

December 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, December 8, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Rob Clarke, Tracey Cottman,
Diane Downing, George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Attorney William Hudson
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Cottman, Trotter passed), to approve the minutes of November 3, 2014

Review Bills:

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed), the bills presented to be paid. (Copy of bill list attached to original minutes).

Ms. Susan Pusey, President of Delmarva Discovery Center, to introduce new D.D.C. Director Stacey Weisner:

Ms. Pusey stated that it is a great pleasure to introduce new the director for DDC, Ms. Stacey Weisner. Ms. Pusey said that dream of the Board of Directorshas always been to make each visit to the museum be more exciting, more alive, and more interactive so that each visit will be something new. She stated that they had worked very hard over the past few years to be better organized and to bring in new talent and staff. She stated that the staff has a variety of degrees, and that Ms. Weisner has all the passion that we were looking for to carry out the director's position.

Ms. Weisner thanked the Mayor and Council for having them tonight. She stated that her last job was Executive Director of the Delmarva Zoological Society, where she was asked to raise about \$3 million. It has been nice working with the Public Works Department and City Manager so far. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council and City of Pocomoke.

The Mayor and Council welcomed Stacey.

Chief Sewell to present year end summary report:

Chief Sewell gave the following stats for 2013 and 2014:

	2013	2014
Murders	0	0
Armed robberies	3 with 2 arrests	2 with 2 arrests
Rape	0	0
Assault	55 with 55 arrests	64 with 52 arrests
Theft (mostly from Walmart)	134 with 96 arrests	200 with 128 arrests
Burglaries	8 with 2 arrests	12 with 4 arrests
Arrests	498	703
Warrants	81	95
Patrol Checks	9,928	9,603

Chief Sewell also stated that for the first time the Police Department held in-service training with all officers attending a two day class. He said all officers are doing a terrific job.

Surplus property designation –eight (8) conference table chairs:

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to have the eight conference chairs placed on the surplus list, and he would like to purchase new chairs for the conference table.

In a motion (Cottman, Trotter passed) to surplus the eight conference chairs.

First Reading of Res. No. A-14-01 to annex property known as 805 Ocean Highway into the City limits (Shore Disposal/Waste Management property- Tax Map 92, Parcels 33 & 122). Letter from Planning and Zoning Commission attached.

Mayor Morrison read the letter for the record and read Res. No. A-14-01 for the record.

City Attorney to discuss downtown business loan repayment:

City Attorney Hudson discussed the loan repayment for Ms. Kim Jackson, who ceased operation in September in the downtown area, after completing 19 months of a five year commitment. She has since moved her business to Salisbury. She originally received a loan from the City in the amount of \$7,500, with the understanding that 20% would be forgiven after each year’s anniversary over a five year period, if she maintained her business in the downtown area. She had also signed a promissory note. He presented a draft of a letter to her requesting repayment due to her default, and suggested a discount for her repayment of the prorated balance (\$5,125) within 30 days, giving her credit for seven months of the second year of operation. (total 19 mos.). After a brief discussion, the Council authorized Mr. Hudson to send the letter to Ms. Jackson and report to Mr. Blake regarding her response.

Review offer from Bozman Paving and Grading, LLC to purchase surplus snow plow:

Mayor Morrison stated that Bozman Paving and Grading, LLC would like to purchase our surplus snow plow in the amount of \$1,500.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to accept Bozman Paving and Grading, LLC offer in the amount of \$1,500 for our surplus snow plow.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Trotter asked about the status of an aerator for the pond in Jenkins Orchard.

City Manager Blake stated that he would find out, and let him know.

Councilman Tasker stated that there was a street light out at the end of his street.

Mayor Morrison asked what was wrong with the blue Christmas tree downtown.

City Manager Blake stated that they needed to get an electrician to look at the tree, as they are not sure why it keeps going out.

Mayor Morrison stated that he had planned to present Mike Shannon a “Key” to the City tonight. Mr. Shannon is in charge of the Christmas Parade, and helps with several other events within the City. He does a wonderful job for this town.

Comments from the Audience:

Ms. AsteraHasebe of Winter Quarters Drive presented the Mayor and Council a draft of a proposed ordinance to change the City Code to allow chickens in the City Limits. She stated that she had met with Councilman Trotter and Councilman Tasker.

Mayor Morrison stated that they would review her request and see if they may consider such a change. It would need to be carefully thought out before changes could be made. Mayor Morrison asked her to come back to next month’s meeting.

Following a motion by Councilman Clarke and seconded by Councilman Tasker the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:52 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Clarke, Councilwoman Cottman, Councilwoman Downing, Councilman Tasker, City Manager Blake, City Attorney Hudson, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. Items discussed were real estate and personnel issues. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Approved: _____ 2015

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk

