

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, September 8, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Present:

Mayor: Todd J. Nock

Council Members: M. Hall, S. Tull, D. Downing, B. Cottman

Absent: C.L. Marshall, City Manager Brandy Matthews

Attorney: Andrew Illuminati

City Clerk: Lacey Merritt

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, Call to Order

Mayor Nock called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance, and Elder Sanders led the prayer.

Approval of August 10, 2026 Work Session Minutes

Motion made by Council Member Cottman to approval work session minutes from August 10, 2026. Seconded by Council Member Downing. Hall- aye, Tull – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye.

Approval of August 17, 2026 Regular Session Minutes

Motion made by Council Member Downing to approve regular session minutes from August 17, 2026. Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Hall- aye, Tull – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye.

Approval of Bill List

The bill list was presented for payment. Motion to approve the bill list as presented made by Council Member Downing. Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Council Member Hall questioned several expenditures, including an annual online subscription listed for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, a \$10,000 payment to Samaritan Ministries and 2,499.00 payment to See My Legacy. Mayor Nock explained that the \$10,000 payment to Samaritan Ministries was being made as a direct City donation rather than as part of the City's grant program. Council discussed the distinction between grant funds and direct donations and clarified that the Council had previously reached a consensus to provide the direct donations during the August 24, 2026 work session. Council member Hall also questioned an expenditure for an event registration portal. Mayor Nock indicated that the expenditure appeared to relate to the City's economic development & events department. Mayor Nock called for a vote to approve the bill list. Hall- aye, Tull – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye.

Approval of Special One Day Alcohol Permit — Hometown Throwdown Concert - 9/24/26

Facilities Manager/Events Coordinator Mike Shannon presented a request for a Special One-Day Alcohol Permit associated with the Hometown Program Concert scheduled for September 24, 2026. Mr. Shannon explained that the event would serve as a makeup concert following a previously cancelled Concert in the Park event. The event was planned to include a performance by On the Edge and was proposed to take place on Market Street, utilizing the large stage located in the gravel lot. Attendees would be permitted to bring chairs and sit along Market Street. The Mayor and Council considered the request. Motion to approve the Special One-Day Alcohol Permit was made by Council Member Cottman. Seconded by Council Member Hall. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Marshall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Approval of Special One Day Alcohol Permit — Music & Mud Fest – 09/26/26

The Mayor and Council considered a Special One-Day Alcohol Permit request for the Music & Mud Fest, scheduled for September 26, 2026, at the Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds. Gloria Smith the Fair representative appeared before the Council and explained that the event would include live music, a mud bog, and ATV-related activities. The event was expected to operate during the afternoon and

evening hours, with alcohol service requested from approximately 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Council members raised concerns regarding the length of the alcohol-service period, the size and duration of the event, and the need for appropriate public safety planning. The Mayor and Council discussed the anticipated schedule, including ATV activities, the mud bog, and the concert. It was noted that the event could attract approximately 200 to 300 or more attendees. The Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that large-scale events have appropriate police and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coverage and that the City should not be placed in a position where public safety services are provided without appropriate planning or reimbursement. The Mayor and Council members discussed concerns that some organizations may attempt to avoid fees associated with City services. The Mayor and Council emphasized that police and EMS resources are necessary not only to respond to emergencies but also to help prevent and manage potentially serious incidents. The Mayor and Council further discussed the need for an emergency plan and pre-event coordination with EMS and other public safety departments before large-scale events are presented for approval. The Council agreed that the City's process for large events and public safety requirements warrants further discussion. Motion to approve the Special One-Day Alcohol Permit was made by Council Member Marshall. Seconded by Council Member Hall. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Marshall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Approval of Special One Day Alcohol Permit – Russell Wedding & Reception – 10/10/26

