

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, October 16, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Present: Mayor Todd J. Nock-Not Present
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

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 18, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for September 18, 2023 as written (Holland, Marsh 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 (Holland, Marsh passed)

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

Council Approval for MarVa Theater Beer/Wine Permit for Blue Dog Christmas Shows on December 8 and 9, 2023

Mark Thompson explained that MarVa Theater is having their Christmas show and dinner on December 8th and 9th and needs to apply for the beer and wine permit

Motion to allow beer/wine at MarVa Theater on December 8th and 9th, 2023 from 6-10 p.m. (Holland, Marsh passed)

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

Introduce Resolution No. 585, Create Arts Committee, 1st Reading

Motion to table Resolution No. 585 until next meeting (Holland, Marsh passed)

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

Introduce & Public Hearing for Emergency Resolution No. 586, Taylor Bank Credit Line Extension

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati explained that this needs to be an emergency resolution because closing date is before the next council meeting. Taylor Bank has extended the closing date to give time to prepare documents for closing.

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati read: **Emergency Resolution No. 586
Taylor Bank Credit Line Extension
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

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

Introduce Resolution No. 587, Dedication of the Remaining Segment of Newtowne Boulevard, 1st Reading 8. Council

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie read:

Resolution No. 587
Dedication of the Remaining
Segment of Newtowne Boulevard
Pocomoke City, Maryland

The property owner, Mr. Howard Crossan, came forward. He thought that the dedication had already been done. He would like to get this taken care of as soon as possible. Councilmember Troast said that it will take two readings, approximately 2 weeks apart and the process will be done.

Approval for Davis Strategic Development, LLC for Simple Fiber Installation

Mr. Brett Davis said he is here to answer questions and doesn't really need to ask for anything. He will need to apply for several permits for installation of the broadband conduit. He submitted some preliminary paperwork just to get a better feel of what the city would ask for. He completed plans and a map. It is a fairly routine process. As the project gets going, a paper will be circulated explaining how to sign up for the broadband. Councilmember Holland asked about right of way disturbance permits. Mr. Brandewie explained that it is the minimum permit for anything located in the city's right of way. It could be for electric, gas or other utilities. The disturbance for this project is minimal. Mr. Brandewie is asking for Council approval to issue the permits. Councilmember Marsh asked if any permits had been approved yet. Mr. Brandewie answered that yes, a few had been previously approved.

Meeting was recessed for a water/wastewater emergency update on water pressure.

Motion to approve a permit for Simple Fiber (Holland, Downing passed)

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

Mr. Davis asked if it was a normal to have to go before Mayor & Council every time he needs a permit because there might be hundreds of permits during the project. Councilmember Troast said normally, that is not the procedure but without a permanent city manager in place, it had to be done in this manner.

Comments from Council

Councilmember Holland said Sara Chapman is putting together a meeting for business owners to be held at the library. Contact Mrs. Chapman to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Marsh said Jaime and Caitlyn Evans are running a successful business and have spent money to promote the town. They have brought thousands of people to the town and spent their own money to do it. They hired their own security to make sure the town was safe. She is asking people to pull together to promote the town instead of tearing it apart. Every time negative comments are made on social media it's a black mark made publicly towards the town. There was negative

comments about the guest that came to the town. No matter who comes here, they should be respected. The city did not have to pay anything for the visit. It was all done by Dockside.

Comments from the Mayor

None

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Audience

Jessmin Duryea, Pocomoke business owner, said he has two trees, on city property, growing close to the side of the business. He would like to have them removed. Councilmember Troast said Public Works will be notified.

Caitlyn Evans, said the second DockJam has been completed. She thanked EMS and the Police and thanked the city for advertising on FaceBook.

Councilmember Marsh recognized two new business owners in the audience for Cosmic Vintage & Mid-Century Antiques, and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Mike Burat, said he has been out at night in parking lots and sees things that shouldn't be going on. Councilmember Troast said that is not a Council matter. Please report things like that to the Police Department. He thanked the council for listening to him and giving him direction.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Marsh, Downing passed)

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

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