

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, June 5, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Todd J. Nock
First Vice President: Esther Troast
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Diane Downing
and Monda Marsh
Interim City Manager: John Psota
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of May 25, 2023

Motion to approve minutes from May 25, 2023 as written (Troast, Downing passed)

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

Review and Approval Current Bill List

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

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

Reallocate Approved ARPA Funds for Different E.M.S. Equipment

Interim City Manager said that EMS already had funds from ARPA approved to purchase equipment. Equipment has expiration dates and new equipment needs to be purchased. The equipment that the funds that were originally earmarked for were purchased by the County. Now, new breathing equipment is needed. EMS is requesting to use the same funds to purchase new breathing equipment.

Motion to allow \$20,000 earmarked ARPA funds to purchase different equipment, breathing equipment (Troast, Holland passed)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. A-03-23, 541 Ocean Highway Annexation, 2nd Reading

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie, read: **Resolution No. A-03-23**
541 Ocean Highway Annexation
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. A-04-23, 541 Ocean Highway Annexation Plan, 2nd Reading

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie, read: **Resolution No. A-04-23**
541 Ocean Highway Annexation Plan
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Deborah Ullmann, Attorney for the Annexation client, said if anyone has questions, she is available to answer them. The thing that she doesn't agree with, is that the city process requires a 45-day wait

period before the annexation goes into effect. She looks at it as more like a court order and should go into effect immediately.

Introduce Resolution No. 579, Budget FY 2024, 1st Reading

Mayor Nock read: **Resolution No. 579**
Budget FY 2024
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 580, Fees, Fines Schedule FY 2024, 1st Reading

Mayor Nock read: **Resolution No. 580**
Fees, Fines Schedule FY 2024
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 581, Community Legacy Downtown Improvement Grant FY 2024, 1st Reading

Mayor Nock read: **Resolution No. 581**
Community Legacy Downtown
Improvement Grant FY 2024
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Public Hearing & Introduce Ordinance No. 461, Amendment to Zoning Boundaries & Zoning Map from B-2 to R-2, to Create Three Residential Lots Fronting Dorchester Avenue, (D. Clabaugh - owner), 1st Reading

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie, read: **Ordinance No. 461**
Amendment to Zoning Boundaries & Zoning Map from B-2
o Create Three Residential Lots Fronting Dorchester Avenue
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Mr. Brandewie brought it to the attention of everyone that usually Public Hearings are held during the second reading. Because of scheduling, the Public Hearing is being held at the first reading. All legal advertising requirements have been followed. Mayor Nock said he thinks that we should not deviate from the ways that things are done. All citizens need enough time to be able to respond. The City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, said that all advertising requirements have been met and the city can still accept public comment up to the second reading.

Comments from Council

Councilmember Holland said if anyone goes walking on the nature trail, be careful of boards sticking up. There are some in need of repair. Congratulations to George Ritchie who is retiring from Pocomoke E.M.S.

Comments from the Mayor

He would like to point out that there is an email that anyone can use to report things of concern. The email is reportconcerns@pocomokemd.gov.

Comments from City Manager

Interim City Manager, John Psota, said he appreciates everyone's patience with Market Street. It should be just a few more weeks before opening it back up.

Comments from Audience

Caryn Abbott, Worcester County Commissioner, said since being sworn in, she has learned so much more about how local government works and has more to learn. As an elected representative of District 1, her campaign platform consisted of three main goals in mind. Bring revitalization to the area through economic development, keeping kids off the street and attract good paying jobs to the area. So far, she has been successful with a program at the Middle School and she started the Future Warriors program with the parks & Recreation that has one full-time dedicated individual. She would like to develop the industrial park to bring the jobs related to Wallops growth. To bring economic development to Pocomoke, she needs the help of citizens. The elected Mayor & Council has to let her work for the people. How do we move Pocomoke forward? Are we open for business and business friendly? Most people don't understand the hours that must be put in to truly revitalize an area. We all have to be available to hear from developers when they want a meeting and show interest in our area. She looks forward to working with the city is requesting to be put on a schedule for a meeting along with Commissioners Weston and Fiori to discuss revitalization.

Mayor Nock said he can only speak for himself in saying that the Commissioner was saying that the Mayor & Council is not willing to put in the hours. He is available and willing to put in the extra time where needed. We have to realize that everyone has schedules and it takes coordination from everyone.

Comments from Chief of Police

Chief Hancock wanted to congratulate two officers Cpl. Anthony Rhode and Ptlm. Tyler White for seizing almost 2 pounds of marijuana on a traffic stop. He wanted to give a shout out to Mike Shannon and Jaime Evans on their Dockjam event. Everything went well. Officers and K9s from other departments also assisted. The only thing that needs to be worked on is traffic control at the crosswalks after the event lets out. A new phone system has been put in at the police station to replace an old, outdated system. If someone calls are missed, they are transferred to the next person in line and also sent to emails. He will have officers attending a stress management course and other officers attended an effective communications class. The website has been updated to show Accountability Board complaints. He modeled the format after the Wicomico Sherriff's website. He had a meeting with Red Speed to see about moving one of the cameras. A study needs to be done. Child safety seats will be given out and there will be a trained officer at the PD available to install seats or to inspect them. Officers will do a meet and greet at Greenwood Elementary School. Ptlm. Fitchett has organized a basketball tournament and gave a presentation on how it works. The goal is to give a scholarship to a senior.

Motion to adjourn (Troast, Downing passed)

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

Approved: K.M. Beckett-El Soloh

City Clerk