The Mayor and Council considered a Special One-Day Alcohol Permit for the Russell wedding and reception scheduled for October 10, 2026. Michael Dean, representing the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, addressed the Council and explained that the permit would allow beer and wine service at the wedding reception and licensed bartenders would be provided for the event. Mayor Nock explained the event will be held on 10/10/2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The permit is for beer, wine, and liquor the fee was stated as \$100 per day. Motion to approve the Special One-Day Alcohol Permit was made by Council Member Hall. Seconded by Council Member Downing. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Approval of Special One Day Alcohol Permit – Sells Wedding & Reception – 10/17/26

The Mayor and Council considered a Special One-Day Alcohol Permit for the Sales wedding and reception scheduled for October 17, 2026. Mayor Nock explained the event is being held on 10/17/2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The permit included beer, wine, and liquor service with a stated fee of \$100 per day. Motion to approve the Special One-Day Alcohol Permit was made by Council Member Cottman. Seconded by Council Member Downing. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Approval of Purchase of Land Located at Tax ID 01-024884, Parcel 1464, Owner Hartley Hall Inc.

The Mayor and Council considered the purchase of property identified as Tax ID **01-024884, Parcel 1464**, owned by Hartley Hall, Inc. The Mayor explained that the property presented an opportunity for the City to regain control of strategically located property and noted that the matter had previously been discussed during the August 24, 2026 Work Session. Motion to approve the purchase of the property was made by Council Member Hall. Seconded by Council Member Downing. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Following the vote, Greg Frostman, President of the Board of Directors of the Hartley Hall Foundation, addressed the Council. Mr. Frostman explained that, during a review of the deed in preparation for selling the property, it was discovered that the property was required to be offered back to the City. He expressed support for the City's purchase of the property and stated that he hoped it would ultimately be developed in a manner beneficial to the community. Mr. Frostman requested that the sale be expedited and requested reimbursement

for property taxes already paid for the upcoming year. The Mayor advised that City Attorney Andrew Illuminati would be in contact regarding the matter.

Approval of the Amended Wawa Annexation Agreement

The Mayor and Council considered an amendment to the WAWA annexation agreement concerning water and sewer access. City Attorney Andrew Illuminati explained that Page 26 of the annexation resolution addresses water and sewer access for the proposed WAWA property. He stated that the amendment was being made to clarify the specific water and sewer piping to which the property would connect and to clarify the process for making those connections. Mr. Illuminati further explained that the language contained in the original resolution was ambiguous with respect to water and sewer access. He advised that all expenses associated with the property's water and sewer connections would be paid by the property owner. The amendment was intended to clarify the existing agreement and did not change the substance of the agreement. The amendment was characterized as an administrative amendment to the annexation agreement and would replace the existing section addressing water and sewer. The amendment was presented for consideration and approval by the Mayor and Council. Mayor Nock called for a motion to approve. Motion to approve the amended WAWA annexation agreement made by Council Member Downing. Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

Approval and Discussion of Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report

Planning Director Kristen Tremblay presented the Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025 to the Mayor and Council for review and approval. Ms. Tremblay explained that the annual report provides the Maryland Department of Planning with information regarding the City's planning and development activities during the preceding calendar year. Ms. Tremblay reported that eight residential permits were issued within the City during the 2025 reporting period. She further explained that the entirety of the City of Pocomoke is located within a Priority Funding Area, and therefore there were no areas of the City identified as being outside of a Priority Funding Area for purposes of the report. Ms. Tremblay reviewed the State's Sustainable Growth Planning Principles and advised that the principles had been signed into law by Governor Wes Moore on April 8, 2025. She stated that an implementation guide had been distributed to members of the Planning Commission and encouraged the members to review the material in preparation for future discussions. Ms. Tremblay also addressed the City's Comprehensive Plan. She explained that the City was not scheduled for a formal Comprehensive Plan update during calendar year 2025; however, City staff had begun work toward revitalizing and updating the Comprehensive Plan during 2026. The Mayor and Council were advised that staff was continuing to evaluate the plan and related planning materials. The report also identified six ordinance changes during 2025. Ms. Tremblay discussed various zoning and regulatory amendments adopted during the reporting period, including changes relating to murals, urban design, building codes, and other development-related regulations. Ms. Tremblay reviewed additional reporting categories included in the Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report, including green infrastructure, zoning reform, climate change, affordable and workforce housing, equity, and resiliency. She advised that the City had no known recommendations or specific implementations to report in those categories for calendar year 2025. Mayor Nock Noted that we had a zoning change for the 74 acres to the PRD zone. She then discussed whether the Maryland Department of Planning could provide additional assistance to the City during 2026. Ms. Tremblay indicated that, based upon the City's current needs, she did not anticipate that additional assistance from the State would be necessary at that time. She further discussed training requirements for members of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Ms. Tremblay explained that members are required to complete applicable training through the Maryland Commissioners Association and that several members still needed to complete the required training. It was clarified that members have six months from the date they begin serving on the respective board or commission to complete the required training, rather than six meetings. Mayor Nock addressed the training requirement and stated that the Mayor and Council would not be responsible for ensuring that Planning Commission members completed the required training. Mayor Nock

