

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, April 14, 2026 meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

Present:

Mayor: Todd J. Nock

Council Members: C.L. Marshall, R. Scott Holland, S. Tull,
D. Downing, B. Cottman

City Manager: Brandy Matthews

Attorney: Andrew Illuminati

City Clerk: Melinda Stafford

The Mayor addressed the audience regarding the delayed start time due to technical difficulties with the live stream.

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Elder Saunders, Call to Order

Reading of Closed Session Summary

Mayor Nock read the closed session summary. On March 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM, the City Council met at City Hall and, after beginning in open session, entered into closed session on a motion by Council Member Holland and a second by Council Member Cottman. The vote was unanimous. The statutory authority for the closed session was General Provision 3-305(b)(8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation, and General Provision 3-305(b)(4) to consider a matter that concerns a proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the state. No votes were taken during the closed session. The council entered into open session at 7:03 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Council Member Downing to approve the work session minutes from March 19, 2026.

Seconded by Council Member Cottman. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Tull – aye, Cottman-aye.

Motion made by Council Member Marshall to approve the closed session minutes from March 19, 2026.

Seconded by Council Member Tull. Motion passed unanimously. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye, Tull – aye.

Motion made to by Councilmember Tull to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Cottman. Motion passes. Holland – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Tull – aye, Cottman-aye.

Approval of Bill List

The bill list was presented for payment. Motion to approve by Councilwoman Downing, seconded by Councilwoman Tull. Motion passes. Holland, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Tull – aye, Cottman - aye.

Swearing in of Beautification Board Member

Reverend Doretha Whittington came forward and was sworn in as a member of the Pocomoke City Beautification Commission. She took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of Beautification Commission according to the Constitution and laws of the state

Swearing in of Fair Board Member

Mr. Robert Smith came forward and was sworn in as a member of the Pocomoke City Fair Board Commission. He took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of Fair Board Commissioner according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Swearing in of Planning and Zoning Commission Member

Joshua George was sworn in as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for Pocomoke City. He took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of Planning Commission member for Pocomoke City according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Swearing in of the City Attorney

Andrew Illuminati was sworn in as City Attorney. The Mayor explained that this swearing in was required by the USDA grant and confirmed with the City Attorney that this would not need to be repeated annually. Mr. Illuminati took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of City Attorney for Pocomoke City according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Swearing in of the City Clerk

Melinda Stafford was sworn in as City Clerk. She took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of City Clerk for Pocomoke City according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Swearing In of City Manager

Brandy Matthews was sworn in as City Manager. She took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the office of City Manager for Pocomoke City according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Service Appreciation Award for District 1 Councilmember - R. Scott Holland

The Mayor presented a service appreciation award to District 1 Council Member R. Scott Holland. The Mayor referred to Council Member Holland as his "battle buddy," noting that they had started their service at approximately the same time. The Mayor highlighted Council Member Holland's dedication to addressing the city's debt with the state, stating "Thinking back to the days where the city was in big debt with the state, you and I stepped in, looked over the financials, and we were determined to get it paid off." The Mayor particularly noted the sacrifice Council Member Holland made to his family time, stating "the differences from you and a lot of the rest of us was you came on and you had very small kids when you started and you sacrificed your family, you sacrificed time with your family, all to serve your city." The Mayor thanked Council Member Holland on behalf of the city for his service. Council Member Holland responded stating "I just want to thank everyone that supported me over the years. I'm proud of the work that I put in in service of this town. I'm thankful and I cherish the time that I had here. I'm thankful for the support and what we got accomplished."

Swearing In for District 1 Council Member Michael Hall

Michael Hall was sworn in as the new District 1 Council Member. He took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the seat of City Council for Pocomoke City District 1 according to the Constitution and laws of the state. The Mayor noted that this was the first time Mr. Hall would serve as Council Member, as he had previously served as Commissioner.

Swearing In for District 2 Council Member Diane Downing

Diane Downing was re-sworn in as District 2 Council Member. She took the oath of office, pledging to support the Constitution of the United States and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and to faithfully execute the seat of City Council Member for Pocomoke City District 2 according to the Constitution and laws of the state.

Appointment of First and Second Vice Presidents for the City Council

A motion was made by Councilmember Cottman to appoint Councilmember Diane Downing as the First Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilman Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye, Tull – aye.

A motion was made to appoint by Councilmember Cottman to appoint Councilmember C.L. Marshall as the Second Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilman Downing. The motion passed unanimously. Hall – aye, Marshall – aye, Downing – aye, Cottman – aye, Tull – aye.

