

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, September 18, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Present: Mayor Todd J. Nock
First Vice President: Esther Troast
Council Members: R. Scott Holland,
Diane Downing-Not Present, and Monda Marsh
Interim City Manager: John Psota
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

A Closed Session was held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The Closed Session was voted to be held unanimously by the Council under the provisions of **Sec. 3-305, (b) (1)** **“To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.” (7)** **“To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.”** The topic to be discussed is “EMS Department”. Each Councilmember was present, Todd J. Nock-Mayor, John Psota-Interim City Manager, Andrew Illuminati-City Attorney, Michelle Beckett-El Soloh-City Clerk and Ryan McCready-E.M.S. Director.

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of August 14, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for August 14, 2023 as written (Holland, Troast passed)

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

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

Public Hearing & Approve Resolution No. 583, Declare Property Known as the “Fish Farm” 1945 Pocomoke Beltway as Surplus, 2nd Reading

Mayor Nock read: **Resolution No. 583**
Declare Property Known as the “Fish Farm”
1945 Pocomoke Beltway as Surplus
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Public Hearing opened. There were no comments or objections from the public. Public Hearing closed.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 583, Declare Property Known as the “Fish Farm” 1945 Pocomoke Beltway as Surplus (Troast, Marsh passed)

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

Introduce Resolution No. 584, Cannabis Moratorium, 1st Reading

Mayor Nock read: **Resolution No. 584**
Cannabis Moratorium
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Comments from Council

None

Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Nock expressed his gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, cards, support and flowers for the loss of his Aunt Nessie. It made him realize the fragility of life and the importance of cherishing every moment that we have with loved ones. She was a driving force in his life and always encouraged him to strive for greatness and not to settle for less. He found comfort knowing that he had the support of everyone. All the prayers and thoughtful gestures gave him the strength to move forward. His aunt's memory will inspire him to work towards his goals and make a positive impact.

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Audience

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director reminded everyone that they will hold a Public Hearing on September 27, 2023 for a zoning map amendment and will also have a discussion on the Cannabis Moratorium.

Dawn Bloxom said she asked all the Councilmember's at the last meeting what their vision for the city is. She wants to know if Councilmember Downing also has a vision. Councilmember Downing said she would like to see better housing in certain sections of town. She would also like to see people coming together to accomplish things. She would like to see the whole city beautified. Ms. Bloxom said are there any plans to hold landlords accountable for their properties. Councilmember Downing said both she and Councilmember Troast said they have been working with Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement on drawing up Codes for rentals. The city is 60% rentals and need to be held accountable for the properties and make sure things are up to code. She asked Councilmember Marsh about the mentioning of Wawa coming into town. Ms. Bloxom said it sounded like she was taking credit for Wawa coming to town but the property owner didn't know her name. Mayor Nock said Councilmember Marsh did not take credit for Wawa coming to town but that she contacted Wawa Corporate and talked to them about how to get the business in the area. She was given names and some information about the process which she passed on to others.

Nola Tullar said her concern is that things have escalated into another phase of violations. She now sees homes that have things like garbage and furniture that might be creating a fire hazard. She feels that it needs to be addressed. Councilmember Troast said if someone sees something or a certain property, they can call Code Enforcement and he has the authority to involve others as the situation calls for. Ms. Tullar said there is a certain property on Cedar St that has opossums and snakes. She worries about kids walking by and getting bitten by a rabid animal. Mayor Nock said she can start with the County Health Department. She also asked about the LED street lights. Councilmember Troast said DP&L was replacing 17 per year. She is not sure if they have done that for this year yet. There

are also some street lights out. When they begin to flicker, it's time to change it. There is one out on Cedar St. You cannot see at night, it's very dark in that area and difficult to see when it's raining. She also asked if we are still looking for a city manager. Mayor Nock said yes, there are a few interviews scheduled. She also asked about barking dogs. Excessive barking needs to be addressed. Mayor Nock said that might need to be reviewed in our Charter but for now, that is Animal Control. She asked if the Chief still puts crime reports on their webpage. Chief Hancock said he no longer does that because of legal issues that could arise.

Motion to adjourn (Holland, Troast passed)

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

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