emphasized that completion of the required training was the responsibility of the Planning Director. The discussion further acknowledged that members who have not completed the required training must do so within the applicable six-month period and that failure to complete the required training could affect their continued service on the board or commission. Ms. Tremblay advised that the completed Annual Report would be submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning following the Mayor and Council's review and approval. Mayor Nock called for a motion to approve. Motion to approve the Discussion of Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report made by Council Member Tull. Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall- aye, Tull- aye, Downing- aye, Cottman- aye.

First Reading of Ordinance 2027-O-1: An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Pocomoke City, Maryland to Amend the City's Zoning Code to Provide for Regulations to Govern Accessory Dwelling Units

The ordinance was presented for the first reading. Mayor Nock reads the summation of Ordinance 2027-O-1 in full. The ordinance proposes:

- § 230-5 Add definitions for accessory dwelling unit and housekeeping facility
- § 230-18. Accessory structures in residence districts, adds Section B to govern accessory dwelling unit density and development standards
- § 230-26. Conversion for dwelling purposes is amended to reflect accessory dwelling units.
- § 230-33. Principal permitted uses. Allow an accessory dwelling unit as a principal permitted uses in the R-1 District
- § 230-40. Principal permitted uses. Allow an accessory dwelling unit as a principal permitted uses in the R-2 District
- § 230-47. Principal permitted uses. Allow an accessory dwelling unit as a principal permitted uses in the R-3 District

First Reading of Resolution 2027-R-1: A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Pocomoke City, Maryland Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers

The resolution was presented for the first reading. Mayor Nock reads Resolution 2027-R-1 in full. The resolution proposes:

1. A data center means a building or group of buildings:
 - (i) Used to house computer systems, computer storage equipment, and associated infrastructure that businesses or other organizations use to organize, process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data; and
 - (ii) is not a server room.
2. A server room is defined as an on-premise room which houses computer systems, computer storage equipment, and associated infrastructure that a single business, school or organization uses to organize, process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data in furtherance of the entity's purpose.
3. There is a temporary pause on the acceptance, processing, review, and approval of applications for preliminary plans of subdivision and detailed site plans that include a data center use until the earlier of one (1) year after the date of adoption of this resolution or the effective date of comprehensive legislation enacted by the City Council to address the placement, construction, and operation of data center uses.
4. That during the temporary moratorium established by this resolution, the Pocomoke City Planning Department shall not accept, process, review, or approve applications for preliminary plans of subdivision and applications for detailed site plans which propose a data center.
5. That during the temporary moratorium established by this resolution, the Pocomoke City Planning Department shall not accept or process an application, which proposes

a data center, for a determination by the Board of Appeals in accordance with Pocomoke City Code, § 230-107 or for a zoning text amendment, initiated by an entity other than Pocomoke City, in accordance with § 230-110 and § 230-211.

