, and he stated that he would help us with obtaining some funds for after school programs for our kids. She stated that she hadn't heard anything since then, and would like to have an update. She would like to know if somebody has spoken to Commissioner Lockfaw and if not could somebody.

Mayor Morrison stated that he had spoken to President Madison Bunting, about week ago, he stated he hadn't heard anything and they would like to know.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had spoken to Commissioner Lockfaw about the armory and the need for someone with substantially more economic clout than what we have locally to get behind the project and why the armory couldn't be a county recreation center like other counties. His initial reaction was favorably. City Manager Crofoot stated that it needed to be on the agenda when they go for the budget meeting at the County next month.

Councilwoman Troast stated that she would like to see speed cameras on Cedar Street, she stated that nothing is being done. She would like to have a representative come to the next meeting to give them options and details about the cameras. In the meantime, she would like to have police patrolling the area of Cedar Street before and after school dismissal.

Councilman Hirshman asked what happen to the speed humps.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the Council didn't want them. It is a low rise which would deter speeding.

Councilman Trotter asked if the City Manager could have proposals of the cost to install the speed humps at the next Council meeting.

Comments from the Audience:

Ms. Monna VanEss asked about the updates on dilapidated houses on Oxford and Maple Street.

City Manager Crofoot stated the cost could be up to \$20,000 to demolish the houses each.

Ms. VanEss stated that the market value of houses in town are not keeping up with others because of the dilapidated houses.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to adjourned the meeting. The did not go into executive session.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk