

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. 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-Not Present, Diane Downing,
Daniel J. Tarr and Todd J. Nock-Not Present
City Manager: Jeremy Mason
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 December 5, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for December 5, 2022 as written (Tarr, Downing passed)

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

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 473, Declare 209 Laurel Street as Surplus Property, 2nd Reading:

Public Hearing opened. No public present. Public Hearing closed.

The City Manager read:

**Resolution No. 473
Declare 209 Laurel Street as Surplus Property
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 473, Declare 209 Laurel Street as Surplus Property (Troast Tarr passed)

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

Resolution was signed by Mayor and Council.

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 474, Contract with Amber Ridge II, LLC for Purchase of 209 Laurel Street Surplus Property, 2nd Reading:

Public Hearing opened. No public present. Public Hearing closed.

The City Manager read:

**Resolution No. 474
Contract with Amber Ridge II, LLC for Purchase
of 209 Laurel Street Surplus Property
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 474, Contract with Amber Ridge II, LLC for Purchase of 209 Laurel Street Surplus Property (Troast, Downing passed)

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

Resolution was signed by Mayor and Council.

Comments from Council

Councilmember Troast said she hoped everyone had a stress-free holiday. She asked for an update on the Willow St demolition. The City Manager said it is taking a little bit of time to complete because things like asbestos and lead had to be factored in. The city also had to wait on a grant decision for demolition cost. We learned that that didn't come through. Pieces of the building are actually falling into the street. Public Works is checking and cleaning up daily to make sure the street stays clear. The water level is only 7.5 feet below the surface so environmental issues are a concern. There are a lot of moving parts to this project. It is becoming a true safety issue.

Councilmember Downing said happy new year to everyone and she is looking forward to being able to complete some positive things for the city this year.

Councilmember Tarr said he took his kids to the model train display at the Discovery Museum. They really enjoyed it. The Pocomoke train Club did a great job. He thanked Public Works for the work that they do in the city. He sees them almost every day working on something around the city. It shows how much they do and he is thankful for it.

Comments from the Mayor

The Mayor said she appreciated Public Works and all departments. She hopes everyone can continue to work together and accomplish positive things in the new year. She also wished everyone a happy new year.

Comments from City Manager

He contacted Chad Dailey with GMB regarding the work on the pump stations on Dorchester Avenue. Some people in the area wanted to know why the roads were still closed and there didn't seem to be any work going on. There has been a supply chain issue, especially with industrial parts, with getting some electrical parts. Those few electrical issues are still waiting to be resolved. This doesn't mean that the pumps aren't working. There is a bypass set up running. Part of the road is still closed because the bypass pump location and the manhole. It is still open so that area is blocked to maintain public safety. The intersection at Dorchester and Somerset Avenues are still open for travel. It is a big project and progress is being made. The work on Payne Avenue will be next.

A couple thing coming up in 2023 are concept site plans for a town recreation center building, is planned to be next to the the library. The Boys and Girls Club seems to be working out and could be located there. There is a water program through the state called the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. It helps low-income households who might need financial help with water bills. There is another program through National League of Cities that helps with repairs. There is talk of a Royal Farms or possibly a WAWA coming to town. We are trying to step up development in the industrial and downtown areas. We will continue to work on grant funds for other infrastructure and strategic development and to fund city department needs. Our Code Enforcement officer, Mike Wyatt, has done a great job with the Code Enforcement initiative to develop that process. He will continue to support all department heads. We will resume staff meetings and invites Mayor & Council to attend when possible. He will continue to establish working relationships with MDE, DNR, CBDG, AHDC, Tri-County Council and the state of Maryland. They are all key in development goals in the city.

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Downing)

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

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