

Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The meeting was called at 6:38 pm.

Present: Mayor Todd Nock
First Vice President: Esther Troast
Council Members Present: Diane Downing, Monda Marsh
Council Members Not Present: R. Scott Holland
(C.L Marshall and Brooke Cottman joined the Council at the Dais after being sworn-in)
City Manager John Barkley
City Attorney Andrew Illuminati

Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer by Councilmember Downing and Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 18, 2024

Motion to approve minutes as written for March 18, 2024 (Marsh, Downing, passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Review and Approval of Current Bill List

Motion to approve current bill list (Downing, Troast, passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Statement and Summation of Violation Issued by the Maryland Open Meetings

Compliance Board, pursuant to the Maryland General Provisions Code, Article, §3-211

Mayor Nock read a Statement and Summation of Violation Issued by the Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board.

Service Appreciation Award for District 5 Councilmember

Mayor Nock presented Councilmember Troast with a Service Appreciation Award. Mayor Nock expressed his appreciation for Councilmember Troast's dedication and service to the citizens of Pocomoke City. Councilmember Troast accepted the award and thanked the people of Pocomoke City for their support during her nine-year term on the Council, and wished our new Council members the best.

Swearing-in Ceremony for District 4 and District 5 Council Members Elect

Mayor Nock delivered the Oath of Office to Brooke Cottman. Ms. Cottman was sworn in as a member of the Pocomoke City Council.

Mayor Nock delivered the Oath of Office to C.L Marshall. Mr. Marshall was sworn in as a member of the Pocomoke City Council.

Appointment of First and Second Vice-Presidents of the City Council

Nomination of First Vice-President

Motion to Appoint Councilmember Marsh as First Vice-President (Downing, Cottman, passed)

Acclamation: Marshall-aye, Cottman-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Nomination of Second Vice-President

Motion to Appoint Councilmember Downing as Second Vice-President (Marsh, Cottman, passed)

Acclamation: Marshall-aye, Cottman-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Council Comments

Councilmember Marshall thanked the citizens for their support and noted that public participation is an important part of the City Council process and he will do his best to move things forward so that the citizens participate in the government process.

Councilmember Cottman thanked everyone for the support received on election day and pledged to do her very best for the City.

Councilmember Marsh honored Esther Troast as the “Heart of Pocomoke” and expressed appreciation for her service. Esther will be truly missed. Councilmember Marsh also stated that she is excited to work with our new City Council members.

Councilmember Downing stated that she will miss Esther on the Council, and noted the great times they had at the Annual Maryland Municipal League Conference each year in Ocean City. Councilmember Downing also thanked the citizens of Pocomoke City for getting out to vote in the elections.

Mayor Nock thanked Esther for a job well done, and encourage her to continue to serve by joining one of the City’s committees. Mayor Nock stated that he is happy for our new City Council members, and acknowledged their efforts to put themselves out there, knocking on doors and campaigning. Mayor Nock stated that is it time to end the back door politics, and that we all can make good things happen by working together. Mayor Nock asked the new members of the Council to “write yourselves a letter” tonight and keep it to read during difficult times when you may feel like you want to quit, as it will remind you of this very positive time tonight. Mayor Nock encouraged those in the audience to “not let this be your last night visiting,” as we need to hear from you.

City Manager Barkley expressed appreciation for Esther Troast’s support and guidance over the past months and for her support to City staff throughout her Council tenure. Esther was always a great champion for the City staff. City Manager Barkley welcomed the new Council members on board and noted that the City staff is dedicated to providing the best service possible to the citizens and the City Council members.

Chief Hancock presented Esther Troast with a certificate of appreciation for her service to the City and support of the Police Department. Chief Hancock noted the Police Department has come a long way since he became the Chief, and that it could not have been done without the support of Esther and her fellow City Council members. Chief Hancock congratulated the new Council members, and noted that he will remain available anytime Council needs anything. Chief Hancock presented a Pocomoke City Police Badge to Esther as an expression of appreciation.

Comments from the Audience

No comments were received from the audience.

Mayor Nock noted that we will be entering into an agreement for a study of flooding at Cypress Park, and that we all must do our part this to save the park. The harsh reality is that if we don't, DNR can take it over. We will be scheduling a work session and invite County Commissioner Abbott and Bob Mitchell, Environmental Programs Director for Worcester County Government, to join us as we begin the process. Mayor Nock thanked Planner Dan Brandewie for his proactive efforts on the matter. Mayor Nock encouraged all to please follow the Pocomoke City Government page on Facebook, and stated that he will begin a "walk and talk with Mayor Todd" series to be held each month from May through August. Mayor Nock urged everyone to work together on things to help people make a better life, and that the Council will continue working on long-term and short-term strategies to make this happen.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Downing, Marsh, passed)

Acclamation: Marshall-aye, Cottman-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Approved: John C. Barkley
City Manager