

Regular Meeting Minutes

The special meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am.

Present: Mayor Todd J. Nock
Council Members: R. Scott Holland,
C.L. Marshall, Brooke Cottman
City Manager: John Barkley
City Clerk: Melinda Stafford

Call to Order

Roll Call is taken by Mayor Nock. Attendance is stated. Councilwomen Downing and Marsh were not in attendance. The Mayor also states that the Emergency meeting was posted on the website

Resolution No. 2025-ER-8 Allocation of ARPA Funds

Mayor Nock stated that today is the last day to commit the funds so he will entertain a motion to make the resolution and emergency resolution, and that Councilwoman Downing will be voting by proxy. Motion made by Councilman Holland, seconded by Councilman Cottman. Downing by vote from meeting the night before. Mayor then reads the resolution. He then opens the floor for public comment. Asking anyone to step to the microphone, state your name. Janet from The Post approaches. She asked what happened at the public meeting the night before concerning the Public Works building. Mayor Nock responds since there was not three (3) bids presented, council was not able to move forward and utilize ARPA funding. If it was presented with the bids, it could have moved forward. At the next meeting on January 6, the bids will be available. Finance Director Brandy Matthews will work on finding funds for that to happen. Our Police Department and City Departments have an open bid that was still valid for vehicles. Pocomoke City will not have to worry about vehicles in FY 2026. Sidewalks and a Community Center is all we will talk about. Chief Hancock approaches the podium. He begins to thank the Mayor and Council for the updating and turnaround of the department. He states he is proud to have worked with the Mayor, Council and the City Manager, Mr. Barkley. Mayor Nock asks how soon will we see these vehicles on the road? Chief stated that the admin vehicles will be delivered on Friday. There is one place on the Eastern Shore that outfits police vehicles. They do a phenomenal job. Our police vehicles are scheduled for March. Otherwise, they are currently parked on police property inside the fencing. The Mayor has conversation about the possibility of council vehicles and what happens with older equipment. Chief states that the equipment is normally recycled. With the newer vehicles the officers are updated with the best equipment. Marshall asks about the new vehicles be purchased on the state contract. The response is the Dodge and the Fords are open on one contract. Councilman Marshall asks about the outfitting. Response is that the outfitting is separate. Chief explains how the state contracts work. Councilman Marshall states that he is asking to make sure that when then are questions are asked, we are ready to go. Chief explains with more clarity. Mayor Nock states that we have the ability to do and put out RFPs for service for different things like internet and so its not like problems with our Police Department. We don't let anyone else work on the electronics or anything electrical. It goes back to the dealer. Seeing no more public comments, the Mayor asks for a motion, Councilman Holland to approve Emergency Resolution 2025-ER-8, seconded by Councilman Marshall. Motion passes.

Comments

a. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Councilwoman Cottman –None.
2. Councilman Marshall – Hopes that we do not find ourselves in this situation again. We should not find ourselves on the last day of the year attempting to approve anything. Thanks us for our duty.
3. Councilman Holland – None

b. Comments from the Mayor

Agrees with Councilman Marshall, He appreciate everyone's effort that helped to brainstorm how to use the funds, so the City does not lose them. We need to be better and not be behind the wheel. Pocomoke City has always been behind and now its time to be ahead of things. Public Works, Planning and Zoning needs to be on the list. CBDG monies needs to be on the list, Comprehensive Plan and more needs to be on the list for January 6th meeting. It's time to be proactive.

c. Comments from the City Manager

He agrees with everything that is being said. Thank you on behalf of the staff for your help last night and for going above and beyond the call of duty. We as a staff will make a resolution to be better and in a few weeks you will see a difference.

d. Comments from the Audience

None

Motion to adjourn at 10:24 by Councilman Marshall and seconded by Councilman Holland to adjourn.

Approved: 
City Clerk

Agenda items may or may not be considered in sequence. This agenda is subject to change to include the addition or deletion of items, including executive/closed session.