

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, March 6, 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, Diane Downing,  
Daniel J. Tarr and Todd J. Nock  
City Manager: Vacant  
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati  
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

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

#### Approval of Minutes from Meeting of February 21, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for February 21, 2023 as written (Nock, Downing passed)

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

#### Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

#### Public Statement by Mayor & Council by Councilmember Troast

Last night, on Sunday, the City Manager, Jeremy Mason, resigned his position effective on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Mr. Mason accomplished a lot during his 3 years as City Manager and the Mayor & Council wish him much luck in his next endeavor. The Mayor & Council had not requested his resignation. Last Monday night, the Mayor & Council had a Work Session meeting to discuss Charter updates regarding the City Manager position and other positions. These changes are something that the Council had wanted to undertake since the conclusion of litigation surrounding those sections in the past. Those changes will be introduced soon. The city will continue to operate as normal. There will be a department head tomorrow morning as a contingency plan will be discussed. Please continue to call for city issues as normal. Feel free to call a Councilmember with any concerns.

As First Vice-President of the Council, she is enacting the 3-minute clock for speakers.

#### MarVa Theater Beer/Wine Special Permit for April 19, 2023 Bay to Beach Event, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Mark Thompson, 147 Market St, they are hosting their annual meeting. There will be three story tellers covering Watermen, the fight for freedom and movies. There will be local catering and they would like to serve beer and wine between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. This is an event for adults, no children. There are normally about 100 people. Councilmember Troast asked if there will be tip certified people there to serve the beer and wine. Mr. Thompson said yes, he is tip certified as well as another tip certified server.

Motion to approve beer and wine service for the MarVa Theater on April 19, 2023 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Holland, Downing passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Holland-aye Tarr-nay, Nock-aye; 1 opposed, motion carried

Davis Strategic Development, LLC Updates on Various Projects in the City

Motion to table this agenda item (Nock, Downing passed)

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

EMS Updates & Discussion

Motion to table this agenda item (Nock, Downing passed)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 574, Balloon Loan Renewal for City-Owned Property, Restaurant; 2nd Reading

Councilmember Nock said he had asked for a financial review to see if it would be possible to pay off the restaurant instead of continuing payments. The Finance Director, Janet L. Wilson, recommended finishing the main projects that are ARPA funded, then look into a payoff.

Councilmember Nock read:                   **Resolution No. 574**  
  **Balloon Renewal for Restaurant**  
  **Pocomoke City, Maryland**

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 574, Balloon Renewal Loan for Restaurant (Tarr, Holland passed)

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

Public Hearing & Introduce (Emergency) Resolution No. 575, Worcester County Loan Agreement for Demolition, 1st Reading

The City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, spoke with the County Commissioners. He advised that the County wasn't looking for it to be an emergency resolution. It just needed to be a resolution on our books. It can be amended to a standard resolution with a first reading tonight and a second reading at the next Mayor & Council meeting.

Motion to amend to a standard resolution with first reading on March 6, 2023 and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on March 20, 2023 (Tarr, Holland passed)

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

Introduce Resolution No. 576, Charter/Code Amendments, 1st Reading

Motion to table this agenda item (Troast, Nock passed)

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

Comments from Council

Councilmember Nock and Councilmember Holland had the privilege of attending the HOA meeting for Butler's Village. They were considering the possibility of dissolving their HOA but were able to come to an agreement. The city picks up trash for other developments and will pick up trash services for Butler's Village also.

Councilmember Holland said he want to compliment the EMS Department and the Volunteer Fire Department. An alert for a structure fire went out. The dispatch said that the resident was still possibly inside the structure. EMS was the first to respond. Smoke and flames were coming out of the windows and doors. EMS knocked on the front door, when there was no response he opened the door and called in. A lady answered "I'm in here". Mr. Chris Barrs crawled into the kitchen where he could barely see her ankles through the smoke. She refused to leave without her dog. Mr. Barrs was able to get her outside and the other paramedic, Allen Miller, Jr., was able to go in and find the dog and also bring it outside. The house was a total loss.

Comments from the Mayor

None

Comments from City Manager

N/A

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

Reverend James Jones was sorry to hear that Mr. Mason had resigned. He was working with him on the sign dedication project. Councilmember Nock said the Director of Public Works, Bill East, can assist Reverend Jones with the project.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Downing, Tarr, passed)

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

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