

## Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and via Zoom/Facebook livestream on Monday, December 6, 2021. 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  
City Manager: Jeremy Mason  
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati  
Not Present: Diane Downing

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

#### Approval of Minutes from Meeting of November 8, 2021:

Motion to approve minutes for November 8, 2021 as written (Nock, Troast passed)

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

#### Update by the Train Club on Displays at the Train Depot:

Mr. Paul Becker said they have been slowed down by COVID but are still moving forward. There is 1 functioning layout so far. The display at the Discovery Museum has been set up and someone goes daily to check on it. Councilmember Troast asked him to comment on membership. Anyone who is interested in joining the train club can contact the club via Facebook or email. They speak with the person and have never had to turn anyone away. There is a yearly membership dues fee. Mayor Susan Marshall Harrison said she has visited the train displays and is impressed by how labor intensive it can be. She thinks that the public will enjoy the displays. Mr. Becker discussed train scale sizes and how displays are set up. He also commented that the display at the discovery Museum is free to visit. They are planning an open house in the spring at the train depot once they are ready to open.

#### Update on ARPA Funds Purchases-Water Meter Project, Police and EMS Radios, Public Works Water Tower Fence and Ambulance:

##### a. Ambulance:

Grant Writer, Linda McNeil, explained that ARPA funding will provide a 25% Municipal ARPA funds use for the new ambulance. The City's portion should be approximately \$131,000. This new ambulance would replace the 2012 old ambulance which is out of service. The new ambulance will meet the new 5 standards of disinfection whereas the old one does not meet those standards. The 2 newer ambulances, currently in service, also meet those new standards. Councilmember Nock said these types of purchases for safety are top priority. These funds will free up some funds to use in other areas.

Motion to approve 25% cost share from ARPA funds in lieu of a loan for a new ambulance (Holland, Nock passed)

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

b. Police/EMS Radios:

The ARPA funding for new portable Police radios. EMS and the Fire Department will repurpose the old radios. Cost will be approximately \$113,421.60 and ARPA will cover 100% of the equipment cost.

Motion to submit ARPA application for cost of new Police radios and to repurpose old radios to EMS and Fire Department (Holland, Tarr passed)

Motion to submit grant application and 25% augmentation loan for a new ambulance (Holland, Nock passed)

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

c. Update WIIN / CDBG CIIP Funding:

Grant Writer, Linda McNeil, explained that WIIN is the Water Infrastructure Improvement grant through MDE for \$777,000 as part of the phase 1 ARPA funding. The City has to apply for the cost sharing funds from DHCD for \$635,727. They were enthusiastic when the City plan was discussed with them and they felt that funding could be approved. The total for the project would be 1.4 million. City Manager Mason said that this is new technology that would extend the life of the new pipes for years. An RFP for bids was published and 2 companies applied. The City was very pleased with the warranty, product type and installation methods of one of those companies. There were no local companies available with this technology.

Motion to submit grant application for WIIN / CDBG CIIP funding (Troast, Holland passed)

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

d. Public Works Fence:

The water tower fence on 7<sup>th</sup> Street has been there for years and is past its prime. This also falls under ARPA funding. The fence needs to be redone and adding privacy slats would be beneficial and act as a security measure. The new fence is estimated at \$70,000 and would be 100% funding through ARPA.

Motion to submit grant application for ARPA grant funding for Public Works fence at shop area as a protective measure (Nock, Tarr passed)

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

e. Water Meter Project Update:

The water meter project is still being planned. Several employees have been assigned to tasks of data collection. Data includes addresses of business and residential water users, sizes of meters and any modifications. The data collection will be completed in a few weeks.

### Demolition of Old Bath House at Cypress Park:

Mr. Mason stated that the bathhouse was built in the early 1980s. When it was evaluated by a contractor, it was deemed not worth fixing up. The decision was made to demolish it. The area will remain, and hopefully, future grant funds will allow a new structure. Councilmember Nock said that bathhouse has been there as long as he can remember and looks rundown. He agreed that it should be demolished. Mr. Mason added that Public Works is capable of completing that work and no bids are needed.

