

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, September 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Councilwoman Monda Marsh
Council Members: R. Scott Holland,
C.L. Marshall, Diane Downing,
City Manager: John Barkley
Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Melinda Stafford (phone)

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 3, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of September 3, 2024 by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilman Holland. Motion passes.

Review and Approval Current Bill List

Motion to approve current bill list made by Councilman Marshall, seconded by Councilman Holland. Motion passes

Ordinance No. 2025-O-2 Cannabis Zoning Restrictions, Second Reading, Public Hearing, Vote

Mayor Nock begins the second reading of Ordinance 2025-O-2. The floor is then opened for the public hearing. There are no comments and no discussion. The Mayor congratulates Planning and Zoning and the Council for their work on this Ordinance. There is a motion on the floor to approve. Made by Councilwoman Marsh and seconded by Councilman Holland.

Consideration of Proposed Improvements to Winter Quarters Disc Golf Course

City Manager John Barkley invited Josh Maxfield from Eastbound Disc Golf to speak.

Pocomoke Model Train Club Lease

Paul Becker explained to the Council that the lease came due and the Club is asking to renew the lease. They were involved with 4th Friday, showcasing trucks and trains a few weeks prior. They are opened on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the public to visit the old train station. Also, the Club sets up at the Discovery Center from November to January where there has been 750 to 1100 people visit there. With that being said, he is asking for the city to renew the lease of the building for the model train club. Mayor Nock believes there should be a work session to discuss the lease. Not only this one, but all city leases. He stated that he is in full support of the Pocomoke Model Train Club. The City Clerk will contact Mr. Becker to work out a workshop or closed session date with the time of 6:00 pm.

Appointment of Ethics Commission Members

There are volunteers who would like to be on the Ethics Commission. Dr. Brown has stated at other council meetings that he would like to get reinvolved with the city. For District 2 Nikieta Mills. District 3 Timothy Taylor, who has worked for Pepsi for over 25 years. District 4, the nominee is Nola Tuller. She has a willingness to serve and she serves on other committees for the city. District 5 nominates Jen Lynndale who attends every council meeting. Motion to approve the nominees made by Councilman Marshall seconded by Councilwoman Marsh.

Special One-Day Alcohol Permits – Pocomoke Volunteer Fire Co.

Mayor Nock mentioned how the new process of working together with the fire company is working seamlessly. Councilwoman Marsh asks for clarification of the county alcohol application process. Mayor Nock explains and there is conversation between Councilwoman Marsh and Mayor Nock. Councilman Marshall asked if there was some way that the city could see what the county sees in their system. The Mayor replied that he didn't think so. The Mayor asks City Manager Barkley if he could provide the information, he replied that he doesn't have access to it. Mayor Nock informs Council and audience that the City Clerk is listening to the meeting. Mayor Nock asks for a small recess to pull the information from the Clerks office. Councilwoman Marsh made the motion for a 2 minute recess and it was seconded. After recess Mayor Nock provided the event for the Corbin wedding reception on 11/23/24 and the Batson wedding and reception on 11/02/2024. Motion made to approve by Councilman Holland seconded by Councilman Marshall. Motion passes.

Comments

a. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Councilwoman Downing – none
2. Councilman Marshall – Congratulate Ms. Donaldson the Marva Theater on a successful show. That was expected to draw around 80 people.
3. Councilman Holland –
4. Councilwoman Marsh – After Mayors comments, she asks Mr. Barkley when the due dates are for the RFP for the Safe Streets Initiative. The response was that the Pre-Bid meeting is on the 23rd of September and the Bids are due September 30th.

b. Comments from the Mayor

He congratulates Karah Lacey, Economic Development Coordinator. She is excited to bring this direction to the city. The city is looking for volunteers for the Economic Development Commission. Thank goodness there is some longevity within the council for the city to look through old emails and files. Councilwoman Marsh was one of the first members of the Commission and the framework is laid. Thanks to Councilman Marshall for helping to get this to this level and providing the documentation. There is a date and time for phase 2 for the CIPP Line Project. It will start in the Spring of 2025. It cannot start earlier as it is predicted that there might be bad weather and we do not want to cause more harm to our roads. It will start at 7th Street and go to Front Street. This will cover the majority of the town. Congrats to Brandy, the Finance Director, for making sure there was funding available. Pocomoke City is at a great place because of the great employees who show up day in and day out. Mayor Nock visited Mount Rainier for their town festival. He was amazed to see every single business in their town under their own tents show off their businesses. Everyone in town showed up to shop at these businesses and to celebrate Mount Rainier Day. He wants to have a 2025 Pocomoke City Day where all of the business does the same for the residents of the town. He asked for an update during the last meeting on the Comprehensive Plan and would like Mr. Barkley or Mr. Brandewie to speak on it. There was an email from Councilwoman Marsh detailing a conversation with a resident in her district with a complaint about an infested empty home. It hasn't picked up traction and the Mayor requests that it be looked into as it is outside of Code Enforcement's realm. The Mayor wants to make sure that all of the committees and departments are set up for success to serve the city and move forward.

Comprehensive Plan Report

Dan Brandewie spoke to Council about a questionnaire that the City has sent out. Also, GMB is working on the water sewer compacity plan sent to go to the planning commission for the Wednesday meeting. Included will be a bike trail for future recreation plans, cypress park flood plain study meeting, with input from the state discussing disturbances in the critical areas for the city. The Mayor has comments and advice for Mr. Brandewie.

c. Comments from the City Manager

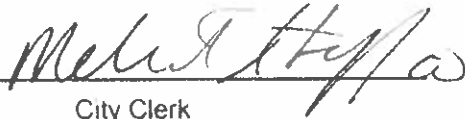
Thanks to the Mayor and Council for for making sure that they are getting proper updates. CIP is being looked at in addition to the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor asked about the Cybersecurity RFP. Mr. Barkley speaks about the Rental Registration and appreciates the landlord community. Appreciates all that Mike Wyatt has done with the program and enforcement throughout the city. Speaks to the issue infestation of pests, public health, and safety. Mayor and Councilwoman Marsh points out that there is talk of potential squatters around Pocomoke City. CIPP line phase 1 project is looking to be completed on time. Councilwoman asks for an update on the truck issue on Winter Quarter Drive. The response was there was a sign placed for the trucking. There is conversation between Councilwoman Marsh and Mayor Nock and the ending is to that is there may not be a way to prevent the issue. Councilwoman Marsh states she has done research of her own that may or may work.

d. Comments from the Audience

1. 127 8th st. -questions why he's paying taxes on 15 ft of yard that is included from the middle of the street. While people can do all sorts of things to his property. Andrew explains about the easement that all properties inherently have that. This will be investigated.

Motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm

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.