DESIGNATION OF BANK SIGNATORIES

A motion was made by Councilmember Cottman to authorize Mayor Todd Nock, Councilmember Diane Downing, and Councilmember C.L. Marshall as bank signatories for all city accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tull. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments

- a. Comments from the Audience
 - 1. No members of the public came forward to make comments during the public comment period.
- b. Comments from the City Manager
 - 1. The City Manager had no comments.
- c. Comments from the City Council Members
 - 1. Councilman Hall- Council Member Hall thanked citizens, friends, and family for their support, specifically mentioning his wife Brenda for supporting his decision to get back into politics. He stated "I'm looking forward to serve the next 4 years and to keep Pocomoke a city that we're proud to call our home." He acknowledged that there would be disagreements, stating "I do know we're not going to agree on every issue. I just hope we can agree to disagree."
 - 2. Councilman Marshall- Council Member Marshall welcomed Council Member Hall and thanked Council Member Holland for his years of dedication, stating "It's been a pleasure to work with you, Scott." He reminded the public about a community-wide cleanup scheduled for April 18th (Saturday) starting at the Fairgrounds at 8 AM. He explained that the city would provide gloves and trash bags, participants would convene at the Fairgrounds, the city would be divided into different areas, and cleanup would continue until approximately 11:30 AM. He noted that Public Works would have a trash truck for deposit at the fairgrounds, and items too large could be left on the side of the road for pickup. He stated that "The Crisfield Beautification Committee is going to join us in this effort, along with several churches and other nonprofits." He invited, encouraged, and challenged groups to participate in the community-wide cleanup. He congratulated the Pocomoke Chamber Citizen of the Year who was present in the audience.
 - 3. Councilwoman Tull- Council Member Tull expressed appreciation for people serving their time and new people coming on board. She noted she had known Council Member Hall for years and that they grew up together, stating "just to see him in a different light as when we were silly little kids and to see us now as adults and prospering and moving on and excelling in our own ways is always powerful." She expressed surprise that no members of the public had comments, calling it "a first for us." She announced an upcoming event on April 17th (Friday) at the Pocomoke Public Library, describing it as "a poetry art workshop kind of situation" starting at 6 PM, noting it is free and open to the public.
 - 4. Councilwoman Downing- Council Member Downing stated her comments would be brief and thanked everyone for coming out. She expressed appreciation to everyone for their support over the years. She addressed outgoing Council Member Scott Holland, stating "I thought we were going out together, but I guess not this time." She expressed appreciation for everyone coming out and noted "it's just good to see everybody here." She specifically mentioned her appreciation for individuals named Troast and the Mayor.
 - 5. Councilwoman Cottman- Council Member Cottman thanked all individuals who were sworn into various commissions for their willingness to serve. She acknowledged Council Member Scott

Holland and thanked him for his service, wishing him luck with future endeavors. She welcomed Council Member Michael Hall and congratulated Council Member Diane Downing on their new positions. She thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting.

d. Comments from the Mayor

The Mayor recognized former District 5 Councilwoman Esther Troast, whom he referred to as his "mama bear." He also recognized Joey, a town commissioner from the Town of Princess Anne.

Announcement of Mayor's Business Roundtable

The Mayor announced a Mayor's Business Roundtable scheduled for April 16, 2026, at the Discovery Center from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. He invited all business owners to attend and confirmed with staff members that they would help facilitate the event.

Welcome to New Council Member Hall

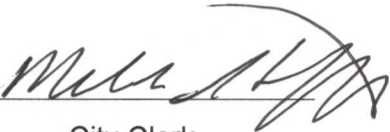
The Mayor welcomed Mr. Hall to the Pocomoke City elected body. He acknowledged that there would be disagreements, stating "We may leave this room mad with each other some nights, but we're still a family. And we do as families do, and we do as families say. And when we can come together for the betterment of this town, that's what we do." He made a light-hearted comment about matching ties with Council Member Hall.

Recognition of Council Member Holland

The Mayor gave recognition to Council Member Holland, noting that the Mayor had started service a year before Council Member Holland and that they had served together for a long time. He described the departure as "bittersweet," acknowledging that Council Member Holland needed to return to his family and had invested significantly in city service. The Mayor thanked Council Member Holland for his service.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm by Councilwoman Downing, seconded by Councilman Holland.

Approved:


City Clerk