

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, March 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present:

Mayor: Todd Nock
Council Members: R. Scott Holland,
Diane Downing, Brooke Cottman
City Manager: John Barkley
Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Melinda Stafford

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

Approval of Minutes from Meetings of February 18, 2025 and March 3, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of February 18th by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes. Motion to approve minutes of March 3rd by Councilwoman Cottman seconded by Councilwoman Downing. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman - aye

Review and Approval of Current List of Bills for Payment

The bill list was presented for payment. Motion to approve the bills as presented by Councilman Holland, seconded by Councilwoman Downing. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman - aye

Special One Day Permit – Jones Birthday Party

Mr. Adam Howard from Pocomoke Fire Department explained that the permit is ready for signature and approval from the Mayor and Council. That the event is on April 5th from 6pm to 12am and it'll be at the community center at Pocomoke City Volunteer Firehouse. Mr. Howard also explained that there are eight more permits and he would like them to be reviewed. Mayor Nock explained that it could not be done that night and he should bring them to the next meeting for approval. Motion to approve by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Downing. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman -aye

Discussion of District 3 Swearing In

Mayor Nock explains to the public and reminds Council that only one person ran for the District 3 seat and it was unopposed. Because of that Pocomoke canceled the election. The city had to run an ad for two weeks to give notice for the election cancellation. It is his hope that we can get Ms. Tull in as soon as possible. So, he was hoping that Council would entertain the idea of swearing her in on April 7, 2025 at 6:30pm that would be our first meeting for the month of April. He asks Andrew if it is possible to do so, his response was yes as the ad was confirmed by the clerk to have been ran on March 14 and March 21. Motion to approve the swearing in to be on April 7th at 6:30 by Councilman Holland, seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman - aye

Fair Board Swearing In

Mayor Nock asks for John Smith, Sara Chapman, Stephanie Dubrel, Dean Ennis, and Alice Ennis to come forward. Collectively all members of the Fair Board are sworn in. The Mayor explains to the new board that Ms. Dominique Bias will be the clerk for the city and she will take minutes for the public. City Clerk Melinda Stafford needs to be informed when a meeting is so she can post for the public on the city's website. Councilman Holland will be the liaison and will bring the information back

to the Mayor and Council.

SAPP Grant Funding FY2025 Disbursement

Chief Hancock explains to the Mayor and Council that this year the Police Department received \$49,350 in funds under the SAPP Grant. He has a little more than 90 days left to utilize the funds. His first proposal is to use it for Lexipol services. The services are used to update and review policies and it is something Pocomoke City will not have to worry about being behind the eight ball on ever again Chief stated. He also states the initial cost going in would be \$13,406.64 and then the annual cost would be a little over \$11,000. Chief then proposes purchasing a 2023 black Dodge Charger for \$35,636 that was a demo vehicle and a couple pairs of boots to exhaust the remainder of the funds. Councilwoman Cottman asked for clarification on the costs associated with the use of Lexipol and the timing. Chief explains that the annual amount for the year and the buy-in for the remainder of this year makes the difference in the numbers. He also explained that it is better to buy-in now than waiting for the next 12-month period to begin which would cost more money. Motion made to approve by Councilwoman Cottman, seconded by Councilman Holland. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye

City Vehicle Maintenance Quotes

Mr. Barkley Highly has a recommendation by the management team to go forward with this proposed contract from Ironshore. For many different reasons they did not think it was necessary to do an RFP for this. Both experientially because we've had a relationship with Iron Shore in recent years and they've done a very good job for the city. They also felt that going forward they feel like their expertise, it's a very specialized field that we need for our EMS, Police and other vehicles. But if we bring them all into the fray, he thinks we'll get better prices. Mr. Barkley recommended that the city council endorses this contract with Ironshore for the prices that are quoted in the contract. Chief Ryan McCreedy from EMS stated a situation where an ambulance blew a high-pressure line while on an ambulance call. The crew called Ironshore, they arrived to fix the problem and the ambulance was able to finish the call. The Mayor asks Mr. Illuninati if he would prefer to wait until the next meeting. He states that time is of the essence or the city is trying to prevent something from happening. He then reads a passage of the Charter as it addresses service and repair contracts. He then notifies Mayor and Council that a vote can be taken on the proposal if they would like because the process has been followed. Councilman Holland motions to approve or award the contract to Ironshore Repair and Performance, seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman - aye

