

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held via Zoom and Facebook livestream on Monday, April 20, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock
Council Members: Diane Downing-not present, Esther Troast
R. Scott Holland
City Manager on Interim Basis: Jeremy Mason
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Councilmember Esther Troast, Call to Order @ 7:18PM:

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 6, 2020:

Motion to approve minutes from April 6, 2020 with one amendment from meeting held at City Hall to via Zoom (Troast, Nock passed) @ 7:30PM

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

Review and Approval of Current Bill List:

Motion to approve current bill list (Holland, Troast passed) @ 7:32 PM

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

Introduction of New City Employee Circuit Rider, Lafabian Marshall

Lafabian Marshall is the new Circuit Rider (Grant Writer) in Pocomoke City. It is a shared position with Crisfield. She has a degree in Business from Salisbury University. She formerly worked for the Maryland Department of Planning. She started last Tuesday and has already begun to work on grants. Welcome Lafabian!

Delmarva Power and Light Street Light Project

Interim City Manager said the Planning Director Dan Brandewie has been working on a project for improvements that includes a plan for electric car chargers to be placed downtown. There are 639 light poles in Pocomoke City. Delmarva Power and Light will give us 5% of the total amount to upgrade to LED with equates to 32 lights that can be done for free this year. Certain areas can certainly benefit from brighter lights. Mayor and Council have already made suggestions. Councilmember Nock said higher crime areas need to be considered. New Macedonia Church is a dark area. You can't see anything at night walking out of the building. Maybe it can be brought up at a City Council meeting so the public can have input also.

Stop Signs on Cedar St and 4th St

Interim City Manager said there has been input from Mayor, Council and the Police Department about this intersection. A lot of traffic goes through there and picks up speed. There are also a lot of children in that area. Public Works will order signs to install and do the road striping.

Motion to place stop signs at 4th and Cedar Streets creating a 4-way stop intersection (Nock, Troast passed) @ 7:45PM

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

Council Comments

Councilmember Troast requested that the hydrants at 14th and 11th streets.

Councilmember Holland said he received complaints that trash wasn't picked up on Friday in certain areas. Even though schedule changes are printed on the water bills they get thrown away. He would like it posted on the City Facebook page. Interim City Manager said he has already had a discussion with Public Works and notices will be posted on Facebook and the City Website.

Councilmember Nock said the Council has been getting a lot of questions about the new County Library. The City has no involvement with the Library with the exception of the County getting land from the City if they decide to. The City is learning about the process and what the County plans are. Surveys are being done. Interim City Manager Mason said Planning director Dan Brandewie has been working with the County and DHCD. There has been EPA Phase 1 testing done. Councilmember Nock said he is not for doing any testing that the City would have to pay for. The City has other priorities at this time.

Audience Comments

Jackie Ward, 108 Payne Ave, even though the Council is not in control directly of the decisions with the library situation, she does have some questions since it does involve the City. First, what are the Council's thoughts and preferences about the library renovation? Secondly, will there be a community forum? There was one planned but had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Will one be rescheduled? Community feedback is important to be heard in regards to this. Councilmember Nock said the appropriate person to contact is County Commissioner Josh Nordstrom. The City does own the properties in the City. Other than providing a list of available properties the Council has nothing to do with the library. Personally, Councilmember Nock thinks that the City could use a new library. There was an article that got this subject stirred up but as far as he knows the Commissioners have not even decided on a location at this point. Councilmember Troast stated it is a County project and, as already said, the City is not involved in any of the planning. Commissioner Nordstrom has communicated some things but a lot of decisions still need to be made and she hopes that they will include Pocomoke City. Ms. Ward said, based on that, she wanted to know what the Council's opinions are on the schematics that were offered up and will the City and residents be able to have input even though a grant has not been approved yet. Interim City Manager Mason said this project is still in infancy stages. It is a County project and still needs a lot of work done such as title searches. And to clarify, this would be a brand-new library building and not a renovation. Planning Director Brandewie has not communicated any site plans from the County at this point. Councilmember Holland said there will also be decisions to be made with the old building. Ms. Ward said based on schematics that have been shared with her there are some options for adding to or renovating the old library building. If a grant hasn't been submitted yet now is the time to get involved so that we can have a say on how it affects the City. Councilmember Nock said once the County Commissioners take it to a vote, the City will be able to be involved.

Mike Shannon, 907 Laurel St, when the State did the upgrade at the 2nd and Market Streets through a grant for the blind, was the intersection at Clarke and Market Streets supposed to be updated also. Rumor was that that upgrade could not be done because of the unstable buildings with supports leaning against them. Councilmember Troast said that is accurate about the one intersection being postponed. She is not sure if there was anything scheduled for the other intersection. Interim City Manager Mason said he will call SHA in the morning to verify if there is any more work to be completed for that project.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Nock, Troast passed) @ 8:00PM

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

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