6. That this temporary moratorium shall take effect immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

7. That the City Council reserves the right to extend or modify this temporary pause for such additional period(s) and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Discussion on Recommendation for the Beautification Committee

Mayor Nock introduced a discussion regarding the future role and responsibilities of the City's Beautification Committee and the development of a more active beautification initiative for the City of Pocomoke. Mayor Nock explained that the discussion was prompted, in part, by a social media post depicting an area of Pocomoke City in its current condition alongside an illustration of how the area could potentially appear following improvements and beautification efforts. Mayor Nock stated that the concept caused him to consider how the City could take a more organized and comprehensive approach to identifying areas in need of improvement and developing projects to enhance the appearance and overall quality of the City. Mayor Nock referred to the initiative as "Reimagine Pocomoke" and stated that the Mayor and Council could not undertake all of the work associated with identifying, planning, and advancing beautification projects on their own. He explained that the City's Beautification Committee could provide an important advisory role by helping identify potential projects and making recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The discussion included the history and purpose of the Beautification Committee. Mayor Nock stated that the committee had been established several years earlier but had not previously been utilized to its full potential or had a clearly defined role in advancing City beautification projects. The Mayor expressed his desire to establish a more active and structured role for the committee. Senior Planner Benjamin Zito provided additional information regarding the proposed role of the committee. Mr. Zito explained that the committee would function in an advisory capacity and could assist the City by identifying and developing recommendations for beautification and infrastructure improvements throughout the community. Mr. Zito explained that recommendations could include both smaller, short-term projects as well as larger, longer-term improvements. Mr. Zito stated that Planning staff could work with the Beautification Committee, the Public Works Department, residents, and the Mayor and Council to identify potential projects, evaluate the feasibility of those projects, and determine the resources or funding that may be required to complete them. The discussion emphasized the importance of identifying and evaluating projects before funding opportunities become available. Mr. Zito explained that having projects already identified, developed, and appropriately vetted would allow the City to be better positioned to pursue available funding when opportunities arise. The committee could therefore assist in creating a list of potential projects and prioritizing improvements for consideration by the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council discussed the importance of having input from City residents and incorporating community needs and ideas into the beautification process. The proposed approach would allow residents and the Beautification Committee to identify areas that could benefit from improvements while allowing City staff to evaluate the projects from a planning, infrastructure, and operational standpoint. Mayor Nock stated that he and Mr. Zito would prepare a PowerPoint presentation regarding the "Reimagine Pocomoke" initiative and the proposed role of the Beautification Committee. The presentation was expected to be provided during an upcoming Mayor and Council Work Session so that the Mayor and Council could further discuss the initiative and establish a more defined framework for the committee. Mayor Nock further stated that the goal was to have the Beautification Committee functioning in a more active capacity prior to the City's upcoming budget discussions. He explained that establishing the committee's role and identifying potential projects would assist the Mayor and Council in determining what funding, if any, should be considered for beautification efforts as part of the City's budget process. Discussion also addressed membership of the Beautification Committee. Mayor Nock announced that Ben Jelley had agreed to fill an open seat on the committee. Mayor Nock stated that Mr. Jelley would be formally sworn in at the next Mayor and Council meeting. The Mayor and Council expressed general support for continuing to develop the proposed beautification initiative and for providing the Beautification Committee

with a more active advisory role in identifying and recommending projects for consideration by the City. No formal action was taken on the matter at this time. The item was discussed for the purpose of further developing the proposed role of the Beautification Committee and preparing for continued discussion at an upcoming Work Session.

