

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Thursday, June 18, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Present:

Mayor: Todd J. Nock

Council Members: M. Hall, D. Downing, C.L. Marshall

City Manager: Brandy Matthews

Attorney: Erica Witz

City Clerk: Lacey Merritt

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, Call to Order

Council Member Downing and Mayor Nock

Approval of June 1, 2026 Minutes

Motion made by Council Member Downing to approve the minutes from June 1, 2026. Seconded by Council Member Hall. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye.

Approval of Bill List

The bill list was presented for payment. Council Member Hall led discussion on holding off paying the solar panel farm electric payment. He was looking for something that said \$20,000 or \$25,000. City Manager Matthews advised the name on the bill list for the solar farm payment was Terraform and it could be located on the check payment bill list. Mayor Nock and Council Member Hall wanted to hold up payment to Terraform in order to force them into a contract. Council Member wants to sit down with them and discuss the contract since it's been about 11 years ago. Mayor Nock advised the payment in the amount \$23,261.19 could be located on page 22.

The Mayor Nock advised we would need to pay it this time take a vote instead of just doing a consensus. Mayor Nock instructed City Manager Matthews to place the Solar Farm Payment as a discussion item on Monday nights agenda. The Mayor noted that all the details and facts need to be laid out about it and when it started. The Mayor stated he remembered the City was always supposed to make a rebate off of it and that was received for the first 2 years. The Mayor emphasized to the City Manager to provide the Council with all the necessary documentation. The Mayor asked Council Member Hall to take the lead on researching the company and to meet with the City Manager on Monday.

Motion to approve by Council Member Marshall, seconded by Council Member Downing. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye.

Swearing in of the City Clerk

Before the new City Clerk was sworn in Mayor Nock discussed our current City Clerk Melinda Stafford has left us and has brighter opportunity. He wished her the absolute best.

The Mayor explained when we talk about assessing skill, stamina, and work ethic, I think it was a no-brainer for us to appoint from within. Before the swearing in of Lacey the Mayor stated "I've seen Lacey's worked for the city for the past couple of years, and there is nothing that we've asked her to do, learn, and/or conquer that she hasn't done it. I'm so excited that Lacey is taking on this new challenge. Lacey, I look forward to working with you even more closely, and if you come on up, we'll get you sworn in."

Lacey Merritt recited the Oath of Office as the City Clerk and was sworn in by Mayor Nock. All present congratulated her.

Approval of Great Pocomoke Fair, Inc. Event – Renegade Monster Truck

Ms. Gloria Smith representing the Volunteer Committee at the fairgrounds presented the permit application for the Renegade Truck being held on August 22, 2026. Ms. Smith advised the Renegade Monster Truck show wants to come back for 2 shows at 12:30pm and 6:00pm. Advised there were two shows last year, but they were held on a Friday and Saturday. Ms. Smith stated there were no issues from the event in 2025.

Mayor Nock asked a question to Ms. Smith regarding the missing signatures from the police department and public works, but were signed off by the fire department and EMS. Ms. Smith stated the Sara had spoken with Mike Shannon who spoke with Chief Hancock and he had questions, which Sara Chapman was able to answer for him by email. Ms. Gloria advised that Public Works was aware the event was taking place.

Mayor Nock emphasized when something like this is presented to us, we have to be able to see the follow-up because all we see right now is that Chief Hancock nor Bill signed off on this. We don't want to run into a case where council says, you know what, they didn't speak to him, we can't approve it. Council, my recommendation is that we do indeed approve this event on the contingency that the other two signatures are gotten.

Motion to approve contingent on the other two signatures were gotten by Council Member Marshall, seconded by Council Member Downing. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye.

Council Member Marshall stated he had some concern last week on signature process of the City permit. His understanding was the Mike Shannon was handling all this, which was a concern, because he wondered if that fell within his job description. He had a conversation with Mike Shannon and he felt like it was easier if he served as a single point of contact.

