

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 6, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Diane Downing, Esther Troast,
Dale Trotter
City Attorney: Paul D. Wilbur
Acting Point of Contact: Jeff Gleason
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Curtis Milbourne and Call to Order @ 6:34PM:

Dale Trotter stated that as of today he and his wife have sold their house. Based on the City Charter since he no longer resides in his district, he must resign immediately. It has been an honor to serve the City along side of his fellow Councilmembers.

Letter from Mayor Morrison: This is a bittersweet evening and as the Mayor of Pocomoke City, I would like to say thank you to Dale Trotter for serving as a Councilmember for almost 6 years. He has always done so with a positive attitude and smile on his face. What some of you here tonight may or may not know is that several years ago Mr. Trotter served the City as a Pocomoke police officer and moved onto the county as deputy sheriff. He also served the country as a member of the Armed Forces and this new chapter of his life will have him serving in the highest capacity yet as he will be serving God as a missionary abroad. It has been my pleasure to serve with him and I think I can speak for the entire Council when I say we wish you well. Take our gratitude, love and prayers with you to Guatemala. Gods speed.

Review and approval of minutes from meeting of December 4, 2019 and closed session minutes from December 23, 2019:

Motion to approve minutes from December 4, 2019 and closed session minutes from December 23, 2019 (Toast, Downing passed) @ 6:34 PM

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

Review and approval of current bill list:

Motion to approve current bill list (Downing, Holland passed) @ 6:35 PM.

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

Pocomoke Middle School art teacher, Heather Riser and student, Curtasia Schoolfield, Recognition for Pocomoke City Christmas card design:

Councilmember Nock asked Principal Matthew Record, Art Teacher, Heather Riser and student Curtasia Schoolfield to come forward. Curtasia Schoolfield was presented with a framed Christmas card and a \$50.00 gift card and Art Teacher, Heather Riser was presented with a \$100.00 gift card for art supplies. Councilmember Troast said for the last 2 years the students have done a terrific job at creating the artwork for the Christmas cards. The cards are sent to various municipalities and businesses locally and across the country including the MD Senators and Governor's offices.

Adopt Emergency Resolution 528, Hebron Savings Bank, 1st Reading

Councilmember Nock read: **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION NO. 528**
Hebron Savings Bank Term Extension
Pocomoke City, MD

Motion to adopt Emergency Resolution 528 HSB credit term extension (Troast, Downing passed) @ 6:45PM

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

Council Comments

Councilmember Holland recently got a compliment about water improvement in the Heights from someone who has had issues with their water. The Recreation Committee had around 30 attendees for game night at the library. Game night at the MarVa Theater had some technical difficulties with the screen but attendees were able to play and enjoyed it, Mr. Holland is meeting with the County and making arrangements for the next game night. The next game night at the library is January 27, 2020, 6pm to 8pm.

Councilmember Troast wished everyone a Happy New Year and looked forward to the City being able to make progress and move forward in the new year.

Department Comments

Kristie Eberly, Circuit Rider, has been working with Mr. Trego, Acting Superintendent of Water/Wastewater Department, for MD Department of the Environment for grants for projects at Cedar St, Payne Ave, Dorchester St and 10th/Market St lift stations and updated for the wastewater plant. GMB is also part of the projects. She should have more information on the progress of the projects by next Council meeting. The grant applications are due January 31st.

Bill East, Public Works Director, he distributed quotes for a panel Christmas trees. They are on sale for the rest of this month and he would like Council to see if there is money in the budget to purchase one.

Karah Lacey, Events Coordinator, for the next 2 months she will be scheduling dates for bands, events and entertainment for the whole year. She has been working on the grant for downtown building improvement. The funds are double then what we received last year. She will be mailing to property owners in the downtown area.

Mike Thornton, EMS/Safety Director, had an ambulance go into the shop with fuel injector issues. It was sent to Tapman's due to the size of the job. At Tapman's, they found that 3 injector ends had come lose and punched a hole in a cylinder. The base filled up with diesel fuel that damaged the bearings. Tapman's determined that is was not fixable and that a new motor would be necessary. New motor and labor would be a \$25,000.00 job. Mr. Thornton called the company that manufactured the last ambulance. They have a new 2019 model available. He also contacted the lease company. They can finance the new one at 3.49% for 5 years. Payments would be \$4,335.00 monthly starting the next fiscal year. Finance Director Wilson said each ambulance call that is missed costs the City minimum of \$1,000.00. Worcester County also allows \$20,000.00 per year unbudgeted so we can afford to purchase this.

Motion to purchase 2019 ambulance under the specified terms (Troast, Nock passed) @ 6:50PM

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

Janet Wilson, Finance Director, we are looking at a new vacuum truck for \$147,500.00 delivered to us. The USDA approved \$80,000.00 to use for a vacuum truck. The USDA requires that we post an RFP for bids. Our RFP has been submitted to them and we are waiting for their approval to submit it to the Council before posting for bids.

Dan Brandawie, Planning Director, asked to schedule a public hearing for Ordinance 449, Zoning Text Amendments. Councilmember Nock said he is requesting the Council schedule it for the 2nd meeting in Feburary and not the first meeting to advertise and give people enough time to do research on the subject. Public hearing scheduled for February 24, 2020. Mr. Brandawie received 4 proposals for the USDA marketing grant. The City awarded the proposal to Smartgraphics for approximately \$12,000.00. The City met with 2 staff members from the Fire Marshall's office regarding conducting pressure tests on the service lines. Any lines that do not pass a standard drip test will have to be upgraded to a 1' line. ¾' lines can be grandfathered in as long as the pressure is sufficient.

Chief Brumley, Police Department, Chief Brumley introduced the new academy graduate, James Wood, PFC Wood is completing 240 hours of field training then will be out on his own.

Audience Comments

Ms. Susan Harrison, 2610 Cambrook Dr, asked to be updated on the train station. Councilmember Holland said we are waiting for a business outline plan and proof of liability insurance to be turned into the City Clerk to proceed. Ms. Harrison also has heard that Worcester County might be building a new library. Councilmember Nock said that the City is not directly involved at this point. The County contacted the Planning Director and asked for recommendations for available land.

Curtis Milbourne, 709 Clarke Ave, he stated he is interested in running for District 3. Councilmember Troast directed him to contact the City Clerk for filing instructions.

Motion to adjourn open session (Nock, Downing passed) @ 7:10PM

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

Approved: K.M. Beckett-El Soloh
City Clerk