

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, October 21, 2019. 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: Roscoe Leslie  
City Manager Interim Basis: David J. Deutsch-Not Present  
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Deacon Wendell White, Moment of Silence in Honor of Senator Elijah Cummings and Call to Order @ 6:30PM:

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.
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 October 7, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from October 7, 2019 with amendment to strike 'after 2 violations you will be asked to leave' (Nock, Troast passed) @ 6:34 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, 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 (Trotter, Downing passed) @ 6:36 PM.

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

Nominate Board of Elections Commissioner:

Councilmember Nock said he sent an email to City Clerk, Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh stating that Councilmember Nock appointed the last Board of Elections Commissioner. We need to see when all the terms are up in case the Council has to appoint for multiple positions. Councilmember Troast said she thinks the 2 recent openings were both in District 1. Councilmember Nock said now the City has 2 Commissioners from District 3, one Commissioner from District 4, two Commissioners from District 1. Councilmember Downing said she nominated Sylvia Fletcher, who does not live in her District. Councilmember Troast said she contacted Patricia Forbush, who was an alternate and unable to serve at last election but will be available this year.

Motion to table nomination until next Council meeting on November 4, 2019 (Troast, Downing passed) @ 6:44PM

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

Introduce Resolution 527, Create Recreation Commission:

Councilmember Nock read: **Resolution No. 527**

**To Create a Recreation Commission**

**Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Councilmember Nock said he would like to suggest an amendment. Normally, the recommendations were brought to the Mayor. Recently, the Council has gotten away from that. Appointments should be made by the Council to represent each District.

Motion to table appointments until next Council meeting on November 4, 2019 (Troast, Nock passed) @ 6:44PM

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

Statement for Public Record Concerning Mayor's Old-Fashioned Christmas by the Vault Manager, Mr. Joe Hilton:

October 21, 2019

Mayor & Council:

My name is Joe Hilton, Manager at the Vault. I am writing on behalf of the owner of the Vault, Ms. Eileen Kirkwood. We would like the Mayor & Council to know that the City has Ms. Kirkwood's express permission to use the parking lot area located behind the store, The Vault, for space needed for the Mayor's Old-Fashioned Christmas event. Thank you.

Respectfully, Joe Hilton, Manager

Status Report on Speed Limit Reduction in School Zones on Old Virginia Rd:

Lt. Brian Craven, Pocomoke City Police Department, said the latest information is contact was made with the Secretary for the Worcester County Commissioner Purnell. The Commission will make a decision somewhere between November 1st to the 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 a decision will be made as to lowering the speed limits in front of the school zone areas on Old Virginia Rd. As soon as the Police Department has more information, they will make it public.

Council Comments on Staff Support at City Events:

Councilmember Trotter said he wrote an email to the City Manager in regards to City events. At the recent fall festival, attendance was very high. The items that were being given away to children ran out. There were 7 events on Delmarva during the weekend. For a City the size of Pocomoke, the number of people that showed up was overwhelming. A visitor to Pocomoke said it was the best event she ever attended with their family. A special thanks went out to the Event Coordinator, Karah Lacey and to the Police Dept and Public Works and to all the volunteers. It's that kind of event that will bring more business and more people to the community and that's the kind of thing that makes Pocomoke City shine.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Troast said her Revitalization/Beautification Commission will have a clean-up Pocomoke event this weekend. It's from 10AM to 2PM on Saturday, October 28, 2019. She thanked Vincent Leef, who created a flyer for the event. The Masonic Lodge donated hot dogs and enough donations were raised for other supplies. She would like to see everyone participate. You can clean up a certain area that you feel needs it or be assigned to an area. It's a start to taking pride in the community. Rain date will be the following Saturday. Information has been posted on the City website.

Councilmember Nock said he would like to see each new Commission and the DPA have pages added to the City website. The City Clerk said that adding those to the website is in process and she also needs to receive Agendas, Minutes and meeting dates so that she can post them publicly. He extended his thanks to all the members on the Commissions. Monda Marsh has been a trail blazer working tirelessly. He wants everyone to know their work is appreciated.

