

August 15, 2016

Pocomoke City Mayor and Council held a regular meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, August 15, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison  
Council Members: Diane Downing, Esther Troast,  
George Tasker, Dale Trotter, Brian Hirshman  
City Manager/City Attorney: Ernie Crofoot  
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review and approval of minutes from meeting July 18, 2016:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016, meeting as presented.

FYI- A savings of \$1,759 on LGIT insurance:

City Manager Crofoot stated that we completed a LGIT survey of questions asking about our policy and procedures and with the completed survey is how we got the savings this year. If LGIT has any savings, they will pass it along to the members.

Discuss letter of request from Chamber of Commerce for use of the City's tent and stage for Pocomoktoberfest-Saturday, October 1, 2016. (letter attached):

Mayor Morrison read the letter for the record.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the request from Chamber of Commerce to use the City's tent and stage for Pocomoktoberfest- Saturday, October 1, 2016.

DHCD "Save the Date" August 31, 2016 for a homeownership lunch and learn session:

Mayor Morrison stated that DHCD would be hosting a homeownership lunch and learn session on August 31, 2016 here at City Hall, in the Council Chambers.

City Manager Crofoot stated that flyers were out advertising the date. It is a brown bag lunch; you will need to bring your own lunch. They will talk about options on buying your own home.

Maryland Department Transportation-transportation Grant Application Form:

Mayor Morrison stated that a special fund appropriation of \$25,000,000 to the Maryland Department of Transportation was allocated by SB190. Municipal governments will be allotted \$19,000,000. To be eligible to participate, the local government must agree and sign the "Transportation Grant Application Form".

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to approve the Transportation Grant Application and authorize Mayor Morrison to sign the application.

Discuss request from Major East and others regarding use of City properties for bow hunting:

Mayor Morrison read the letter from Major East to request to use two properties owned by the City on Dun Swamp Road and Old Virginia Road for bow hunting. Mr. East stated that he would continue to keep properties free of litter and post signs as he has done in the past years.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman passed) to approve Major East to bow hunt on the City's property with proper permits.

Pentecostal Church of God of Lincoln, would like permission to use City property located at 401 Fifth Street for a Fish Fry on August 27, 2016:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Pentecostal Church of God of Lincoln requesting to use City property at 401 Fifth Street for a Fish Fry on August 27, 2016.

In a motion (Troast, Hirshman passed) to allow Pentecostal Church of God of Lincoln to use 401 Fifth Street on August 27, 2016 for their Fish Fry.

City Manager Crofoot asked the Council to approve him purchasing the Housing Department's modular for permits. This item was approved in the budget with long-term financing, but he would like to purchase the item now out of short term lending. The City was approved for the Circuit Rider Grant. This person will be implementing the new software.

In a motion (Troast, Tasker passed) to allow City Manager to purchase the new modular and computer system for the Housing Department from short-term lending.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Trotter asked the status on the three houses on Second Street.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the estimate to demolish the houses including the landfill fees is around \$37,000 to \$39,000; each house costing around \$13,000. He stated that he was looking for grant money for this project as the City doesn't have the money at this time.

Councilman Trotter asked for an update on the water study.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the hydraulic study would be completed late October, early November. We will continue to flush as often as we can in the areas most needed.

Councilman Trotter asked if the letters went out to the sewage haulers.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the letter has not gone out yet, but he is working on it.

Councilman Hirshman asked about the status of the old firehouse.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had sent the appraisal to the Mayor and Council. Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) does not want the building demolished. Many people want the building restored; we do have our grant writer looking for grants available to restore the building. It will take time for this to happen as of now we don't have the money to renovate the building. We are working on a grant to revamp the Cypress Park playground. There are several pieces of playground equipment that need to be replaced.

Mayor Morrison asked about the status of the land in the Industrial Park that the City was donating to the Volunteer Fire Company to put their building on for storage.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he was working on the paperwork.

Comments from Audience:

Catherine Duffy, 400 Laurel Street, Apt. A; stated that she was having an issue with kids coming on her property and being disrespectful to her and the police.

Mayor Morrison stated that they would ask the police to patrol the area more frequently.

Ms. Duffy stated that they do patrol the area, and the kids are disrespectful to the police. When she asked them to move off her property, they call her a mean old lady and other names. Once the police removed them, they would come back again.

City Manager Crofoot asked if she would be willing to have them arrested for trespassing.

Ms. Duffy stated that she would be willing to have them arrested, that would be the only way they will learn. She stated that a couple of people have been arrested.

Chenell Nock, 405 Laurel Street, she stated that they would to have a curfew in Pocomoke and how they would go about getting it enforced.

Mayor Morrison stated that they tried to have a curfew a long time ago. It is very hard to establish a curfew; we will look into it again.

Councilman Tasker stated that they could post a “No Loitering” or “No Trespassing” sign on their property.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would look into the possibility of a curfew.

Virginia Sparrow, 25 14<sup>th</sup> Street stated that Pocomoke had the commonest water around. They flush the hydrant fifteen to twenty minutes before they take a sample. Something needs to be done about the water, everybody is talking about it, but not doing anything.

Mayor Morrison stated that the City is working on the problem now. It takes time to get all the studies completed. We are trying to fix the problem.

Ms. Sparrow stated that she has a water filter that should last about eight weeks and it doesn't last four weeks.

Mayor Morrison stated that he knows it is frustrating to her and others, but he and the Council made a commitment to resolve the problem and they are working on it.

Robert Sparrow, 25 14<sup>th</sup> Street, asked about the water rate increase. He wanted to know if only the homeowners rate increased.

Mayor Morrison stated that the non-owner occupied rate and homeowners rate is now the same. The non-owner occupied were paying this rate for a couple of years. Now all residents are paying the same rate.

Monna VanEss stated that she hears and has a lot of problems with Comcast internet. She asked if the City could coordinate a community meeting here at City Hall so the residents could come here to discuss the issues with Comcast. This was done several years ago, Comcast had representatives here and talked to the citizens. A lot of senior citizens are not able to go to Salisbury and when they call on the phone they get someone they can't understand.

Mayor Morrison stated that it was a great idea.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would make sure this happens. When you have problems with Comcast, call here and let him know. The City does have a franchise agreement with them. We do have some authority. We will pull the agreement.

Ronnie White, 804 Walnut Street, asked if the City would try to get another grocery store here in Pocomoke. Everybody is so tired of going to Walmart. The prices keep going up and they have no competition.

Mayor Morrison stated that we don't have the numbers to support another grocery store. We have had grocery stores look to locate here.

Mr. White stated that another thing was the properties with tall grass is getting cut, but the contractors are half cutting the grass. They cut it just enough so it looks like it has been cut. They cut just enough to say they have been there. They are getting paid for nothing, as the grass is tall again.

Mayor Morrison asked City Manager Crofoot to look into this problem and speak to the contractors.

With no further discussion (Trotter, Downing passed) to adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk