

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, August 19, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock
Council Members: Diane Downing,
R. Scott Holland, Esther Troast, Dale Trotter-Not Present
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Keisha Dukes and Call to Order @ 6:31PM:

Reading and Review of Council Meeting rules of order:

1. Everyone in the audience will have 3 minutes to speak, if they choose.
2. There will be no interrupting or comments while other parties are speaking, after 2 violations you will be asked to leave.
3. When at the podium, you must state your name and address or you will be asked to sit down.
4. Speakers will face the council and at no time address the audience.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of August 5, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from August 5, 2019 with amendments to closed session minutes (Downing, Holland passed) @ 6:36 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-nay; 1 opposed; motion carried

Review and Approval of Current Bill List:

Motion to approve current bill list (Troast, Downing passed) @ 6:38 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approve Hunting Permit for Major East III

Councilmember Troast said Mr. East has been hunting these grounds for several years without incident. He always takes care of the property.

Motion to allow Major East III to hunt on City owned property on Old Virginia Rd and Dunn Swamp Rd (Troast, Holland passed) @ 6:40PM

Action: Major East III to bring current MD State hunting license for City records.

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Nomination to Worcester County Solid Waste Authority

Councilmember Nock said Worcester County has an opening to fill on the Solid Waste Committee. He recommends either City Clerk, Michelle Beckett-El Soloh or Public Works Director, Bill East to fill

the position.

Motion to nominate City Clerk, Michelle Beckett-El Soloh to serve on Worcester County Solid Waste Authority Advisory Board (Troast, Nock passed) @ 6:45PM

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

City Clerk accepted the nomination by City Council to serve on Worcester County Solid Waste Authority Advisory Board.

Discuss "Worcester Goes Purple" Proclamation Declaring September as Opioid Awareness Month
Worcester County will kick off National Recovery Month by "going purple." In September, organizers of Worcester Goes Purple will launch a month-long campaign to promote conversations on substance abuse. "Worcester Goes Purple" is an initiative supported by Worcester County Public Schools, Worcester County Health Department and Atlantic General Hospital. Partnering agencies are encouraging residents, business and community members to support the movement. Councilmembers think this is a good idea to raise awareness and recommend that a proclamation is issued for "Worcester Goes Purple".

Adopt Resolution 525, 2nd Reading, Create Economic Development Commission
Councilmember Nock read: **Resolution No. 525**
To Create an Economic Development Committee
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Motion to accept Resolution No. 525 as written and create an advisory commission to the Council for Economic Development in Pocomoke City (Troast, Downing passed) @ 6:55PM

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approve Street Closure for Bishop Isaac Jenkins Street Dedication September 7, 2019
Councilmember Nock announced the closure of Jenkins and Short Streets for the purpose of a dedication ceremony/celebration with key note speaker and reception to be held at New Macedonia Church at 2:00PM on September 7, 2019. Public is invited. There were no objections from the audience.

Motion to close Jenkins and Short Streets for the purpose of dedicating and renaming "Short St" to "Bishop Isaac Jenkins Street" from 2:00PM until end of ceremony (Downing, Troast passed) @ 7:05PM

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Council Comments

Councilmember Troast announced the first meeting of the Revitalization/Beautification Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30PM. Anyone who would like to attend will be welcome. Open to public.

Councilmember Holland said he has had a couple complaints regarding water in the Heights. Public Works has had to work around the heat but will be starting on Somerset St. There is also a Recreation Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 6:00PM. It is also open to public.

Councilmember Nock said there is an Economic Development Committee meeting. Date to be announced.

Department Comments

Public Works Director, Bill East said that there have been some issues with bulk trash. Residents are leaving more than 4 items and sitting items out too soon. The City might need to look at how to enforce those ordinances.

Events Coordinator, Karah Lacey said Concert in the Park events are all finished for the season. The next event is Shakespeare in the Park in September. Captain's concert and fireworks this Friday night and Boat Docking weekend is this weekend.

Planning & Zoning Director, Dan Brandewie said there is a Planning & Zoning meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 5:00PM. The agenda items are R-2 zoning and Hardwire in the industrial park to present site plans for a new warehouse. His department is working on filing grants for Community Parks & Playground funds and Cypress Park restrooms to be updated with grant funds. The City received \$12,000.00 in grant funds from USDA and would like feedback from Council and Committees on how it can be used.

