

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, November 4, 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
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Deacon Wendell White 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.

Guest Speaker, Senator Mary Beth Carozza:

Senator Mary Beth Carozza thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to hold a listening hour in City Hall. She wasn't sure what to expect but she was encouraged to see how many people came out to share their views and hear what was going on. It gave her an opportunity to describe her district, which includes all of Worcester County. It also allowed good discussion on forming partnerships. She heard concerns about several issues in Pocomoke City tonight and would like to offer her partnership on some of the priorities such as improving the water in Pocomoke City. She heard comments on economic development projects and wants to commend the Council and citizens on the cleanup project that took place on Saturday. Those are the kinds of projects are where we need to include our elected officials, private sector, faith-based partners and civic organizations. As Pocomoke City continues to identify its challenges and what our options are on how to address those challenges, she wants the citizens to know that she will be available.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 21, 2019 and Work Session on October 28, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from October 21, 2019 and October 28, 2019 with amendment of one spelling correction (Troast, Trotter passed) @ 6:45 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 (Downing, Troast passed) @ 6:46 PM.

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

Adopt Resolution No. 527, Create Recreation Commission, 2nd Reading:

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

To Create a Recreation Commission

Pocomoke City, Maryland

Councilmember Nock said rewording that had been suggested was not in Resolution 527. City Clerk asked City Attorney to advise if requested wording change is consistent with the City Charter.

Motion to approve Resolution 527, Create Recreation Commission, with wording consistent with Charter (Downing, Holland passed) @ 7:00PM

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

Action: City Attorney to follow up with City Clerk regarding wording of Resolution No. 527, Create Recreation Commission.

Nominate Board of Elections Alternate Commissioner:

Motion to table nomination of Board of Elections Commissioner until Council determines how many positions are vacant (Troast, Nock passed) @ 7:10PM

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

Council Comments:

Councilmember Troast thanked her Revitalization/Beautification Commission for the job they did on the clean-up effort. She is honored to be a member of the Commission. There were 42 people who showed up and they collected over 90 bags of trash. They cleaned up the areas around the community garden, Costen House, behind Tractor Supply, nature trail, downtown area, behind H & H Furniture, Ace Hardware, Cypress Park and Walmart where trash cans have been removed. She is proud of all who participated.

Councilmember Trotter thanked Senator Carozza for her time tonight. Prescription cards for discounts at pharmacies from NLC are available on the hall table.

Department Comments:

Bill East, Director of Public Works, a quote to start paving in the Heights and other areas that were dug in town needs Council approval is needed for that. A quote for White Oaks is still needed and can be presented at next Mayor & Council meeting.

Karah Lacey, Events Coordinator, 2019 Community Legacy Building Improvement grant that benefited 147 Market St and 129 Market St is being closed out with the State. Other property owners will be able to apply for the grant. She is working on the next City event which will be the Mayor's Old-Fashioned Christmas.

Councilmember Nock said the Council is working in partnership with Mike Shannon to create a Council event for Christmas. That will be a boat parade with a tentative date of December 21st, 2019. More information to come.

Jeff Gleason, Human Resources Director, on October 25, 2019 the City hosted a mock council meeting with 4th grade classes from Pocomoke Middle School. The students picked a mayor, councilmembers and an attorney. Meeting rules were reviewed and they had a mock agenda. They ran a meeting and were allowed to ask questions. It was a very positive experience for the students and the teachers did an excellent job.

David Deutsch, Interim City Manager, the County is gearing up for the 2020 Census and established a complete count committee. Council might be asked to appoint some residents to a local arm of that committee. The Planning Director will be attending the County meeting on November 21, 2019. The County believes that Pocomoke might have been under-counted in 2010. It is important to be counted correctly because those numbers are related to funding decisions and other financial aspects of government.

Mr. Deutsch asked the Council to approve the quote for trench paving in the Heights. The amount minus White Oaks is \$59,000.00. That money is budgeted. We talked with other companies but they would not bid because they wanted curb to curb paving and not just trench repair.

Motion to accept proposal from Bozman Paving & Grading for \$59,000.00 to begin trench paving in the Heights (Trotter, Troast passed) @ 7:25PM

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

Mr. Deutsch said last item is a personnel change. Mr. Frank Daniels, Superintendent of Water/Wastewater has accepted another position in Delmar. Kelly Trego, will be appointed as Acting Superintendent. The department is in good hands and will continue to operate and remain in environmental compliance.

Mike Thornton, EMS/Safety Director, he has received parts for the new stretchers but still waiting on the main stretchers.

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director, the City had a productive Work Session regarding the Zoning Text Amendments and Property Maintenance Code. Still waiting to see if there is any feedback from the public. Phase II testing is still going on at the Armory building. They have located underground storage tank is and are conducting testing on groundwater sampling. An RFP has been developed for marketing to hire a firm to do additional marketing and branding for the City's website and social media. We had a successful controlled burn at 415 Oxford St. The City is appreciative of the Fire Department's work to save the City money on demolition costs. Next building will be 508 Bonneville St on Wednesday, then 618 Clarke Ave, then 704 4th St.

Kelly Trego, Water/Wastewater Acting Superintendent, main pump station is running great. There is an inspection tomorrow at 9:00AM by MDE. Councilmember Troast asked of the status of the pump on Cedar St? Mr. Trego said that pump will be in place until a permanent fix for the reoccurring problems that occur there. A solution is in process.

Chief Brumley, Pocomoke City Police Dept, Halloween at the Police Station was successful. Quite a few families took advantage of having their candy scanned. The officer in the academy is doing well academically and other areas. He enjoyed the police conference in Chicago and is glad to be back on the Eastern Shore.

Audience Comments:

Kerri Ann Foster, 813 Market St, she understands the importance of changing zoning ordinances to allow multi-family units. She has investors that will not invest in large single-family homes that will not rent because they aren't in good areas. The other issue for investors is that the rental property in Pocomoke has a higher rate than anywhere else.

Dawn Sparrow, 1405 Princess Anne Lane, brought items that had been discolored due to water issues. It seems that water is getting worse rather than better. Filters are supposed to last 3-6 months. Hers only last 1 month. She has rust flakes in the bottom of her washing machine. She recently had to have a lot of her hair cut off due to being damaged and discolored by iron. She had to have a treatment done. The pipes on her street have not been replaced yet. Bill East said his crew is working on her street now should be done by the end of the week. Councilmember Nock said he would like to see a projected schedule posted of when and the location of digging will be done.

Joshua Turner, 205 15th St, pipes on his street have been changes but he still has not seen a change in the water at his residence. Councilmember Holland said he lives in the Heights and is in the same position. The City had a loop system and the heights is still getting water from other areas. Mr. Turner said it doesn't make sense to replace pipes where the problem isn't. Repairs should have been started at the other end. Kelly Trego explained that on a continuous loop system, it doesn't matter which side you start on, until the whole loop is replaced you can pull in bad water from either side depending on the path of least resistance.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Nock, trotter passed) @ 7:20PM

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

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