Mayor Nock stated Mr. Shannon should not be serving as a single point of contact. These forms are to be turned into to him, and when they need to be approved by the Mayor and City Council, they need to be given to the City Clerk, and she will do her due diligence. But it is their responsibility to obtain these signatures. Now, with Mike doing events himself- Mike does events for the city. Mike is not the city's event liaison in a manner of grabbing signatures and things like that. This does go through his department. However, he should not be obtaining any signatures. And when there is a hiccup like this, the Mayor and Council need to see all documentation, because what you're saying to me is Chief Hancock had questions and we don't know what his questions were, and we also don't see his signature on this form, which is extremely problematic. The Mayor advised that Mike Shannon can be in the meeting with them, but if there are questions, he's not authorized to address them.

Approval of Special One Day Alcohol Permit – Great Pocomoke Fair, Inc. Renegade Monster Truck

Ms. Smith presented the request for a special one-day alcohol permit for the Renegade Monster Truck on August 22, 2026. Motion to approve by Council Member Hall, seconded by Council Member Marshall. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye.

Second Reading of Resolution 2026-R-14: A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Pocomoke City, Maryland Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 – Public Hearing

The Mayor reads the resolution in full. The resolution adopts the budget for Fiscal Year 2027 to take effect July 1, 2026. Advised the vote will be held on Monday, June 22, 2026, just in case the public would want to have input. The floor was open for public comments and no public comments were given by the audience on Resolution 2026-R-14.

Comments

a. Comments from the Audience

1. Stephanie Dubrel addressed the Mayor and Council about cleaning the bleachers at the fairgrounds for this weekend. Mayor Nock advised she should call a week in advanced and we will see if can work something out. Mike Shannon advised if it needed to be done this weekend it would not be completed because the City Staff was off on tomorrow due to the holiday. It was also advised that the City does not own a power washer. Mayor Nock emphasized the condition of the bleachers and that it needed to be addressed. Ms. Dubrel advised that a soft netting would possibly remedy the issue, but this could bring bats.
2. Ms. Dubrel asked about the electric upgrades at the barn and the approved RFP from a few months back. Mayor Nock advised of the bid process and that he saw the email thread that the concern was being addressed. City Manager Matthews and Mike Shannon addressed the issue that the electric upgrade was bid, but the contractor had not started work. Due to timing of installation, a new electrician was sought but came in a lot higher than the original bid that would need to become before the Mayor and Council. The Council was advised that Stone Electric was meeting with Mike Shannon tomorrow to make sure that the higher bid and current award bid work were equal.

b. Comments from the City Manager

1. Mayor's Safe Path Initiative would begin June 22, 2026 through July 17, 2026. Notices for residents living on Winter Quarters, Beech Street, and 14th Street the Heights side were delivered to residents. Mobilizations from Winter Quarters Drive to Beech Street will began June 22, 2026 and will move to 14th Street on June 23, 2026. Concrete and Milling work will not be completed at the same time in order to ease traffic. All residents in those areas have been notified with the 72 hour time frame. If you have a vehicle on the street within that timeframe and it is in the way of completely the work your vehicle will be towed at your expense.
2. Police department has already tagged multiple vehicles to give them at least a 72-hour notice to move those vehicles off of the street. I just want to make everyone aware that if your vehicle is sitting on the street and they're there, please move them, and it's only between the hours of 7 AM and 5 PM.
3. Addressed comments on Facebook regarding Second Street and Fourth Street repairs. Residents have not been forgotten, but these are the two areas where the water and sewer pipes and laterals have to be replaced first. In our budget work session, we allocated money to prepare to start on Second Streer to repair the lines and in conjunction will repair those streets as well. Stressed that the City hasn't forgotten about them and that there is a bigger problem that needed to be addressed first.
4. June 20th at 11:00am ATV Drag Race and Food Truck Festival at the Great Pocomoke Fair.

