

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison  
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock  
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Diane Downing, Daniel J. Tarr, Esther Troast  
City Manager: Jeremy Mason  
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati  
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-EI Soloh

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

#### Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 15, 2021:

Motion to approve minutes for March 15, 2021 as written (Nock, Downing passed) @ 6:57 PM

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

#### Review and Approval Current Bill List:

Motion to approve the bill list (Holland, Nock passed) @ 7:00 PM

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

Councilmember Tarr called for a point of discussion regarding Agenda Items #4 and #5. There is a need to meet with the Board of Elections Supervisors and attorney. Councilmembers received some information just hours before the Council meeting. Councilmembers have also been addressed by citizen concerns. Councilmembers Holland agreed that he also has not had time to evaluate the information that was received. Councilmember Downing didn't feel it was necessary to meet with the Board of Elections Supervisors. Councilmember Tarr clarified that all Councilmembers would remain in their current positions until conclusion of an investigation. Councilmember Troast concurred with postponing being sworn in.

Motion to postpone swearing in of Councilmembers elect until election issues can be fully addressed (Tarr, Troast passed) @ 7:09 PM

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

#### Comments from Council

Councilmember Tarr encouraged the public to come forward with any comments regarding the election.

Councilmember Nock clarified that he did not know that he had been removed from his lease. The current house has been his residence for 25 years and still is. He alleged that Ms. Foster had illegally obtained information pertaining to his lease and her behavior is unacceptable. He will fix the lease issue tomorrow. Councilmember Downing said that it shouldn't be necessary to be on a lease to live with parents. As long as his address was verified, she doesn't understand the drama. Councilmember

Nock thanked the Council for being respectful of his privacy and the chance to address the issues.

Councilmember Holland said he saw Bill East and LaFabian Marshall helping to clean up in Cypress Park. He appreciated the City employees donating their time on a Saturday for clean-up.

The City Manager added that Charlie Cottman and Deontrae Scarborough, City employees, were also there. Lower Shore Land Trust also volunteered and did a wonderful job also. There was a new manhole installed in front of Market Street Deli. Their cooperation was much appreciated. They actually closed their business for a day to help reduce traffic flow. That area will be paved after the gravel settles. The old well station on 6<sup>th</sup> Street has been demolished and removed and trees pruned. There are other projects on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in progress. The roof at City Hall is undergoing repairs. On May 22, 2021 there is an event with Maryland Bike Coalition, in conjunction with the Recreation Commission, a 5-mile event will take place. Once finalized, information will be posted. The Virginia-Maryland Trails project that has trails from Cape Charles is being worked on but is still a couple years out in planning. Good things are in motion and will happen.

#### Comments from Departments

None

#### Comments from Audience

Valerie King, Salisbury, MD, she is a former resident of Pocomoke City. She is confused as to why it's a Council decision to discuss private business of Councilmember Nock. Councilmember Nock said the Councilmembers did not want to publicize his business. The Council does have the liberty to discuss this in open session but wanted to give him the chance to address it first. His issue is with the slumlords, the corrupt business owners and the corrupt Mayor, and honey, I'm coming for you too, has constantly attacked him for the last two years and what they don't understand is that is what makes him fight harder. It was his decision to put this out there.

Tenisha Jones, 103 8<sup>th</sup> Street, her concern is that your name doesn't have to be on a lease to live at an address. The Council is aware of where he lives. It has been the same since his last term. Now all of a sudden there is a problem because he won the election fair and square. She alleged that Ms. Foster doesn't live at her address either. She accused Ms. Foster of illegally obtaining rental information regarding Mr. Nock. She accused the Mayor of being a snake in the grass and wolf in sheep's clothing. Mayor Marshall Harrison stated that she does not have a vote in this matter.

Councilmember Holland clarified that residence issues had also been raised regarding Ms. Keri Ann Foster prior to the election. Those issues were addressed and documentation was collected. Mr. Nock will have the same opportunity.

Mayor Marshall Harrison clarified that as Mayor she does not have a vote. All that happened is the the Council made a motion and seconded it to have the opportunity to review documentation. She has not influenced or convinced the Council to do anything that they don't want to do.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Nock, Tarr passed) @ 7:34 PM

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

Approved: K.M. Beckett-El Soloh

City Clerk