

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, April 4, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison  
First Vice President: Esther Troast  
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Daniel J. Tarr,  
Todd J. Nock, Diane Downing  
City Manager: Jeremy Mason  
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati  
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

### Prayer by Councilmember Esther Troast, Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order

#### Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 21, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for March 21, 2022 as written (Tarr, Troast passed)

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

#### Amendment to Minutes from December 6, 2021:

Motion to amend minutes from December 6, 2021 to reflect a request to use ARPA funds in lieu of a loan for new ambulance (Troast, Holland)

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

#### Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

#### Swearing in of Board of Elections Supervisors:

John Haynie, Courtney Eichorn, Lendora Bonneville and Marsha Strauss were sworn in by mayor Susan Marshall Harrison for a two-year term from January 2022 until January 2024 as Pocomoke City Municipal Board of Elections Supervisors.

#### Update on Water Pump Grant Project:

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil gave an update on the grant. The Council adopted Ordinance No. 459 for a USDA loan for the water pump project. M2 Construction has been selected to complete the work. The total of the project is \$1.9 million dollars.

#### Update on Armory, Recreation Center and Sustainable Communities Project:

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil gave an update on the grant. The Sustainable Communities Project requires that to be eligible for grant funds, we must have a community plan that is updated every 5 years. It includes the Armory, the Façade grant and other grants. Mrs. McNeil will email

information to the Council so they can see the foundation where we are starting. The City is rewriting a lot of plans into the modified version. It can be modified if the Council feels that they want to include something. It will have to be presented as a resolution on or around May 2nd with a second reading and hold a public hearing for citizen input. This will enable us to apply for the grant and meet the deadline.

Update on the New EMS Ambulance Award:

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil gave an update on the grant. The purchase request has been submitted. The purchase with ARPA funds was approved by Council on February 22, 2022 for \$108,000.00 and was actually \$102,292.00. The amounts changed a little bit and was less expensive than originally estimated. The grant funds from USDA remained at \$306,600.00.

Council Approval for Tax Abatement for Property ID# 01-010352, Deborah & Dean Guy:

Mr. Mason said the abatement list is a list of properties that do not use city services. It does not excuse back taxes. It just covers city public facilities. These properties have always been up to date with nothing owed to the City. There have not been any new properties added in a while. Councilmember Nock said new items cannot be allowed to be added to the agenda after the deadline (which is noon on Fridays before the meeting). He has also requested a database so that documents can be easily accessed. He has had to abstain from votes because he could not open the meeting packet. And is unprepared for the meeting. The letter was dated in 2021 but was turned in too late for last year's budget. There were always 3 properties but 2 parcels were presented together as one lot so it was separated into both lots on paper. Councilmember Holland wanted to know what the difference is if utilities are billed separately. Mr. Mason said it is for taxes. These properties are outside of City limits and can be annexed in if requested.

Council Approval for Tax Abatement for Property ID# 01-013289, South Pocomoke Development, LLC

Council Approval for Tax Abatement for Property ID# 01-034820, South Pocomoke Development, LLC

Motion to grant tax abatement request effective July 1, 2022 on 2 South Pocomoke, LLC properties, Parcels# 01-013289 & 01-034820 and 1 property listed for Deborah & Dean Guy, Parcel# 01-010352 (Tarr, Downing)

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

Public Hearing and Adoption for Resolution No. 546, Enterprise Zone Renewal, 2nd Reading

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie, is up for a 10-year renewal. It will expire in June of 2022. There were a few corrections made and eligible, new business properties were added.

Dan Brandewie read:                   **Resolution No. 546**  
  **Enterprise Zone Renewal Application**  
  **Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Mr. Mason said this is no cost to the City. It took several months to collect data from the County and redefine boundaries. Several businesses have already benefited from this program such as Hardwire and Harbor Freight. Mr. Brandewie said that Snow Hill and Berlin also is up to reapply soon. Public Hearing opened. There were no comments from the public. Public Hearing closed.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 546, Enterprise Zone Renewal Application (Nock, Tarr)

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

Comments from Council

Councilmember Holland Thanked Sea Hawks Sports Center for providing bait for the Teach a Kid to Fish event. The Delmarva Discovery Museum golf tournament to raise money will come up on April 30, 2022. The Walking Community event will come up soon and strongly encourages attendance.

Councilmember Nock said the City had an ex officio member on the Board of the Sturgis One Room School House. That person is no longer with the City and would like to see someone else step up from the City and join the Board. There will be a Juneteenth event put together and held in Cypress Park. Pocomoke passed a resolution to recognize Juneteenth before others in the state did. We need to make the event a success to show that Pocomoke is a thriving community. Visitors to the Sturgis One Room School House is as follows: 46 during Delmarva Heritage Festival, 13 during the Delmarva Heritage Festival the next day and 76 during Spring Fest.

Councilmember Downing thanked Bill East and Public Works for coming to her rescue. She sang "Happy birthday" to Bill East.

Councilmember Tarr said he thanked everyone for making the Spring Fest event a success. He enjoyed it as a family. He saw a lot of people out enjoying the event.

City Manager Comments

Mr. Mason thanked Karah Lacey, Chief Hancock, the Police Department and Public Works for all they do to make the events successful. He estimated 500 people in attendance for Spring Fest.

Audience Comments

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Nock, Downing)

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

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