

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, April 11, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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
Interim City Manager: John Psota
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Closed Session Summary

A Closed Session was held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The Closed Session was voted to be held unanimously by the Council under the provisions of Sec. 3-305, (b) (1) ___ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals". The topic discussed was "Budget & Positions". Each Councilmember was present, Susan Marshall Harrison-Mayor, Michelle Beckett-El Soloh-City Clerk, Bill East-Public Works Director, Arthur Hancock-Chief of Police and Dan Brandewie-Planning & Zoning Director.

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 20, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for March 20, 2023 as written (Troast, 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 (Nock, Troast passed)

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

Council Approval to Renew PKS Finance Audit Contract

Councilmember Nock said that he realizes that there is a time issue and the city has not signed a contract with an auditor yet. Pks has not done anything wrong. It is just a good idea and it is important to have a different set of eyes on city finances from time to time.

Motion to renew contract for financial auditing services with PKS for 3 years (Nock, Troast passed)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 576, Amendments to Various Sections of the Charter, 2nd Reading

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, read:

**Resolution No. 576
Amendments to Various Sections of the Charter
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 576, Amendments to Various Sections of the Charter (Troast, Holland passed)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 577, Declare 2007 Ambulance as Surplus Property, 2nd Reading

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, read: **Resolution No. 577
Declare Surplus Property
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 577, Declare Surplus Property 2007 Ambulance (Holland, Tarr passed)

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

Motion to recess to move swearing-in proceedings outside (Nock, Troast passed)

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

Service Appreciation Awards for Mayor & District 3 Councilmember

City Council presented Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison with a crystal vase, a gavel and flowers for her service as Mayor from August 2020 to April 2023.

City Council also presented Councilmember Dan Tarr with a plaque for his service on the City Council from August 2020 to April 2023.

Swearing in of Mayor Elect & District 3 Councilmember Elect

Susan Braneicki, Clerk of Worcester County Circuit Court, swore in Councilmember Todd J. Nock as Mayor. He invited his parents and former Mayor, Bruce Morrison to stand with him.

Mayor Todd J. Nock swore in Monda Marsh as District 3 Councilmember.

Appoint 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents for the Council

Councilmember Downing nominated Councilmember Troast as First Vice-President.

Motion to nominate Councilmember Troast as First Vice-President (Downing, Marsh passed)

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

Motion to nominate Councilmember Downing as Second Vice-President (Holland, Troast passed)

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

Comments from Council

Councilmember Troast was glad to see the turnout tonight. She knows his family is proud of him and he will have the support of the Council. She is very proud of him.

Councilmember Holland thanked Susan Marshall Harrison for her service and congratulated Mayor Nock and Councilmember Marsh on their new positions.

Councilmember Downing said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve with a brilliant, intelligent young man. It is wonderful to see everyone who came out to support him. He has the support of the Council 100% to see that he can get things done.

Councilmember Marsh thanked Dan Tarr and Mark Thompson for the warm and friendly campaign. She appreciates Dan Tarr's service. She is looking forward to the chance to serve her adopted city. She will draw distinct lines between personal and business matters. Everything she does will be for the betterment of the city. Her initial goal will be to clean up the city.

Comments from the Mayor

He thanked Susan Marshall Harrison for her service and recognized her for her unique position and having to lead the city through COVID. He thanked Dan Tarr for his service and the memories of their service together.

He recognized several elected officials, professors, friends and family from the crowd.

While we are getting ready to celebrate there is a lot of work to be done. We must put this city to the forefront and look at what is working and what is not. Pocomoke was incorporated 145 years ago. The thing that hasn't changed about the Pocomoke citizens is their resilience. We have survived fire and floods and the injury to our former Mayor. The community has always pulled together. He is asking for everyone to take the same resilience and get involved in the community and commissions. He thanked his family for always supporting him. There's nothing like family. He dedicated this day to his mother. She didn't know that she would give birth to the first African-American Mayor of Pocomoke City. He hopes to see everyone at Mayor & Council meetings.

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Downing passed)

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

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