Motion to demolish old bathhouse at Cypress Park (Nock, Tarr passed)

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

### Comments from Council

Councilmember Troast complimented Public Works for the work done with the ditch clearing in White Oaks. She also complimented Mike Shannon on the Christmas parade. There were a lot of people in attendance. She believes that the Mayor should have comments added to the agenda.

Councilmember Holland said the Jingle All the Way 5K event will be at Winter Quarters this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Christmas lights competition must be signed up to enter by December 17th. Marva theater will show Polar Express on December 11<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Karah Lacey for organizing the Old Fashioned Christmas. Mayor Marshall Harrison thanks Councilmember Holland for organizing and posting events on social media.

Councilmember Nock has information for meetings at the church for young men. Contact Councilmember Nock for information. He has not received weekly reports since October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Council must receive reports from the Police Department and other departments to be in compliance. The Mayor and City Manager said they have received weekly reports but will follow up with the City Clerk. He said that the Mayor was a breath of fresh air for the City and thanked her for her emails and the work that she does. He stated that he has gotten calls from citizens regarding the condition of the drawbridge. Mr. Mason said there are restrictions because it is over a waterway. He had a conversation about it with Senator Carozza's office last summer. The City's holiday schedule also needs to be discussed. He doesn't want to make a decision yet about Juneteenth becoming a paid holiday but we should reconsider celebrating Columbus and Native American Day.

Councilmember Tarr wished everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. McNeil explained and displayed the stuffed animal "Zeke" Pocomoke City police dog. Zeke is a fund raiser for the housing, care, vet bills and food for the Pocomoke City K-9. The stuffed animals are available at City Hall, the Police Department, Market Street Deli, Scher's, Pocomoke Chamber of Commerce, Layfield Vet Services and Pocomoke Animal Hospital.

### Comments from City Manager

Mr. Mason said we have had a prosperous year with getting things done. Anyone wanting that information can send him an email or phone call. There has been more of a sense of community. Public Works and Karah Lacey, the Events Coordinator, work hard all year to put events together for the holiday season. Also, Mike Shannon does a great job to organize the Christmas Parade. The Mayor and Council get a thanks for all their attention and help with the ARPA funding items.

Comments from the Mayor

Last month, Pocomoke City hosted the Lower Eastern Shore Mayor's Association (LESMA) dinner at the Log Cabin. She attended the October meeting and found out the Pocomoke City hosts the November meeting. Last year was her first Christmas parade. Because of COVID, it was a smaller event. This year was great to see so many people in attendance. The Mayor & Council chamber has been renovated except for the carpet so she hopes to see the public in attendance.

Comments from Chief of Police

Since the last meeting, there were 19 arrests, 14 for traffic, 5 criminal, 1 DUI and 1 for drugs. There were 109 traffic, 152 total violations, 86 warnings, 66 citations and 12 motor vehicle accidents. There were 114 foot patrols, 219 business patrols and 320 total patrol checks. On November 17, 2021 he had a meeting with the Caucus of African American Leaders. It was a very positive meeting and he has a copy of the minutes, if anyone would like to see what was discussed. Christmas parade went smoothly and there was a lot of positive feedback on that. Mayor's Old-Fashioned Christmas also went smoothly. The Police Department will revise the safe-operation on Front Street for next year. The Police Department will provide gifts for approximately 30 children this year and the event will be this Saturday at 3:00 p.m. The Police Department began running their Christmas ad on December 1 and will run through December. The development of the web page for the PD is still in development. The Red Speed camera in the same locations as last month. The camera on 8<sup>th</sup> Street is still experiencing technical difficulties. A part-time dispatcher position was filled and be used as fill in for vacation leave. The K-9 vehicle repairs will have been completed by next week. The last of the new officers have completed background checks and signed their contracts and will start by December 17<sup>th</sup>. That will leave only 1 more officer position to fill. Grant Writer, Linda McNeil, has done a great job with grants and got approval for a \$30,000 grant. The money will be used for crowd control items and training. In-car cameras and body cameras are being looked at for future use. We currently have body cams. Our tasers are becoming out dated and will be phased out.

Comments from Audience

None

Motion to adjourn meeting (Nock, Tarr passed)

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

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