

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present:

Council Members: R. Scott Holland, S. Tull,
Brooke Cottman

City Manager: Brandy Matthews

Attorney: Andrew Illuminati

City Clerk: Melinda Stafford

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Councilwoman Tull, Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Tull. Motion passes. Holland – aye Cottman – aye, Tull – aye.

Approval of Bill List

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

Discussion and Approval of Worcester County Requested Funds Letter

A letter was read by Brandy Matthews, City Manager, requesting Worcester County funding for fiscal year 2027. The city is requesting a 10% increase in the unrestricted county grant to \$605,000 to support operations in public works, police, water and wastewater, and community economic development. Additional requests include \$150,000 for community center construction and \$42,153 for sidewalk repairs and upgrades. Councilman Holland emphasized the importance of the \$150,000 earmark for the community center, noting it would help secure additional grant funding and that the community center has strong public support. Motion to approve by Councilwoman Cottman, seconded by Councilwoman Tull. Motion passes. Holland – aye Cottman – aye, Tull – aye.

Motion to Approve Waste Water Treatment Camera Upgrade

Brandy Matthews shared with the Council the need to upgrade cameras at the wastewater treatment plant since they have not been updated since 2012. The upgrade will provide direct sight of what sewage haulers are dumping to ensure compliance and prevent illegal dumping of materials like grease. Two bids were received with Safe House being selected at a cost of \$6,652.57. Council members supported the upgrade, referencing past incidents where improper dumping caused odor problems and legal issues that resulted in settlements for the city. Motion was made to approve the wastewater treatment camera upgrade with Safe House by Councilwoman Cottman and seconded by Councilwoman Tull. Motion passed. Holland – aye Cottman – aye, Tull – aye

Approval of Event - Pocomoke Stampede & Concert – April 25, 2026

Robert Smith Dubrel presented their application for the Pocomoke Stampede and Concert scheduled for April 25th, 2026. All relevant departments including police, EMS, and fire have signed off on the plan. The event organizers requested city services including trash truck, police detail, EMS detail, city tent, picnic tables, golf carts, advertising on city signs and social media, and a generator. Councilman Holland praised the volunteer work and effort put into organizing the event and expressed appreciation for the community involvement. Motion was made by Councilwoman Cottman to approve the event application for the Pocomoke

Stampede and Concert on April 25th, 2026, and seconded by Councilwoman Tull. Motion passed.
Holland – aye Cottman – aye, Tull – aye

Special One Day Alcohol Permit - Pocomoke Stampede & Concert – April 25, 2026

The event organizers requested a special one-day alcohol permit to sell beer, wine, and distilled spirits from two enclosed areas. All attendees purchasing alcohol will be carded regardless of age, bartenders will be TIPS certified, and wristbands will be used to identify those permitted to consume alcohol. Consumption will be limited to the asphalt area in front of the grandstands.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Tull to approve the special one-day alcohol permit for the Pocomoke Stampede and Concert and seconded by Councilwoman Cottman. Motion passes.

Holland – aye Cottman – aye, Tull – aye

Comments

a. Comments from the Audience

1. Stephanie Dubrel – had a question about the matrix board by the highway. City manager will address.
2. Anthony Jenkins - wonder what kind of policies you all have on city Trash people accidentally pick up residential belongings. Councilman Holland and City Manager Brandy Matthews stated that there is no policy. The resident requested reimbursement for lost items and asked about city policies regarding such incidents. Council acknowledged the concern and indicated they would have further internal discussions about the matter but could not make an immediate decision.

b. Comments from the City Manager

1. Road repairs on Market Street from 8th Street to Front Street will begin tomorrow at 8 AM as part of the CiPP project, expected to take approximately 15 days weather permitting
2. Electronic signage will be installed soon with Delmarva Power assistance, allowing up to 120 words for event advertising
3. Black History Month open mic event at the library on 415th Street, hosted by Councilmember Charnell Todd, starting at 6:00 PM
4. Sturgis One Room Schoolhouse Museum will offer free tours February 27th from 5-8 PM and February 28th from 1-4 PM as part of Somerset County NAACP Black History Bus tour
5. Horse barn cleaning has been completed by Fisher's Environmental
6. Electric upgrades in the horse barn are scheduled for the next two weeks
7. Public Works will install louver vents and painting, followed by electric connections for fans
8. Public Works building project experienced delays due to footer issues that required commercial rather than residential specifications, new plans were submitted Friday

c. Comments from the City Council Members

1. Councilwoman Cottman thanked attendees for coming to the meeting.
2. Councilwoman Tull corrected the start time for the Black History Month event to 6:00 PM and encouraged all community members to attend, emphasizing that Black history is everyone's history.
3. Councilman Holland congratulated Mike Hall and Diane Downing for winning their seats but expressed concern about another uncontested election, emphasizing the need for greater community involvement and more candidates willing to serve. The member also requested a work session to discuss moving forward on unspecified matters.

d. Comments from the Mayor – No comments were provided as the mayor was not present at the meeting.

Motion to adjourn to at 6:59pm by Councilwoman Cottman, seconded by Councilwoman Tull.

Approved: 
City Clerk