

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, June 20, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison
First Vice President: Esther Troast
Council Members: Daniel J. Tarr,
Todd J. Nock and 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 June 6, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for June 6, 2022 as written (Nock, Downing passed)

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

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

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

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 553, Budget FY 2022-23, 2nd Reading

Finance Director, Janet Wilson read: **Resolution No. 553**
Budget FY2022-23
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Ms. Wilson said there was one change since the first reading. The Revenue and Expenditures for the General Fund increased. The Revenue increase was by \$6,000.00. To offset the increase and balance the budget, Expenditures decreased by \$6,000.00. The General Fund Operating Totals are \$5,590,521.00, the Ambulance is \$1,349,867.00, Water/Sewer is \$2,205,650.00 and for the entire City is \$1,138,038.00.

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

Motion to adopt the Budget for FY 2022-23 (Troast, Nock)

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

Approve Boat Docking Event

Mike Shannon said this year's boat docking event is scheduled for August 13, 2022. Because of fuel prices, other events up and down the coast were canceled by captains to encourage participation. This event is the same as past 8 events. Nothing has changed. The people for fireworks and bands have already been contacted. He reminded the Council that he carries liability insurance. As the Council is aware, the area underneath the docks have been shored up. In case a boat would hit the dock, it will be able to withstand any major damage. He has to have Council permission to serve

alcohol. He has already been in touch with the County. Councilmember Nock clarified that Public Works would not be used. Mr. Shannon said he just needs the trash cans and trash truck.

Motion to allow alcohol sales on 8/13/2022 for Boat Docking event, permission contingent on everyone is carded (Troast, Downing)

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

Mr. Shannon said that the restaurant has a system in place that includes carding and wristbands.

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 554, PCPD Recruit and Retain Grant, 2nd Reading

Mr. Mason read: **Resolution No. 554**
 Police Recruit and Retain Grant
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 554 (Tarr, Nock)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 555, PCPD Community Initiative Grant, 2nd Reading

Mr. Mason read: **Resolution No. 555**
 PCPD Community Initiative Grant
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 555 (Downing, Tarr)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 556, PCPD Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement Grant, 2nd Reading

Mr. Mason read: **Resolution No. 556**
 Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 556 (Nock, Troast)

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

Public Hearing & Adopt Resolution No. 557, DHCD Downtown Rehabilitation Grant Façade Program,
2nd Reading

Mr. Mason read:

**Resolution No. 557
DHCD Downtown Rehabilitation Grant Façade Program
Pocomoke City, Maryland**

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

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 557 (Downing, Tarr)

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

ARPA Funding /Obligation Update

Item 1: Pocomoke City Water Meters.

This project has been discussed at length over the years. The last update was given on December 6 regarding data calls and information gathering. It was approved to use GMB as the Engineering Administrator. The next step in the process is to approve the fund obligation from ARPA to procure the meters. The total cost is approximate \$935,000.

Item 2: Air Ventilation System for the Public Works building.

Currently, the public works building does not have an efficient air handling system. This can be problematic for the health and safety of our personnel, especially during a pandemic or endemic part of COVID. Replacement of the air handler has been evaluated to cost at or around \$12,000 with the current quote and an April Air UV air cleaning system added to the quote.

Item 3: Air Ventilation System for the EMS

Currently, the EMS building does not have an efficient air handling system. This can be problematic for the health and safety of our personnel, especially during a pandemic or endemic part of COVID. Replacement of the air handler has been evaluated to cost at or around \$12,000 with the current quote and an April Air UV air cleaning system added to the quote.

Item 4: Body Armor for the EMS

Currently, the EMS is in need of updated Body Armor for the safety of our public servants. Currently, the Bullet Proof Vests are expired from certification. The approximate cost is: \$15,000.

Item 5: Breathing Gear/Masks for the EMS Currently, the EMS breathing gear/masks are obsolete, malfunctioning, and are no longer meeting safety standards. For public health during a pandemic response, it is proposed to spend \$20,000 to outfit the department with new gear.

Item 6: A Station Alert System (Communications):

Pocomoke City EMS is in need of a new Station Alert System that is critical for continued operations. The current system is no longer meeting standards. This new system meets and exceeds current standards, is interoperable with other local municipalities, state, and federal entities for communications during the time of a critical events. This system also has backup features to maintain communication even during a grid-down event, such as a hurricane or political unrest. Approximate costs are \$35-40,000. The last estimate puts us closer to \$35,000.

