

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, October 17, 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, Diane Downing,
Daniel J. Tarr and Todd J. Nock
City Manager: Jeremy Mason
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 3, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes for October 3, 2022 as written (Downing, Nock 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 (Holland, Downing passed)

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

Recognition of Michael Thornton, Director of EMS, Tenure with Pocomoke City

Councilmember Esther Troast read and presented Mr. Thornton with a city proclamation and a plaque for his years of service with the city. Joshua Nordstrom, Worcester County Commissioner, read and presented Mr. Thornton with a proclamation from Worcester County. Maryland Senator Mary Beth Carroza read and presented Mr. Thornton with a senate resolution signed by the entire MD senate. Senator Carroza also read and presented a proclamation from Governor Hogan. Councilmember Nock said that he appreciated the good work that he has done for the "Pocomoke City Family".

Request Permission to Hunt on City Property for James Telford

Mr. Telford presented to the Council that he wished to deer hunt on 5 properties behind Ricca Chemical and Cobb Vantress, Inc. properties. Councilmember Downing asked if he hunt only deer and how. Mr. Telford said yes, only deer and by bow.

Motion to allow Mr. James Telford to hunt on a group of 5 properties located behind Ricca Chemical and Cobb Vantress on Broad St (Holland, Nock passed)

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

PKS & Company, PA Auditors' Presentation of FY 2021-2022 Audit Report

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Pocomoke City, Maryland as of June 30, 2022 and for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Fund balance for FY 2022 is 817,782.00. The recommended fund balance by the GFOA is a minimum of 60 operating expenses. Water & Sewer and Ambulance revenue funds are both higher than in FY 2021. Over all the financial health of the city looks strong. Councilmember Nock thanked PKS, Janet L. Wilson and Mr. Mason for all the hard work to complete the fiscal audit.

EMS Pay Equalization Proposal

Councilmember Troast said that the Council has not had time to review the information. She will not vote on any issues without being educated and informed about it. The Council still might have questions and cannot vote on anything until after a Work Session is held. Councilmember Troast questioned if a Work Session or Closed Session is appropriate since salary information might be discussed. The City Attorney said that a Work Session should be fine as there should not be a need to discuss any individual salaries nor performance.

Motion to schedule and hold a Mayor & Council Work Session on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. (Holland, Nock passed)

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

Note: Due to Council availability, the meeting date was changed and advertised to be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Comments from Council

Councilmember Nock said volunteers are needed for the Christmas parade this year. November is a beautiful month in Pocomoke with many fall events happening. He commented that some of the sidewalk areas still need repair and wondered if ARPA funds could be used for that type of repair.

Councilmember Tarr said The One-Stop-Shop is holding an event this weekend. The community gardens will also be holding an event. The Fall Festival was a great event and had large attendance.

Comments from the Mayor

None

Comments from City Manager

Mr. Mason said Butler Village will be expanding and has been approved to add 8 units. The old H & H Furniture building should be demolished within a month. The wife of Will Stevenson wishes to donate a property they own to the city. It has been learned that the property is in a flood zone and cannot be developed but might have other uses as a park or something similar. It will need to be surveyed. Volunteers are needed for the Christmas parade. Anyone interested can contact Karah Burton-Lacey, the Events Coordinator at 410-957-1333 ext. 111.

Comments from Chief of Police

None

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Holland, Nock passed)

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

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