

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 04, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President Esther Troast
Council Members: Diane Downing,
Dale Trotter, Todd Nock, George Tasker
City Manager: Robert L. Cowger, Jr
City Attorney: Paul D. Wilbur
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

Call to Order, Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 23, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from Council meeting January 23, 2019 (Nock, Tasker passed) @ 6:31 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Review and Approval of Bills:

Motion to Approve and pay bills on current bill list (Trotter, Nock passed) @ 6:32 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Erika Uebel for Telamon Corp: Not Present

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded to Worcester County IT Department:

Councilmember Esther Troast presents Brian Jones and colleague Peter Kupec for design of new website for Pocomoke City. Councilmembers stated they each have received numerous compliments already.

Approve Request for Larry Lynch to hunt on City Property:

Larry Lynch, 24 14th St, He has 2 issues to discuss. First of all, he is happy to live in a community where others also care about the community. He wrote a letter in July 2018 to thank the Council, City Manager and crews who did the work on the waterline on 14th Street. Water has improved 100%. He knows City Manager Cowger and Councilmember Tasker made their rounds with the Public Works Dept. He never heard any complaints from the crews even though they worked long hours. For people who don't know him, Mr. Lynch worked for SHA for 30 years. One of his jobs with SHA was rodent control. He has been to school to be a licensed trapper. State of MD has contacted him recently. Mr. Price from Board of Education informed him that muskrats are back in numbers in the sediment pond. He has a trap permit from State of MD and is asking for permission to trap on City property. There are washout problems beginning in several areas because muskrats are eroding the land. He does not carry a firearm and he and his family eat what they catch. Mr. Lynch also does humane trapping. He will take into consideration domestic pet and human traffic and trap in safe

areas. He would also like to introduce himself to the Police Dept so when they see him walking around, they will know who he is. Muskrat season runs until March.

Motion to allow Larry Lynch to set muskrat traps on City property (Tasker, Downing passed) @ 6:47 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Approve Special Event Alcohol Consumption for 6th Season of 4th Friday Art Stroll:

Councilmember Troast called Karah Lacey, Events Coordinator and Mark Scher, President of Downtown Association, forward. Mr. Scher stated everything downtown is looking great and thanked Mayor and Council for all the beautification being done. Sidewalks look great. Hopefully, hanging pots will also be done for spring. They have a website too that Karah is very active and does such a good job keeping up. When someone goes on a website, they don't want to see the same outdated information. She and Rusty Merritt are very on-top-of it doing excellent work all the time on social media. They also have billboards. Those are being redesigned. We have festivals coming up that are growing every year. Again, Public Works is doing a great job as is the Police Dept. He used to work for the Liquor Board and knows how easy it is to lose a permit/license. They are lucky to have the beer/wine permit. Ms. Karah Lacey stated they are approaching the 6th year of 4th Fridays in Downtown Pocomoke. Karah and the Downtown Association would like to request Council approval for beer/wine permit. Several cities are following a similar schedule. A little bit of history is the street festivals were inspired by neighboring towns. There are 1st Fridays in Snow Hill, 2nd Fridays in Berlin and 3rd Fridays in Salisbury. There are similar events in Chincoteague, Princess Anne and Crisfield and more. Most have live entertainment, vendors, stores stay open later and the sale of beer/wine. Beer and wine in non-glass containers is only allowed in designated areas. Karah and Mark Scher have both taken classes to be tip certified. The money raised from beer/wine sales allows them to advertise and have other events such as Spring and Fall festivals and Downtown beautification projects. No negative incidents have occurred due to beer/wine sales.

Motion to approve beer/wine sales at Downtown events (Trotter, Tasker passed) @ 6:53 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-nay, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; 1 opposed

Reschedule Next Council Meeting Date Due to President's Day Holiday:

Motion to reschedule next Council meeting to Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:30 PM (Tasker, Nock passed) @ 6:55 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Council Comments:

Councilmember Trotter stated he was in Colorado visiting family. Wanted to thank the City Manager for keeping him up to date with the work done on Bank Street.

Councilmember Nock wanted to personally thank Karah Lacey for the Facebook posts on Black Heritage month. She has been helping to edit and commends her for her excellent work.

Councilmember Nock hopes to see people offering posts on Hispanic, Irish and all Heritages found in Pocomoke so as a community we can embrace the cultures living here locally. Also, he and Councilmember Downing have both received calls regarding the Corner Store across from Bennie

Smith Funeral Home. Parking by the store on 4th St has been done since the Council can remember, Recently the Police have been issuing \$50.00 parking tickets. No new signs have been posted for No Parking. City Manager Cowger said he will contact Police Dept tomorrow morning.

Councilmember Tasker asked about the "If I were Mayor" essay contest and if Pocomoke Schools were involved. He also received good informational training from MML on opioid addiction and Narcan administration.

Councilmember Troast and the Mayor attended the MD Mayor's Assoc. Conference in Annapolis. She was able to share a lot of information with Councilmembers. In the information they presented, she learned that there are a lot of municipalities that have failing infrastructure. A lot of good information from AARP was also presented. A grant for our playgrounds came out of last year's attendance.

Audience Comments: None

Motion to adjourn Council meeting (Nock, Trotter passed) @ 7:06 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Adjourn to closed session under the provisions of Sec. 3-305 (b), (1) of the General Provisions Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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