

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, February 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

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

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 17, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for January 17, 2023 as written (Troast, Nock passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Holland-aye Tarr-aye, Nock-abstain; none opposed, 1 abstain; motion carried

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

Motion to approve the bill list (Nock, Tarr passed)

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

Recognition of Teacher/Student Christmas Card for the City

Every year, a contest is done with the Pocomoke Middle School art class. The student who designs the best card is chosen to have his or her card printed out and mailed as the city's official Christmas card. Councilmember Troast presented the teacher, Mrs. R. Wisniewski and student, Tianna Kenney, with framed Christmas cards and gift cards for art supplies.

Hockey Team Championship Proclamation

The 2022 Pocomoke High School Field Hockey team appeared in Council Chambers with coaching staff, parents and support staff. The Mayor & Council congratulated the team on their recent MD State championship win. Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison read the proclamation and it was presented to the coaches and team.

Council Approval for 4th Friday Beer/Wine Permits

Events Coordinator, Karah Burton-Lacey, said she is organizing the 4th Fridays as she does yearly. This will be the 10th year. The events are done in coordination with the Downtown Pocomoke Association. Monthly sponsors are already chosen and committed. Entertainment is already booked and themes picked out. This serves as a fund-raising opportunity for the DPA. As always, Mrs. Burton-Lacey and members of the DPA are tip certified to sell alcohol. Alcohol is always sold in non-glass containers between Front St and and Second St along Market St. There will be barriers and signage stating where consumption is allowed. They always have the support of the local police department. Proceeds raised from alcohol sales benefits the DPA and goes directly back into the community by beautification and sponsorships. The sale of beer and wine is expected by the patrons of the events.

Councilmember Nock clarified that the agenda had a misprint of Spring Fest listed as the event. Mrs. Burton-Lacey confirmed that there is no alcohol sold at Spring Fest. The City Clerk confirmed that the agenda was corrected to “4th Friday” events.

Motion to allow application for beer/wine permit at 4th Fridays to be submitted (Troast, Holland passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Holland-aye Tarr-nay, Nock-nay; none opposed, 2 nays; motion carried

City Contract for PKS Investment Advisors, LLC

Councilmember Holland stated he would like to post a request for quotes (RFQ) to compare rates.

Action: City Clerk to post RFQ for accounting services for the city.

Introduce Resolution No. 574 for Balloon Renewal for Restaurant, 1st Reading

Councilmember Nock raised a point of discussion. He stated that there is approximately \$120,000.00 left to pay off the loan. He suggested finding the funds to pay it off early because interest is approximately \$31,000.00 if the monthly payments are made for the rest of the term. The city could do a lot with \$31,000.00 instead of paying it for interest.

Mr. Mason said he will work with finance to see if funding can be budgeted to pay off the loan. Councilmember Troast said if the total cannot be paid off, then we need to keep applying funds to the principle until it can be paid in full. Councilmember Nock asked if it would mature again. Mr. Mason said no, these are the last years and it would not mature again.

Mr. Mason read: **Resolution No. 574**
 Balloon Renewal for Restaurant
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

Comments from Council

Councilmember Nock said he spoke with Senator Mary Beth Carozza regarding a project for a new stop light. She was waiting for letters from the city and from the county. He also spoke with Senator Cardin who said that MDOT has funding for the light and road redesign. The letters need to be done as soon as possible. Mr. Mason said he has collaborated with Commissioner Abbott for drafting the letter. Mr. Mason also logged onto their website to post information about the accidents and fatalities that have taken place. Commissioner Abbott said that she has sent a traffic report for 3 years. They are waiting on a letter and please copy Commissioner Abbott when it is sent. It is a known problem and funding is available to correct the problem of being a dangerous intersection. There is an annexation process that has to happen. She will be back to update us when there is more information.

Comments from the Mayor

None

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Nock passed)

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

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