Audience Comments

Curtis Milbourne, 709 Clarke Ave, said he has expressed his interest and wrote a letter to run for City Councilor to be appointed to Councilmember Trotter's seat if the need arises.

Marlene Milbourne, 709 Clarke Ave, commented that there is a noticeable racial division between residents and would like to see that resolved and the community come together to solve problems.

Ben Jelley, 12 2nd St, said there is a lot of traffic on certain streets. Thinks it would help to make certain streets in the area one-way. Asked if more patrol could be done to control the motorized bikes and speeding on Clarke Ave, 2nd St and Market St.

Susan Harrison, 2610 Cambrook Dr, said last week she called and asked for budget for FY18-19 to be posted on the City website. While the City Clerk did put up the posting, it did not show the spending detail per each department. She doesn't understand why, if there is nothing to hide, that information cannot be posted. She also asked, several weeks ago, for the bill lists to be published. They have not yet been published yet either. Councilmember Nock said, the Council doesn't feel comfortable publishing that info because it might be hard to understand why someone's name is on the bill list. Something might look like a payment when it's really just a reimbursement. If anyone has questions on the billing, it's best to come in and see the Finance Director so she can provide an explanation.

Kyle Pilchard, 4127 Stockton Rd, said he attended an open forum held in Berlin about what to do with a vacant building on the water. It was said at the meeting that Berlin had asked Pocomoke regarding grant requirements for specified number of employees, etc. in a restaurant in a City-owned building. Council member Nock said he had no recollection as to any conversations with Berlin.

Kathleen Palmer, 1929 Cedar Hall Rd, said she would like to read a letter from KeriAnn Foster regarding the train station building. She read that there are people in the City who have an interest in touring the train station building. They are interested in making it better and into a building that could be useful as a museum and art center for children. Items currently stored in train station building should be in locked storage.

David Fisher, 224 Morgans Ct, said he was born and raised here in Pocomoke City. He wants to know what we are planning to do with the kids? There is nothing for them to do or get involved with here. He sees that it is hurting the kids and they are more likely to get into trouble. The condition of

the basketball courts is poor. Councilmember Nock said that has been an issue. The courts are owned by Worcester County School Board and is not the responsibility of the City. The City has already put money into resurfacing and cleaning the courts at one point just to help maintain them. Mr. Fisher said the residents are becoming restless and will come up with some kind of plan with or without help from the City but he wants to work with the City to get some programs started. Mr. Fisher was invited to attend the Recreation Committee meeting.

Travis Ayres, 205 Market St, said he is interested in helping with the Recreation Department. He added that he also sees a lot of battery powered bikes speeding and with no lights on.

Eddie Young, 1603 Market St, asked what did Mayor have to discuss with Lt. Governor Boyd at the Discovery Museum recently? He also wanted to know what leadership we have in town at the moment? It has been commented to him that the City has regressed 50 years due to lack of up keep and doesn't see anything changing in the near future. The Council was supposed to have a doctor's note in December of 2018 as to the Mayor's condition. Why was that not enforced? Councilmember Downing said, what happened to the Mayor was back in 2017. *Councilmember Nock issued a warning to former Councilmember Tasker to stop what he was doing.* The City has been moving forward and if Mr. Young was really a friend of the Mayor, he would not continue to bring up the Mayor's health issues. Councilmember Nock said, we just aren't going to get into that topic tonight. Councilman Holland said it is hard to tell if Mr. Young is here for the right reasons. He has the papers of how much Mr. Young's company made before and after Mr. Cowger was here. He also grew up with Eddie's sons and played sports with them his whole life. He remembers what Mr. Young was like back then and would not want him involved with the Recreation Committee. *Councilmember Nock stated that after 2 warnings, according to the Code of Conduct for meetings, that a person will be asked to leave. Former Councilmember Tasker was asked to leave and before exiting Council Chambers said, you will pay for this.*

Monda Marsh, 1 2nd St, said she wants to remind the Mayor that he is protected by HIPPA laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Whatever reasonable accommodations need to be made, must be made for the Mayor.

Motion to adjourn open session meeting (Downing, Troast passed) @ 7:35PM

Acclamation: Trotter-not present, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

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