

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, January 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Diane Downing, Daniel J. Tarr, Esther Troast
City Manager: Jeremy Mason
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Councilmember Dan Tarr and Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of December 7, 2020

Motion to approve minutes for December 7, 2020 as written (Downing, Nock passed) @ 7:07 PM

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Tarr-aye, Downing-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Review and Approval Current Bill List

Motion to approve the bill list (Nock, Holland passed) @ 7:08 PM

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Tarr-aye, Downing-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approval of the Purchase of 15 (10 needed, 5 for back-up) New Fire Hydrants

City Manager Mason said the hydrants that could be repaired have been repaired. The others (10) need total replacement. Public Works has recommended that the City has 5 available for back up. They can be hard to get. He has worked with Finance to assure that funds are available without taking from the emergency fund. The City has received two bids. One from Ferguson and the Other from Bel Air Road Supply. The amounts of the bids are \$47,967.00 and \$43,485.00. Mr. Mason recommends that we accept the lowest bid. The equipment seems to be the same after checking into it. He would like to ask the Council to approve the purchase.

Motion to approve the bid for \$43,482.00 due to emergency need for the City (Nock, Troast passed) @ 7:15 PM

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Tarr-aye, Downing-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Comments from Council

Council collectively wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Troast requested an update on repairs going on at 10th Street. Public Works Director, Bill East advised the City Manager on Sunday that a back up was happening between 7th and 8th Streets. Rainfall is mostly the cause of the backup. There was also a blockage on Cedar St that was jettied out. There was also a second blockage that is thought to be probably near the main lift station also on Cedar St. That work will occur tomorrow. There will be a camera brought in to confirm the

blockage. Extra pump trucks were brought in because Pocomoke's one pump truck could not keep up. Mayor, Council and City Manager thanked Public Works employees and Director for working extended evening hours. Councilmember Troast said that there is still trench cleaning out that needs to be done in White Oaks. Public Works has not been able to get there because of all the rain, the ground is too soft but it will get done as soon as equipment can be there. It is a priority. Councilmember Troast also announced that she will run for reelection in District 5 and will be filing soon.

Councilmember Nock thanked Mr. East and Mr. Mason for the work. There was a resolution being worked on that only certain Councilmembers were working on. Councilmember Nock asked who was the person who drafted it and who sent out copies. He also wanted to know why he and Councilmember Downing did not ever receive a hard copy or an email. Councilmember Holland said that after a few meetings that did not go well, he requested that the Interim City Manager, find a draft of a code of conduct that could be updated to meet Pocomoke City's needs. Councilmember Tarr said that no one in Pocomoke created it. It was being revised for Pocomoke City. Councilmember Tarr had suggested some edits. To his knowledge, it was going to be presented to the entire Council at some point everyone will have seen it before bringing it for a vote. Councilmember Tarr was only concerned with the timing of completion and being sent to all Councilmembers before it came to a vote. It is not complete and therefore not discussed tonight. Councilmember Nock added that there were conversations that took place that he nor Councilmember Downing were left out of the planning process. That is not transparent and it is unethical. Councilmember Holland further said he thinks this is better discussed in closed session. He did not share a draft with the rest of the Council and is not sure why some got a copy and others didn't. His goal was to have smoother run meetings. In one particular meeting when some Councilmembers got angry and signed off of Zoom, that's when it was brought up that a code of conduct was needed. Councilmembers Nock and Downing said that they had no knowledge of it. Councilmember Downing said she wants to be clear that any ordinance or resolution will not stop her from saying what she needs to say at a meeting. It is still not clear why only 3 Councilmembers got it but 2 didn't. Councilmember Holland said that Councilmember Nock had previously commented that any code of contact will not apply to the Council. Councilmember Holland said it was never his intention to not present it to the entire Council before going public. Further discussion will be a subject for closed session.

Comments from Departments

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Holland, Troast passed) @ 7:40 PM

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Tarr-aye, Downing-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approved: *K. Michelle Beckett-El Soloh*

City Clerk