5. June 22, 2026 Mayor and Council meeting and vote on Resolution 2026-R-14 for the Fiscal year 2027 budget
 6. June 26th 4th Friday starting at 5:00pm hosted by the Enchanted Florist and it will be a carnival theme. Immediately after fireworks weather permitting.
 7. June 27th Poker Run starting at 10:00am.
 8. July 1, 2026 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting will be held at 6:30pm
- c. Comments from the City Council Members
1. Council Member Hall – Welcomed Lacey as the new City Clerk
 2. Council Member Marshall – Welcomed Lacey as the new City Clerk as well and acknowledge Mayor Nock on outstanding year as the MML President. Advised he served not only as President but Mayor of Pocomoke City. Advised it is an important and demanding job. We had a great conference up there, very enjoyable, a lot of good information going to be bringing back to the City. Advised the Veterans Memorial is moving forward. The place has been selected for that near the flagpole facing westward, which is appropriate. Granite has been selected from Dean Ennis's place in town.
 3. Council Member Downing – Congratulated Lacey and thanked everyone.
- d. Comments from the Mayor
1. Thanked everyone from Front Street to the Virginia line for supporting him in his Presidency as the Maryland Municipal League's 82nd President. There were a lot of late nights, drivers, and early mornings.
 2. Thanked the Council and City staff for always being flexible and going to different places for him because he had to be in Annapolis.
 3. First MML President meeting took place 2 years ago with Myself, Brandy, Melinda, and Karah and we mapped out a theme a week before last year's summer conference after MML called to say the theme needed to be switched. We laugh about it now because MML did not know what the theme was until I got on the stage and said what it was.
 4. Thanked Brandy because a lot of times when I had to go, she went with me or met me there.
 5. I didn't have to do this alone I did it with the whole City of Pocomoke.
 6. One of the beautiful things about going to these conferences is being able to attend classes. Advised the City Manager Matthews and Mayor Nock would will be graduating in September with our certificates in public policy from the University of Maryland College Park.
 7. A mistake was made on his transcript advising he need one more class, but City Manager Matthews reached out to UMD and they realized they had made a mistake and that he completed all the courses for graduation.
 8. People ask what's next and the answer was nap and he did just that, took a nap for the first time in two years.
 9. Next up making Pocomoke City an All-American City finalist I 2027.
 10. Show off our Fairground as there are only 2 left in Maryland. Frederick and Pocomoke City.
 11. Meetings are not heavily attended anymore and most interaction happens on social media. Community engagement department with the help of the Mayor will be launching an Ask Me Anything Campaign.
 12. Neighborhood Outreach Campaign. And what we will be doing for the month of- the months of July and August, every Thursday we will target a specific neighborhood and we'll all go to that neighborhood at about 5:30pm and we will knock on doors and we will canvass and we will ask the citizens of this town what they need, what they want, just giving them a place where we're

willing to listen, we're willing to talk back. This also will help us with our comprehensive plan.

13. There's not enough in-person conversation anymore and we need to get back to in person conversation. Asked the Council to join us when we hit their district, which will give us an opportunity for us to get out and engage with citizens.
14. Full Court press on code enforcement was called, which was met with pushback. There were approximately 170 violations with the most notable violation being abandoned/untagged vehicles in the front and back yards. There were some structural issues and some untidiness.
15. Public Works will begin collecting bulk pickup on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
16. For the month of July there will be a mayor's 50-mile Challenge Walk, which will be completed through the Nike Run App.
17. Introduced our new Planning Director Kristen Tremblay who started last week and will be at Monday nights meeting to introduce herself. Advised she is right person for the job based on conversations.
18. Wished everyone a happy Juneteenth and for everyone to come out to the Sturgis One Room Schoolhouse Juneteenth celebration Saturday.

Motion to adjourn at 7:09pm by Council member Hall, seconded by Council member Downing. Motion passes. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye.

Approved: Brendy L. Mattheas, MBA
City Manager