Councilmember Holland said there is a Recreation Commission this Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 6:30PM. The County hired a new person to focus on Pocomoke area activities.

Department Comments:

Mike Thornton, EMS/Safety Director, new stretchers for ambulances have been ordered. Still waiting for



delivery. Financial report has been forwarded to the County so they can receive funds.

Jeff Gleason, Human Resources Director, marina fueling station has been closed for the season. The ad for City Manager position has been posted as of October 11, 2019. Closing is November 4, 2019. It was posted on the City website, National League of Cities, International City Managers Assoc, MD Municipal League, MD American Job Center and have started to get responses. So far, we have received 3 responses.

Karah Lacey, Events Coordinator, she gave special thanks to Public Works and Police Department and CPL. Johnson, EMS Dept and Councilmember Trotter for all their help for a successful Fall Festival. This Friday, Pocomoke Middle School will have their walking field trip at City Hall. Four classes will do a mock council meeting. They pick a mayor and 5 councilmembers and we have an agenda for them to use. Ms. Lacey will be off but several city hall and Councilmembers will be here. She will be preparing for the next event, the Mayors Old Fashioned Christmas.

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director, reminded public that there is a Work Session for October 28, 2019 to review Zoning Text Amendments and 2018 Property Maintenance Code. A consultant is working on Brownfield Phase II testing so the City can better understand what the cleanup situation will be to apply for grants when they become available in December. We did not get a rejection letter for the "Safe Routes to School" preliminary engineering grant. It was said that we did not have an adequate concept plan but the City was encouraged to apply again in the spring. Councilmember Troast wanted to know if there was an Ordinance that prohibits parking of tractor/trailers on City streets. Planning Director Brandewie said commercial vehicles are not permitted beyond 2 hours for unloading. There is a complaint in White Oaks area and he is following up on finding alternative parking for that situation.

Lt. Brian Craven, Police Dept, there will be at least 5 officers on duty on Halloween, October 31, 2019 between 4:30PM and 8:00PM, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM they will be inspecting candy. They received a complaint about buzzards gathering at the fairgrounds again. Sound cannons will be turned on in the mornings and turned off in the evenings. They will monitor to see how well the schedule works. Chief Brumley and CPL. Horseman will be attending the 2019 International Association Chiefs of Police Conference in Chicago from October 25 through October 30, 2019. Topics will be retention of police officers and community policing. Lastly, the Police Dept. will have a program on December 14<sup>th</sup>, Shop with a Cop. Children can shop in Walmart with a police officer and be able to pick out some items for Christmas. Detail are still being worked out.

Frank Daniels, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, wastewater plant is working superbly, water treatment plant is doing great. Williams St well was cleaned last week. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> well to be cleaned this year. Main pump station is working fine. There are still issues with smaller lift stations that we are continuing to work on. Councilmember Nock said he and Councilmember Trotter were advocates for 2 programs, the Service Line Warranty Program and a Pharmacy Assistance Program for Senior Citizens. After doing some follow up, he found that both programs are close to kicking off. The Service Line Warranty Program minimizes cost of repair if maintenance is needed on the homeowner side. The program is \$11.38 per month. They will utilize local contractors. The City will also receive reimbursements for being the agent for the program. For the Pharmacy Discount Program anyone over the age of 55 qualifies for discounts on all prescriptions. These programs are through National League of Cities. City Hall will be providing more information on both of these programs.

Audience Comments:

Wendell White, 214 11<sup>th</sup> St, he had a suggestion. In light of Ms. Ann Granger who passed away yesterday and served Pocomoke as a mail carrier. Mr. White would like to do something to honor public service and seniors

and show that they are the backbone and strength of the community. Councilmember Nock and Councilmember Troast said it has been discussed having an event around Christmas such as help cleaning or decorating homes or adopting a senior.

Motion to adjourn open meeting (Nock, Trotter passed) @ 7:10PM

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

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