

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 1, 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, Tasker passed) to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017 meeting with a correction. Councilwoman Troast stated that she said “nay” to Resolution No. 506.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to approve the closed meeting minutes of April 10, 2017.

Review and approval of bills:

City Manager Crofoot stated that we have an invoice from CES in the amount of \$26,754.09. This is from the Clarke Ave. pump failure. City Manager Crofoot stated that if the Clarke Ave pump station was not updated this year, there was a pump in this year’s budget, so maybe we would not have an invoice like this one again.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman passed) to pay the invoice from CES in the amount of \$26,754.09.

First Reading of Ord. # 430 to set the tax rates for 2017-2018:

Mayor read for the record Ord. #430.

ORDINANCE 430

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF  
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND SETTING THE TAX RATES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company to discuss property at Dun Swamp Road:

Mr. Jerry Barbierri and Mr. Jimmy Landon from Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company Board of Directors were present to discuss boundary line adjustment for property located on Dun Swamp Road. Mr. Barbierri stated that the Fire Company exchanged the building on the property at Fifth Street for the property on Dun Swamp Road, the old VFW property, with the City. The Fire Company would like to build a storage building on Dun Swamp property. The location where they would like for the building to be, the land needs to be extended another thirty-three (33) feet. The Fire Company would like to request an exchange of thirty-three (33) feet from the north side of the swale for thirty-three (33) feet on the south side of the swale.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the request from the Volunteer Fire Company.

City Attorney Crofoot stated that this problem could have been avoided if the survey was completed before they decided where they wanted the building. The property will have to be re-subdivided. He stated that nobody has said who would pay the cost of having the property deeded again. Also, he stated that the easiest thing to do was to ask for a set-back. He stated that there was a meets and bounds description in the deed, that arranging for the construction of the building prior to knowing where your own lot lines are is not the City's fault. But now there has to be a formal process like any development comes in to re-subdivide the property. He stated as a City Manager he would be opposed to moving the lot line.

City Manager Crofoot asked Councilwoman Troast if she would amend her motion to include the cost of the subdividing and recording the new deed.

Councilwoman Troast again made the motion to proceed with exchanging thirty-three (33) feet of property with a line boundary adjustment, seconded by Councilman Trotter.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the motion did not include who would pay for the cost of the line adjustment boundary.

Mayor Morrison stated the Fire Company would pay the cost.

City Manager Crofoot to discuss Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company's, fee to Pocomoke City for driver:

City Manager Crofoot stated that the City just received this letter today. Apparently, Snow Hill provides a driver for us every now again. There is a fee that is paid from the County, and whoever the ambulance belongs to gets the fee.

Director Mike Thornton stated that in the past Snow Hill would come down and cover some of our calls that were scratched where we couldnot get a crew. What they started doing was just sending a driver down, as they were having a hard time getting a crew to cover their calls. About six (6) months ago, they just started sending a driver to help us. We are getting all the benefits of the call, so all they want is \$150 for each time they send a driver down to help us out. Director Thornton stated that we were benefitting from this, as we are getting all the funds. All Snow Hill wants is to be reimbursed for the driver, as they are not getting any funding for the third person on the shift when he is driving for us. If they didn't send a driver we would not receive anything, as the call would be scratched and Snow Hill would get the money for the call.

Councilman Tasker asked how often does Snow Hill send a driver to help.

Director Thornton stated about eight (8) or ten (10) times a month.

City Manager Crofoot asked if we could pay them once we were paid for the call by the insurance.

Councilman Trotter stated that if they send a driver down and the patient refuses to go, we would be paying them and not receiving anything.

City Manager Crofoot stated that's why he suggested if we don't get paid they don't get paid. But the other side of the risk is they may not send a driver, and that's a bigger risk than \$150.

Mayor Morrison suggested City Manager Crofoot discuss this with Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he received a notice of violation and proposed fine for five wastewater spills, fairly minor with respect to two of those, but still they believe they need to access a fine. The fine they are suggesting is \$1,600. He suggesting paying the \$1,600.

Councilman Tasker asked about one of the spills where a hauler spilled his wastewater we shouldn't be responsible for the fine.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we would need to fine the hauler. MDE will not fine him, as we are the facility. He wasn't watching what he was doing, he went and sat in his truck.

Comments from the audience:

Ms. Barbara Tull expressed her concerns about keeping the golf course open.

Others made comments about keeping the golf course open.

Ms. Monna VanEss asked if a street sweeping schedule is in the works.

City Manager Crofoot stated that it is not in a schedule. Street sweeping depends upon the weather, and the only thing that is scheduled is trash pick-up. He stated that there are not enough employees to devote to street sweeping on a schedule, as when there is a water break the employees would not be able to sweep the streets. He stated that he would not make a commitment as he doesn't think he could keep to a schedule because of other areas of work that needs to be completed.

Ms. VanEss stated that the golf course was a hot topic. There are a lot of people that would like to see the golf course closed. The money could be used for youth activities.

Ms. VanEss stated that the Advance Auto bus stop bench and shelter was removed and wanted to know if it could be put back.

Ms. Norma Howard stated that the Community Garden is at the point where they need to install an irrigation system, which they received a grant from the Community Foundation. They have volunteers to install it but they need a splitter on the water so they could put a timer on it. We are asking for the City's help on that project. Also, it would be nice to have electricity in the garden to use for power tools. Lowes will be building a gazebo for the garden. She stated that they appreciate all the help and support that the City provides. Just recently two volunteers from Worcester County Tech School spear headed putting in a chess garden, landscape pavers. We now have full size chess pieces, and are going to try get chess players from the high school.

City Manager Crofoot stated that they didn't want to loan out the equipment, but would allow the employees to go use the equipment, but he needs to have a plan as to where it needs to go.

Mayor Morrison stated that we need to try to get electricity in the Community Garden.

Mr. Duane Durham stated that he would like to have an answer concerning the golf course closure. There is not any talk about safety for homeowners. He stated there has been too many close calls, nobody seems to be concerned. He stated that if the City could afford to lose \$150,000 a year to keep the golf course open, they could afford to put up a safety net to protect the homeowners that would like to have their homes and families protected.

Council discuss budget for FY 2017/18:

After some discussion, it was decided that we don't need to have an outside consultant to write grants.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to adjourn at 8:41 PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk