

February 5, 2018

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 5, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Councilwoman Esther Troast as Acting Mayor
Council Members: Brian Hirshman, Dale Trotter, Diane Downing,
George Tasker
City Manager: Robert Cowger
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
Deputy Clerk: Paula Sparrow

Review Minutes

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed), to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting.

Review Bills

Councilman Tasker questioned the Wal Mart monthly bill in the amount of \$2,673. City Manager Cowger agreed and said he questions regarding a few others.

In a motion (Hirshman, Tasker passed), the bills presented, with the exception of the Wal Mart bill. The City Manager will check on the items questioned. (Copy of bill list is attached to original minutes).

Stacey Weisner – Delmarva Discovery Center

Ms. Stacey Weisner, President and C.E.O. of the Delmarva Discovery Center Museum, was present to discuss their loan from the City. She stated they were not asking for full forgiveness – just the \$584/month for twelve months which totals \$7,000. She explained that the Center had to replace a 10-ton heat pump in the museum which caused some financial difficulty. She said they would start repayment in January of next year.

City Manager Cowger explained the annual amount budgeted to the Center, the amount they had received to date, and balance due them. The remaining loan balance is \$26,000.

After a discussion Councilman Trotter offered to forgive the monthly loan payments just for this year.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter) approved \$7,000 forgiveness of the loan to the DDC.

Ms. Weisner asked the Council for a letter of support for permission to apply for a \$100,000 Capital Maryland Heritage Areas Program Grant. She also asked for another letter of support to the Maryland Historical Trust for this project.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter) passed these two letters of support.

Ms. Weisner asked for permission to apply for another \$50,000 “Make it Memorable” grant. This would be a Non-Capital Maryland Heritage Areas Program Grant. The same two support letters listed above would also be needed from the Mayor and Council.

In a motion (Downing, Hirshman) passed

Ms. Weisner requested permission to apply for a \$58,000 Capital Improvements Bond Bill, as a co-applicant because the City owns the property. This amount would also be a grant.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman) passed.

Ms. Weisner spoke about a Strategic Planning Retreat and is offering free seats to interested persons.

Ms. Weisner complimented the City’s Public Works Department. She said she can’t thank them enough. She also thanked City Manager Cowger for his help.

Assateague People of Delmarva

The group’s request is for use of Cypress Park from May 17-21, 2018 for a Pow Wow. This was on last month’s Mayor and Council agenda and tabled until this meeting due to concerns regarding the City’s resources. The City provides three days of in kind service for this event each year.

City Manager Cowger said it was unlikely the Pow Wow would be held this year due to issues within the tribe. It has gotten smaller through the years. He stated only approximately ten people from the tribe attended the event last year. This year the event would take resources away from the public works department on street work and water improvements. Councilman Tasker made a motion to not approve their request. Councilman Hirshman said we don’t have to decide now, and asked to table the request and allow the tribe to get their act together. Councilman Tasker withdrew his motion. City Manager Cowger said he would try to get a definite answer from them by our next meeting.

In a motion (Hirshman, Downing) passed to table this request until the next meeting.

Second Reading of Resolution No. 510

A RESOLUTION OF THE POCOMOKE CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND INCORPORATING THE CITY’S ADOPTED GROWTH TIERS MAP INTO THE 2014 POCOMOKE CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PURPOSES OF FULLY IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ACT OF 2012.

Dan Brandewie, Pocomoke City Planning Director, explained the need for this adoption. The map has to be adopted into the Comprehensive Plan to allow the City approval of other residential developments.

In a motion (Tasker, Downing), approved and passed.

Beer & Wine License

Karah Lacey, Downtown Events Coordinator, was present to request approval from the Council for a Special Event Exception for Consumption of Alcohol License for the City's Downtown 4th Friday Art Strolls. The 4th Friday events are scheduled for April 27, 2018; May 25, 2018; June 22, 2018; July 27, 2018; August 24, 2018; and September 28, 2018.

Marc Scher, President of the Downtown Pocomoke Association, was present and stated the sales have been phenomenal. He thanked the City's Police Department and Public Works employees for their help with these events.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman) passed approving an exception to Chapter 86-2 to allow the consumption of alcohol in non-glass containers within the closed areas of Market Street between Front Street and Second Street for the above listed dates.

Pocomoke High School and Pocomoke Police Department Agreement

City Manager Cowger, Chief Harden and officials of Pocomoke High School previously met to discuss the police presence at school athletic events. The City provides two hours of coverage with two off-duty police officers. Because they are City officers, we feel they should be there as the Pocomoke Police Department. The City would provide the two officers and they will be paid overtime. The school will reimburse the City \$65/per officer, per event. This would be strictly for school events such as soccer, basketball, etc. This would help the school.

Mr. Cowger said the fee would not cover the entire expense for an officer on overtime, but he and the Chief recommend it. Acting Mayor Troast said the service is an investment in our youth.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter) passed to enter into an Extra Duty Detail Agreement with Pocomoke High School and the Pocomoke City Police Department.

Update on Winter Quarters Golf Course

City Manager Cowger stated that a meeting two weeks ago a group interested in leasing the golf course was present and met in a closed session. When they left the impression was to have the City Manager and City Attorney draft a lease and coordinate with the interested parties. In the meantime, the Council instructed the City Manager to wait and now have the golf course lease publicized. Mr. Cowger told the parties, they felt it was unfair, and they pulled their offer off the table. He stated that if you want to advertise it we could do so in various newspapers such as the Bayside Gazette and OC Today or Dispatch. He also reminded them that we have a time line due to the greens being fertilized in mid-March, and definitely by the end of March.

Councilwoman Downing said that she asked the City Attorney to look at the legal aspects of it and to write up the lease for review by the Council. This is for the record because that is what she agreed to.

Councilman Trotter stated he wants to advertise it. Acting Mayor Troast asked the City Attorney's advice on the legality of advertising/or not. The City Attorney stated that the City's Charter does not require the City to advertise, but it is a good practice.

Acting Mayor Troast said she does not want the Log Cabin used as a restaurant. Councilman Tasker said that was never said. The man said he was going to cook the food in Princess Anne, place it in chafing pans, bring it there, and sell it that way. There would be no kitchen in the cabin. Mrs. Troast said the log cabin is a historical landmark and she wants to keep it that way. The man had proposed to have a new playground - fenced in. He also wanted to put in docking. She said she was thinking about the residents on that street and neighborhood traffic. It would turn it into a commercial area.

Acting Mayor Troast asked for further discussion.

Councilman Tasker said two years ago when former City Manager Crofoot discussed the closing of the golf course, he wanted to advertise it and none of the Council agreed to do that.

Councilman Tasker said it was now a closed deal – the man gave us an opportunity and we have an ideal situation, a man who wants to put his money into it, and now we want to advertise it - and we do not have time to advertise it.

Acting Mayor Troast asked for a motion to advertise, or not. There was none. The item is considered dead. It was agreed to keep it closed with no advertising.

Update of IOREX Pilot Program

City Manager Cowger said the units came in this morning. They plan to install the two units starting on Friday morning. The first one will be located at Market and Fourteenth Streets – the second one at Somerset Avenue at Fourteenth Street. This is a pilot testing area. The water will be cut off a couple hours twice during the installations.

Loan Documents for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

Authorize the Acting Mayor to sign document in the amount of \$368,000 for the upgrades. City Manager Cowger stated the Council had already approved the \$500,000 grant and this was only a formality for the first draw.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter) passed for Acting Mayor to sign the document.

Proclamation for "Rare Disease Day"

Acting Mayor Troast read the proclamation for the record, declaring observation of February 28, 2018 as "Rare Disease Day" in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter) passed for Acting Mayor to sign proclamation.

Water Quality in Pocomoke Heights

City Manager Cowger stated he was sent a video the other day of a resident's water and we must address the water problem there. He asked the Council's approval to move forward with an entire cost estimate for the Pocomoke Heights to get it resolved. He said the City may have to borrow money to get this resolved if grant funds are not available. He stated we need to move forward and get this corrected as soon as possible.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman) passed.

Annexation Request 1420 Ocean Highway

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director, presented a letter from Carlton Mason requesting annexation for five acres of land located at 1420 Ocean Highway. The site is occupied by Caliber Collision, an auto body shop. He explained the steps necessary in the process. They include recognizing a petition was received, an annexation agreement and plan, and allowing 30 days for the State and County to comment. This proposal will be heard at the next Pocomoke City Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter) passed.

Mayor and Council Items

Councilman Tasker referenced a \$3,300 vehicle repair for the police department on the bill list. He stated that quite a few times this has happened to "take home" vehicles, and we need to address it.

Councilman Downing stated there were potholes on Eighth Street that needed addressing.

Councilman Trotter stated the roadway was going down by the water pipe on Linden Avenue at Winter Quarters Drive.

Councilman Hirshman said he was happy with the police officers outside of the schools.

Acting Mayor Troast stated she attended the Maryland Municipal League Mayor's event last week in Annapolis. She received valuable information, one of which was roadway improvement funding. She brought postcards and asked the audience to send them to our Delegates and Senator with a quick, one sentence such as #fixlindenavenue, or #fixpocomokestreets. It is very important these cards are sent in. Paula has provided a sheet with the names and addresses of all the Delegates and Senator who are presenting legislation for this Bill for the public's convenience.

Comments from the Audience:

Jim Covington, of Greenway Avenue, stated the Maryland Historic Trust application for the Winter Quarters Municipal Golf Course and the Log Cabin to be placed on the National Register of

Historic Places has been completed. He stated that the information will be sent to the State, and the State will submit the National one to us. It is hoped that the designation would allow the City to receive grant funds for the upkeep of the building.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Approved: March 5, 2018

Paula M. Sparrow

Paula M. Sparrow
Deputy Clerk