

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, November 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Marlene Milbourne and Call to Order @ 6:30PM:

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of November 4, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from November 4, 2019 (Troast, Trotter passed) @ 6:34 PM

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

Review and Approval of Current Bill List:

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

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

Introduce Ordinance 449, Zoning Text Amendments, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Councilmember Holland read:

**Ordinance 449**  
**Zoning Text Amendments**  
**Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Planning Director Brandewie added that the background to these changes to rear-yard setbacks in the R-2 Zoning District is something that Planning & Zoning staff recommended fairly recently. It was designed to allow more flexibility when adding room additions and new dwellings in R-2 Districts. Staff felt like 40' yard setback was a little excessive. The other two zoning text amendments began in 2015 with a consultant and these two will allow more flexibility for residential units with upper floors and also with B-1 downtown districts with conditional use. It will allow the owner to avoid public hearings and just be heard by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The third change that Planning & Zoning is recommending is more flexibility with Home Occupation, Type 1 and Type 2. There will still be a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Public Hearing and advertisement before the adoption of Ordinance 449.

Pocomoke Area Model Train Club Proposal:

Chip Choquette and Paul Becker presented for the Pocomoke Area Model Train Club. Mr. Becker said Mr. Choquette started the Winter Wonderland Polar Express seven years ago. Last year at Delmarva Discovery Museum, 987 people came to tour the train displays. Model railroading involves all disciplines such as carpentry, circuits, art work, etc. They would like to offer for community workshops. The club is looking for a place to set up permanently where they can interact with the community. There will be no cost to visitors. It is an opportunity to promote Pocomoke City and also be open during 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays and other City events. Councilmember Troast met with the club over the

weekend and saw how excited the group was talking about possibilities and plans. She knows that they would do a great job running the project. Councilmember Trotter asked about hours and if it would be run similarly to some of the other model train displays in other cities.

Action: Table proposal until legal details and insurance issues can be researched. Tentatively on Agenda for 12/03/2019.

#### Council Comments

Councilmember Trotter said the next Mayor & Council meeting is scheduled for the same night as the Christmas parade on December 2, 2019. The Council meeting should be moved to Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Motion to reschedule next Mayor & Council meeting to December 3, 2019 at 6:30PM (Trotter, Downing passed) @ 6:45PM

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

Councilmember Troast said she and Public Works Director might have found a Christmas tree for the City. Also, Principal Matthew Record from Pocomoke Middle School sent her a picture from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Art class to be used for the City Christmas cards. All Councilmembers present were in agreement to use the picture.

Councilmember Holland had a conversation with Josh Nordstrom, Worcester County Commissioner. It has been noticed that a lot of house numbers are missing from homes. Numbers are supposed to be visible for 911 addressing reasons. Planning Director Brandewie said that once the new property maintenance code is adopted those issues can be addressed.

#### Department Comments

Mike Thornton, EMS/Safety Director said new stretchers were finally received and installed in the ambulances. He had statistics from July 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019. There were 459 calls, transported 288 to hospital, 171 calls to assist Fire Dept, refusals, false alarms. In 4 months total miles traveled was 22,310. This is why ambulances are always being repaired. Pocomoke City has the farthest transport distance of any City in the County. He will bring in monthly totals for the record. They transport to PRMC, AGH, McCready and as of 2 years ago they transport to Riverside in Onancock, VA.

Janet Wilson, Finance Director, stated that the City has been working with GMB and are looking at a vacuum truck under a USDA grant. There is \$87,000.00 potentially available from USDA. Several quotes have been obtained. The best quote was for a brand new truck for a total of \$149,000.000.

Kelly Trego, Water/Wastewater Acting Superintendent, said they had an emergency repair to a lift station at America's Best Value Inn. The steel pipe needed to be replaced. It is now fully operational.

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director, said he is working with the City Attorney to update the Property Maintenance Code and a fines and penalty fee sheet will be associated with that. The list of vacant and abandoned properties is also being updated. Some notices will be renewed. Controlled burn at 508 Bonneville Avenue was successful.

Lt. Hancock said the Police Department would like to ask the Council to consider donating the wildlife cannon to the fairgrounds. They would be responsible for maintenance and operation. This week is American Education week. The Police will be interacting mainly with elementary and middle school students. The department is preparing for the Christmas parade. The Chief will be taking part in the donating holiday meals from Red Roof restaurant. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Chief will be attending a meeting at the Eastern Shore Justice Academy with the NAACP. The 4 lower shore counties will all attend. The discussion will be on relationships between the public and law enforcement.

Audience Comments

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Trotter, Downing passed) at 7:00PM

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

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