

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, March 7, 2022. 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, Daniel J. Tarr,
Todd J. Nock, Diane Downing
City Manager: Jeremy Mason
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Mayor Marshall Harrison and Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of February 22, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for February 22, 2022 as written (Nock, Tarr passed)

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

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

Modified Capital Improvement Budget to Include Cost-Share Portion:

Agenda Amended to include this Item.

Grant-Writer, Linda McNeil, said a grant-funded project, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), was found to have a cost-share of \$13, 770.00 that had not been approved yet to continue with the project. She is asking the Council to approve those funds to further use the awarded grant funds of \$30,000.00 for community improvements.

Motion to approve cost-share expenditure of \$13,770.00 for the CIP grant-funded program (Troast, Holland passed)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 544, Pocomoke City WIIN-CIIP Lining

Market Street Mains, 2nd Reading:

Linda McNeil read:

Resolution No. 544
WIIN-CIIP Lining Market Street Mains
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Public Hearing opened, there were no comments from the public, Public Hearing closed.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 544, WIIN-CIIP Lining Market Street Mains (Nock, Troast passed)

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

4-H Presentation:

Barbara Barga said she would like to start a 4-H Club in the southern part of Worcester County. She just started this job in Worcester County in December 2021 but has been with 4-H for 28 years. To start a program, she needs 2 adults to go through a background check and a minimum of 5 kids. She needs to find a place in Worcester County to hold meetings. The projects that they are able to provide are; robotics, golf, animals, leadership, sewing, cooking and many more things. They would like to expand into archery. 4-H is part of the USDA and the Land Grant System. Participants from the 4-H, Maddie Webster, A'liejh Daniels, Summer Wakefield and Chamar Daniels all spoke about the different projects they have been involved in and why they love to participate in the 4-H Club. 4-H has introduced them to many new things and been a huge confidence builder. Karen Reddison, Area Extension Director, reiterated what the children said and stressed that 4-H teaches children social skills and how to work together. She also said that there is a need for volunteers. 4-H is for both girls and boys.

Ethics Committee Appointments

Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison has appointed three people to serve on the Ethics Committee. Current terms have expired and need new appointments. The candidates are Mike Dean, Rick Choquette and Veronica Gillette.

Motion to appoint Mike Dean, Rick Choquette and Veronica Gillette to serve on the Ethics Committee for a 3-year term (Troast, Tarr passed)

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

Introduce Emergency Resolution No. 545, Declare Surplus Property:

City Manager Mason read:

**Emergency Resolution No. 545
Declare Surplus Property, 2007 Ambulance
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Motion to declare 2007 International Ambulance as surplus property (Downing, Holland passed)

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

The city attorney asked for a clarification on Resolution No. 545, if the intent of Mayor & Council was to have 2 readings or declare the resolution as an emergency and adopt after one reading. Mayor & Council amended the resolution to emergency status by majority vote. The city attorney stated that there were no comments from the audience for the record.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 545 to an emergency resolution (Downing, Nock passed)

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

Amendment of approved FY 2022 Budget:

Mr. Mason explained that this would allow the purchase of properties on Willow Street. 134 and 124, Parcels A and B. This purchase would allow the city to move forward with the library project. The city would own that entire block where the Armory is located. Demolition of the blighted properties will be able to happen. Purchase of the properties was contingent on the sale of lots in the Industrial Park but that is not going to go through for possibly another year. Finance director, Janet Wilson, explained that the general Fund in the Budget would increase by \$113,000.00 from \$5,280,479.00 to

\$5,393,479.00. We looked at revenue and expenses. There were several areas where funds had not been spent yet such as for elections. Councilmember Nock said he has had a lot of feedback for needed demolition. He knows that the City Manager has a lot planned and he would like to see allowances in the coming budget to make sure demolition happens.

Motion to amend the approved budget FY 2021-22 by in increase of \$113,000 for the purchase of 124 and 134 Willow St (Troast, Tarr passed)

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

Comments from Council

Councilmember Tarr mentioned some events on the calendar such as the treasure hunt on Market St on March 19, Boat and Cash Bash on March 19 through the volunteer fire department, the Heritage Festival at the Discovery Museum on March 26 and 27 and the Pocomoke Spring Festival on April 2.

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Downing passed)

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

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