Item 7: EMS SUV

The EMS is in need of a reliable EMS vehicle. The current vehicle is over mileage and cost-prohibitive for upcoming repairs. The odometer is broken, so there is no valid way to get true mileage. Unlike the current Crown Victoria, this vehicle needs to be an all-weather vehicle that can handle heavy rains, ice storms, and other inclement weather

issues with driving safety. There is a need for patient sheltering to treat patients in a controlled environment on the back-road, off-road capabilities, ample storage space, and command center capabilities for emergency locations. This would allow for a triage station to be supported during emergency events with mass causality. There is currently a 12-18 month waiting list, however, Ocean City was able to find us one that is on the lot. Approximate costs are estimated to be around \$50,000. Currently, there is a shortage of vehicles

Item 8: Tanks/Mixers Cost-Share portion.

For the Water Tank Mixers program, it is requested that we obligate \$123,862 in lieu of an MDE loan of the same amount with a 50% forgiveness.

Motion to accept the proposed ARPA obligations list for funding (Troast, Nock)

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

Introduce Emergency Resolution No. 560, Tanks #1 & #2 with Mixers Project, 1st Reading

Motion to revise Resolution No. 560 to an emergency resolution (Nock, Tarr)

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

Ms. McNeil read: **Resolution No. 560**
 Tanks #1 & #2 with Mixers Project
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

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

Motion to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 560 (Troast, Downing)

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

Introduce Resolution No. 561, Ambulance Procurement Grant FY 2022-23, 1st Reading

Ms. McNeil read: **Resolution No. 561**
 Ambulance Procurement Grant FY 2022-23
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 562, Main Street Improvement Grant, 1st Reading

Ms. McNeil read: **Resolution No. 562**
 Main Street Improvement Grant
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 563, Cypress Park, 1st Reading

Ms. McNeil read: **Resolution No. 563**
 Cypress Park Project
 Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 564, Lowes Kitchen Remodel for E.M.S. Grant, 1st Reading

Ms. McNeil read: **Resolution No. 564**
Lowes Kitchen Remodel for E.M.S.
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 565, Annexation for 833 Ocean Highway, Pocomoke City, Maryland, 1st Reading

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, read: **Resolution No. 565**
Annexation for 833 Ocean Highway
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Introduce Resolution No. 566, Annexation Plan for 833 Ocean Highway, Pocomoke City, Maryland, 1st Reading

City Attorney, Andrew Illuminati, read: **Resolution No. 566**
Annexation Plan for 833 Ocean Highway
Pocomoke City, Maryland

Comments from Council

Councilmember Troast said she attended the MML Conference in Ocean City, MD. She finds it educational and helpful. It is always nice to network with other municipalities. She saw a lot of new faces and a lot of regulars this year. She enjoys working with and being on the board of Tri-County Council. She is allowed to attend meeting but will not be a voting member this year. Tri-County Council manages and directs several different departments and it is crucial for Pocomoke City to be involved.

Councilmember Nock also attended the MML Conference. He was disappointed to find out that Pocomoke was not a banner city even though the Council had met all the requirements. The paperwork had not been turned in. He attended the Juneteenth celebration. Officer Rachael Northam attended with him and they even danced. He complimented Officer Northam on her ability to connect with the public. There is a need for municipalities to join together and enforce laws. There is a problem with dirt bikes being ridden and raced on streets.

Councilmember Downing said she also enjoyed attending the MML Conference.

Comments from the Mayor

Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison said she also enjoyed the MML Conference and had the chance to attend

Comments from City Manager

In regards to the dirt bikes, there was an incident this week where officers responded to the Arby's for men on untagged and no helmets fueled up at the gas station. One man took off across the median while the other bike was impounded. The incident could have been a lot worse. Pocomoke City is enforcing those laws. A moment of silence was held for the Wicomico officer who was killed in the line of duty, Deputy First Class, Glenn R. Hilliard.

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

Kevin Taylor, 109 4th St, said that he has purchased the house at said address. It was built in 1880. He would like to know if the City has any funding for remodeling through grants. He has heard of a program and wants to know if Pocomoke city participates. Grants Administrator, Linda McNeil, was able to respond and said the City used to participate in the program and has plans to participate in the future and that there are many caveats to grant funding such as it is necessary to live in the house and there are limits to the sale of the home. Mr. Taylor said he sees a lot of older or historical properties that could benefit from those funds. He has seen a lot of issues in Salisbury with the motor bike issues. They are copycats of what is going on in Baltimore. He suggested having a direct number to text the PD to decrease their response time to traffic incidences. Mr. Mason said

Motion to adjourn meeting (Troast, Nock)

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

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