Discussion on Pocomoke City Story Telling Campaign – Bridge Closure

Mayor Nock introduced a discussion regarding a proposed storytelling and promotional campaign for the City of Pocomoke, tentatively titled “Home Is Here.” Mayor Nock explained that the idea for the campaign developed following the recent closure of the Pocomoke River drawbridge. During that period, a video created by Maurice Waters of The Brand Digital Media highlighted Pocomoke City and its community. Mayor Nock stated that viewing the video prompted further discussion regarding the opportunity to tell the story of Pocomoke City through the experiences of the people who live, work, own businesses, and have established connections within the community. Mayor Nock explained that the proposed campaign would focus on the people and stories that make Pocomoke City a community rather than relying solely on traditional promotional materials. He stated that the City has a number of residents, business owners, and community members with personal connections to Pocomoke and that their stories could be used to provide a more personal representation of the City. Mayor Nock stated that the proposed “Home Is Here” campaign would include interviews with individuals and businesses throughout the City. The proposed interviews would include downtown business owners, City officials, residents, and individuals who have moved to Pocomoke City and now consider the City their home. The Mayor explained that the campaign could provide an opportunity for individuals to discuss why they chose Pocomoke City, what they value about the community, their experiences living or doing business in the City, and what makes Pocomoke unique. The campaign would allow the City to highlight community history, local businesses, residents, and the various aspects of the community that contribute to Pocomoke’s identity. Mayor Nock stated that the proposed campaign would serve not only as a community storytelling project but also as a marketing and economic-development initiative. He explained that the material could be used to promote Pocomoke City to prospective residents, businesses, visitors, and other individuals who may be considering investing in or becoming part of the community. The Mayor discussed the importance of presenting Pocomoke City in a manner that reflects the community and its residents. He indicated that the campaign would highlight the positive aspects of the City while also recognizing that, like any community, Pocomoke has areas where improvements are needed. The purpose would be to provide an authentic representation of the City rather than simply producing a promotional message. The proposed campaign was also discussed as a means of strengthening the City’s overall identity and providing consistent material that could be utilized for future community outreach, economic development, tourism, business recruitment, and marketing efforts. Mayor Nock stated that the City could work with Maurice Waters and The Brand Digital Media to develop the concept and determine how the interviews and resulting videos or other media could be produced and shared. The campaign could potentially include multiple individual stories rather than a single video, allowing the City to continue adding content and highlighting different members of the community over time. The Mayor and Council discussed the value of allowing local residents and business owners to participate in telling Pocomoke’s story. The discussion recognized that individuals who have chosen to live, work, establish businesses, or remain in Pocomoke could provide firsthand perspectives regarding the community and its history. Mayor Nock further explained that the campaign could complement other City initiatives, including efforts related to beautification, economic development, community engagement, and promotion of downtown businesses. The Mayor and Council expressed general support for continuing to explore the proposed “Home Is Here” storytelling campaign and its potential use as a community and economic-development tool. No formal action was taken on the item. The discussion was held to further develop the concept and determine how the City could proceed with the proposed storytelling and promotional initiative.

Comments

a. Comments from the Audience

1. Keith Tull 2023 McMichael Avenue and a horse-stall renter at the Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds, addressed the Mayor and Council concerning a **\$500 fine** he received for

operating a track-dragging truck without watering the track. Mr. Tall stated that he had not previously received written rules or regulations concerning the requirement to water the track before use and expressed concern that he received a fine rather than a warning. Mayor Nock explained that the requirement to water the track before use had been in place and that the City had received complaints concerning dust generated from the track. Officials further explained that cameras had been installed at the Fairgrounds and that video footage was used to identify the individual operating the truck. Stephanie DuBrel addressed the Council regarding the policy and procedure. She stated that signs had been posted at the barn and track entrance requiring the track to be watered before use. Staff subsequently confirmed that the sign at the track entrance had been installed on July 1. The Mayor discussed the City's responsibility to address environmental concerns and the need for Fairgrounds users to comply with applicable rules and requirements. It was also discussed that the City had previously experienced difficulty determining who was responsible for track activity because of the absence of monitoring cameras. The Mayor explained that the rules concerning track use were intended to protect the City and surrounding residents from excessive dust and potential environmental violations. Mr. Tall continued to express concern regarding the amount of the fine and the timing of receiving notice of the requirement. No formal action was taken by the Mayor and Council on the fine during the meeting.

