

## 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 21, 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

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

#### Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 7, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for March 7, 2022 as written (Downing, Troast 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 (Nock, Downing passed)

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

#### Council Approval Grant Expenditure for "Sanitary Services" Contract for FY 2022 from Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil, said that the City received a grant award for \$2,000.00 from the Department of Natural Resources. It would cover port-a-potty expenses to be used where needed.

Motion to approve grant expenditure funds of \$2,000.00 for sanitary services (Troast, Nock passed)

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

#### Council Approval Grant Expenditure for \$5,000 for "Dock Repair" Contract for FY 2022 from Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil, said that the City received a grant award for \$5,000.00 from the Department of Natural Resources. Most of these funds will go towards a dock inspection to assess what repairs are needed that will be funded by another grant. Some repairs could also be covered out of the original \$5,000.00. Mr. Mason said he was present when DNR performed a preliminary inspection. \$1,800.00 has already done towards that structural inspection. Repairs will be done in phases.

Motion to approve grant expenditure funds of \$5,000.00 for dock repair contracts (Nock, Tarr)

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

Introduce and Set Public Hearing Date for Resolution No. 546, Enterprise Zone Program,

Renewal and Boundary Line Adjustment:

This program originated back in 1999. It was previously approved for Pocomoke City in 2012. It is a 10-year program offered by the state and offered to qualifying municipalities and counties based on socioeconomic data. The purpose is to provide tax abatements for commercial and industrial businesses that wish to expand. The tax credit is on a sliding scale for a 10-year period. Several businesses in Pocomoke have taken advantage of the program, H & H Furniture, Hardwire qualified and the new Harbor Freight has recently applied. The Council wished for more explanation regarding the program and to schedule a closed or work session at a later date.

Planning Director, Dan Brandewie, read:

**Resolution No. 546  
Enterprise Zone Program  
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

Council Approval for Tax Abatement for Property ID# 01-013289, South Pocomoke Development, LLC:

Finance Director, Janet Wilson, verified the given information with the county for the requested tax abatement for the property. The taxes are up-to-date and eligible for tax abatement. There are two corrections that are needed. The property ID# should be 8 digits instead of 6 and the LLC needs to be put back into good standing. The decision will be tabled until after the corrections are made.

Council Approval for Tax Abatement for Property ID# 01-010352, Deborah & Dean Guy Tabled.

Comments from Council

None

Comments from City Manager

Mr. Mason said there is an expense that needs to be addressed for the water department. Somerset Well Drilling needs to be reserved for maintenance for the wells on Williams Street and Maryland Avenue. Last year the wells on Clarke Avenue and Oak Street were done. The cost for the Maryland Avenue well, which will be completely refurbished, is \$26,500.00 and Williams Street is \$28,000.00. he would like the Council to approve that expenditure. The cost is already in the budget but is now more due the cost of fuel and labor. Next year budget for that cost will be adjusted.

Motion to approve extra \$5,000.00 maintenance expenditure above what has been budgeted for well maintenance (Troast, Nock)

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

Comments from Chief of Police

In the last 2 weeks, there have been 13 total arrests; 4 traffic, 9 criminal, 1 hand gun and 4 possessions of cocaine. There were 83 traffic stops, 96 violations, 82 warnings, 14 citations, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 42 foot patrols, 115 business checks and 76 patrol checks. The new web page is done and has new pictures of personnel and vehicles. Photos of new vehicles, recovered drugs and guns and counterfeit bills were distributed. The gun is a pellet gun but designed to look real. He showed a radio that was purchased with ARPA grant funds. He distributed a parking citation. The officers have two choices to distribute a fine. Through the state online or in accordance to the City

ordinance on a civil citation. If it is submitted through the state, the City does not see any part of the fine. Pocomoke needs to redesign the civil citation according to Code 220-6 and 220-8. Detective explained that when a police department receives a call concerning counterfeit bills can be tracked. What they recovered were all \$20 and \$50 dollar bills. When money is tracked, it is put into a database. They know how many times it has been passed in the US and abroad. The detective was in touch with the Secret Service to develop a game plan for arrests. Here explained that there are ways to tell counterfeit from real money. Once the first bill is in circulation you can tie persons of interest to the case by pinpointing where the first circulation happened. From there, identification becomes easier. Finally, Chief Hancock stated that patrolman Rachel Northam is going to begin training for child safety seat inspection. There is still one open position on the force. Someone has applied. He is certified in Missouri, so he needs a different kind of training, Comparative Compliance that is a 5-week training class. It is only available in Prince George's County and they require a minimum of 10 students. They only have 5 registered now. We are waiting to see when that will be able to happen.

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (downing, Troast)

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

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