

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, May 2, 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-EI Soloh

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 18, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for April 18, 2022 as written (Downing, Troast 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, Tarr passed)

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

Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution No. 547, Tax Rates, 2nd Reading

City Manager, Jeremy Mason, read: **Resolution No. 547**
Tax Rates FY 2022-23
Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to adopt Resolution. No. 547, Tax Rates (Nock, Downing)

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

Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution No. 548, Fees, Charges, Rates, Fines and Penalties Schedule, 2nd Reading

Mr. Mason explained that there were a few changes made to the Fees, Charges, Rates, Fines and Penalties Schedule. The late fee for water bills was raised from \$12.00 to \$15.00. Councilmember Troast caught a mistake on the rental fee for the Cypress Park pavilion had not been changed. It has now been updated. Councilmember Downing said she has received a few questions about the late fee and if it was necessary because of the price of everything else going up. \$15.00 seems awfully expensive. Finance Director, Janet Wilson said the fee has not been raised since 2013. It is needed to help the City meet expenses. She made the point that if bills are paid on time there is no fee. Grants Administrator, Linda McNeil made the point that the City has taken a loan for one million dollars for infrastructure. There is revenue asset in fees for the City that helps to pay the City's bills. The fees for stall rental will be raised from \$90.00 to \$100.00. After some research, that amount is reasonable for the area with use of the training track.

Councilmember Troast commented that the few dollars increase would help to maintain the track and there are always other repairs that need to be done. The City Clerk had said that the current fee was comparable with other rates in the area. Councilmember Troast felt that \$10.00 was not a huge increase but would add up over the year to help cover costs.

Mr. Mason read: **Resolution No. 548**
Fees, Charges, Rates, Fines and Penalties Schedule
Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to amend late fees from \$12.00 to \$15.00, rental fee of horse stalls from \$90.00 to \$100.00 per month and reduction of Cypress Park rental from \$100.00 to \$50.00 (Nock, Troast)

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 548, Fees, Charges, Rates, Fines and Penalties Schedule (Nock, Troast)

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

Swear in Chris Vieira for Board of Planning and Zoning

There is a vacancy on the Board of Planning & Zoning. The Mayor nominated Mr. Chris Vieira.

Motion to appoint Mr. Chris Vieira to serve for a

ARPA Administrative Wage Recapture

The City is looking into the possibility of funding for certain administrative positions. The Grant Administrators position is covered by ARPA. There may be other positions that would qualify under this funding. Councilmember Nock said the City needs to make sure that ARPA funding is used correctly.

Introduce Amendment to Resolution No. 540, Armory, 1st Reading

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, said an amendment to the Resolution was not necessary. It is sufficient to publicly discuss changes in funding for the Armory.

Motion to accept using County loan funds for Armory Block demolition (Tarr, Holland)

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

Introduce Resolution No. 549, Sustainable Communities, 1st Reading

Grant Administrator, Linda McNeil, read: **Resolution No. 549**
Sustainable Communities
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Comments from Council

None

Comments from City Manager

None

Comments from Chief of Police

Chief Hancock demonstrated how the new Bolo wrap equipment works.

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Holland)

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

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