Comments

a. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Councilman Holland – No Comment, Thank Chief Hancock for allocating the grant funds in a timely manner.
2. Councilwoman Downing – Thank you for coming out tonight. Smooth sailing meeting and she likes it
3. Councilwoman Cottman – Thank you to the members of the Fair Board and their willingness to serve.

b. Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Nock states he too would like to thank all of the public participation that we've been getting lately. I say this all the time. We have the right team to make things happen. He looks forward to seeing a lot development and things that are going to come down the pike. Even looking forward to the Planning and Zoning meeting on Wednesday night. He encourages everyone to come out. These

are the spaces where your voice can be heard. Your voice is not adequately heard on Facebook. It's a comment. It's a post. But if you come to these meetings, your name will be etched in history. It will be etched in the better making of this town. It will be etched in the grander scheme of this town. He does want to clear something up that was said at the County Commissioners meeting a couple weeks ago. We have not turned away and any investor in this town due to the capacity of our wastewater treatment center. That is not true. That is not accurate. Now, have there been conversations about water and sewer? Yes. But have they been turned away due to water and sewer? No. What town, what mayor, what council member, what, what city manager would not want the absolute best for the town in which they're serving? Who would not want to see development going up all around us? Who would not want to see 24-hour convenience stores in this town? Who would not want to have multiple places that we could go and get something to eat? Who would not want to see an arcade for. For families? Who would not want to have multiple grocery items? No one would not want those things. So, he's asking everyone that is listening to the sound of my voice to be a part of the solution and not part of the problem. Be productive, be proactive, and let's get some stuff done.

c. Comments from the City Manager

Mr. Mayor, members of council and our distinguished visitors tonight, just following on the mayor's comments, your voice may also be heard here at City Hall. For those of us who are not apt to use a computer or the Internet or any of that stuff that we're all becoming accustomed to. You can always come in and talk to me or any of the staff here and you always have somebody listening to you if you have an issue to talk to us about. And we take that very seriously. And that's part of our responsibility as administrative folks, operational folks here with the city. The other thing is the city manager's weekly update. There's a lot of good information in there. It's available on the city website at anybody's disposal. And we also have paper copies here if anybody wants to come in and just get an update about what's happening. Because if you read through it, you can forecast a lot of things that are going to become city council agenda items in the near future. And it's a good way to stay abreast of what's going on in this city. So we offer that to Everyone by Internet or here at City hall.

d. Comments from the Audience

1. Sara Chapman – Addresses the needs of the upcoming concert being held and the signatures she needs for the liquor license and for the event permit. Mr. Illuninati states that it's the same event and as long as there's generically no opposition. Ms. Chapman states she is working on an updated parking map for Chief Hancock. The Mayor states that once she gets that, there will be a letter for her as approval.

On March 17, 2025, at 7:18 pm, the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council went into closed session. The closed session was held at City Hall 101 Clarke Ave, Pocomoke City, MD 21851. The motion to enter into closed session was made by Councilmember Holland and seconded by Councilmember Cottman. Councilmembers Downing, Holland, and Cottman all voted in favor of entering into closed session. Councilmember Marshall was absent. The statutory authority for entering into closed session was General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b)(1).

There were two topics of discussion at the closed session under the same statutory authority. The first topic of discussion was the performance discussion of the Fair Board Committee members. In addition to the aforementioned councilmembers, the following persons were in attendance: Mayor Todd Nock, City Manager John Barkley, City Clerk Melinda Stafford, City Attorney Andrew Illuminati, City Councilmember-Elect Sharnell Tull, Finance Director Brandy Matthews, and Fair Board members John Smith, Sara Chapman, Stephanie Dubrel, Dean Ennis, Alice Ennis. No action or vote was taken.

The second topic of discussion was the possible reassignment and promotion of City Employees at EMS. In addition to the aforementioned councilmembers, the following persons were in attendance: Mayor Todd Nock, City Manager John Barkley, City Clerk Melinda Stafford, City Attorney Andrew Illuminati, City Councilmember-Elect Sharnell Tull, Finance Director Brandy Matthews, EMS Chief Ryan McCready and EMS lieutenant Danny Tindall. No action or vote was taken.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm by Councilman Holland, seconded by Councilwoman Cottman for a 10-minute recess before going into closed session.

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.