2. Nola Tullar 612 Walnut Street requested information regarding the process for determining whether a City street should be designated as one-way or two-way, specifically concerning Seventh Street. Planning staff explained that roadway width and available space for travel and parking are factors considered when determining whether a street can safely operate in both directions. Ms. Tullar discussed the existing configuration of Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Streets, as well as concerns involving parking, Public Works operations, traffic flow, and vehicles obstructing Seventh Street. The Mayor directed City Planner Ben Zito to review the matter and prepare a report regarding one-way streets and related traffic considerations. The Mayor stated that a copy of the report would be provided to the Council and the resident who raised the concern. Also, during the Mayor's comments Ms. Tullar addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the ongoing financial obligations and expenses associated with the Great Pocomoke Fair and Fair Committee. The resident expressed concern regarding the use of City taxpayer funds to address expenses associated with the Fairgrounds and stated that, from his perspective, taxpayers should not continue to be responsible for those costs. The resident stated that, if the situation continued in its current direction, the Fair Committee should be responsible for addressing its own financial obligations. He suggested that the Fair Committee could consider conducting a fundraiser or establishing a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds to address the costs associated with the Fairgrounds. The resident reiterated his concern that additional taxpayer dollars should not be used to resolve the Fair Committee's financial or operational issues.

b. Comments from the City Manager

1. Mayor Nock stated City Manager Brandy Matthews was not present at the meeting. The Mayor extended well wishes to the City Manager and her family.

c. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Council Member Hall – Council Member Hall thanked those in attendance and requested that the Council receive financial information concerning the City's budget, including information showing how the budget is performing throughout the fiscal year. The Mayor and Council discussed the timing of budget reviews. The Mayor indicated that financial statements could be provided and that the matter could be placed on a future Work Session agenda for discussion.
 2. Council Member Tull – Council Member Tull announced that the Pocomoke Public Library would host an open mic event on September 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Council Member Tull also encouraged residents to continue supporting events and activities taking place throughout the City.
 3. Council Member Downing – No comment
 4. Council Member Cottman – Council Member Cottman thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and offered no additional comments.
- d. Comments from the Mayor
1. Mayor Nock addressed the Council concerning recent discussions with the Great Pocomoke Fair Committee. The Mayor reported that he, the City Manager, and City staff had recently met with representatives of the Great Pocomoke Fair Committee to discuss the Fair, upcoming events, permitting, financial matters, and the use of City property. The Mayor stated that information had been presented indicating that the Great Pocomoke Fair was approximately \$60,000 in debt, but that subsequent information indicated that the Fair was not in debt, although its available financial resources were limited. The Mayor discussed concerns regarding the length and scope of upcoming Fair activities and stated that the City had discussed the possibility of reducing the length of the Fair. The Mayor also discussed questions that had arisen concerning liquor permits and stated that she had contacted Worcester County officials for clarification. The Mayor emphasized that the City intends to work with the Fair Committee and support successful events while ensuring compliance with applicable City, County, and State requirements. The Mayor then addressed environmental concerns at the Great Pocomoke Fairgrounds. She reported that the Maryland Department of the Environment had conducted a follow-up inspection on August 31, 2026, concerning a prior Title 5 violation and that an additional environmental issue had been identified. The Mayor stated that City staff would further investigate the matter and expressed concern regarding the City's potential liability and financial exposure if additional violations were incurred. The Mayor recommended that activity at the Fairgrounds be suspended until the City has a complete understanding of the outstanding environmental issues and the steps required for compliance. The Council discussed the status of the existing environmental violation, previous mitigation efforts, restrictions on use of the arena, and the need for additional communication with County officials and environmental authorities. It was proposed that a meeting be arranged with appropriate Worcester County officials, including Bob Mitchell and the appropriate County Commissioners, together with City staff, to determine the necessary steps for resolving the outstanding issues. The Mayor further stated that the City could not continue to incur expenses associated with addressing violations arising from activities at the Fairgrounds and that responsibility for compliance must rest with the parties conducting the activities. The Mayor emphasized the City's responsibility as property owner and the requirement that all Fairgrounds users

comply with applicable rules and regulations. Regarding the event scheduled for September 26, 2026, the Mayor stated that the matter would require further consideration and that he had made her recommendation concerning the event.

Motion to Adjourn to at 7:42pm made by Council Member Hall. Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Mayor Nock called for any unreadiness or discussion. Mayor Nock called for a vote. Hall – aye, Tull – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye.

Approved:


City Clerk