

January 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Acting Mayor Esther Troast  
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman,  
Dale Trotter, George Tasker  
City Manager Robert L. Cowger, Jr  
City Attorney Roscoe Leslie  
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Hirshman, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting.

Review and approval of bills:

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

Atlantic General Hospital Care Giver Annual Update-Michael Franklin to present-Action Needed:

Mr. Michael Franklin, CEO of Atlantic General Hospital. Mr. Franklin gave an update on the hospital. He talked about the County Health rankings for Maryland, Worcester County ranks 15 in the state based on weighted scores for health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and the physical environment. Worcester County ranked 10 based on an equal weighting of length and quality of life. He talked about how they could affect healthy choices behavioral throughout the County evenly. He talked about how the community could better educate the public on health factors, and how we need to make sure the people know about good health insurance. He stated that our County was becoming older with most of the growth above the age of 65. We need people under the age of 65 to take care of the 65 and older people. He stated that there is work to do as to how we provide the right amount of service and deal with some of the health issues in the coming years. He stated that Worcester County is designated as both a health Professional Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area/Population. This could mean limited access to health care, longer wait times for patients, or overuse of emergency system care. Worcester County is very under-served in Behavioral Health, we have about 70% less access to behavioral health professionals than the rest of the state. He stated that we need to figure out how to get more and better behavioral health professionals in Worcester County, as it relates a lot to opioid deaths and alcohol use. He spoke about priority areas for Worcester County and how better to serve the County. Cancer was the number two priority for our area with respiratory disease and smoking following. The health care providers need to find better a way

of addressing these issues. Atlantic General's strategic vision has gone from building a hospital to trying to bring all the services together and coordinate all the different health care providers in our community in a way that is meeting the growing needs of our community. Atlantic General's goals and strategic planning is to provide the five rights for our community; Right Care, Right People, Right Place, Right Partners and Right Hospital. How to take those principals and develop goals around improving the health of population, enhancing the experience when receiving health care, and how to reduce the cost of health care in our community. Also, how can we create a better environment as to where we can locate and come to our community, and serve the people in our community. Atlantic General Hospital has a "Capital Campaign for the Future" to raise 10 million dollars in three years to help offset investments of 35 million dollars in five areas to update and address the needs of our community. They are a little less than half-way though the campaign and have raised 2.5 million dollars of that 10-million-dollar goal. Some of the things they have accomplished in opening the John H. "Jack" Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center; Comprehensive Women's Health Center; and Modernization of their Patient Care Areas. They have expanded to provide better technology through-out the region. He stated he hopes to continue to come back to share with how they are trying to work together and provide services to our community.

Acting Mayor Troast thanked Mr. Franklin for giving us the update on Worcester County health care needs.

Swear in members to the City's Board of Elections Supervisors for two-year term beginning February 2018:

Acting Mayor Troast swore in Sylvia Fletcher, Curtis Milbourne, and Grace Holland to the Board of Elections Supervisors.

Public Hearing on Adopting Growth Tiers Map into the 2014 Pocomoke City Comprehensive Plan:

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to open the Public Hearing on Adopting Growth Tiers Map into the 2014 Pocomoke City Comprehensive Plan.

With no comments from the audience, a motion was made by Councilman Trotter, seconded by Councilwoman Downing to close the public hearing.

First Reading of Resolution No. 510 Adopting Growth Tiers Map into Comprehensive Plan:

Acting Mayor Troast read for the record:

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.

Public Hearing on adopting Chapter 147-Vacant and Blighted Building Ordinance:

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to open Public Hearing on adopting Chapter 147-Vacant and Blighted Building Ordinance.

Hearing no comments from the audience (Trotter,Hirshmanpassed) to close public hearing.

Second Reading on Ordinance No. 437 to adopt Chapter 147-Vacant and Blighted Building into Pocomoke City Code.

Acting Mayor Troast read for the record:

ORDINANCE NO. 437

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY ORDAINING AND ADDING “CHAPTER 147 – Vacant and Blighted Building Ordinance” TO THE POCOMOKE CITY CODE INTRODUCED BY: Acting Mayor Esther Troast on behalf of the City Council:

AN ACT to add Chapter 147- Vacant and Blighted Building to the Pocomoke City Code.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a mechanism to protect residential and commercial neighborhoods from becoming blighted through lack of adequate maintenance and to ensure the security of vacant properties.

B. The provisions of this chapter are in addition to and not in lieu of any other applicable provision of the Pocomoke City, Code of Ordinances.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to adopt Ordinance No. 437.

Consider request from Assateague People of Delmarva for use of Cypress Park for Pow Wow on May 17-21, 2018:

Councilman Tasker made a motion to table this to the February 5,2018 meeting, seconded by Councilman Hirshman.

Finance Director Janet Wilson requesting permission to submit an application to DHCD to refinance Water/Wastewater project of 1996:

This item was cancelled.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Trotter thanked Public Works for doing a great job downtown. He said that he was getting a lot of positive comments on how great downtown was looking.

Comments from Audience:

There were no comments from the audience.

Following a motion by Councilman Trotter and seconded by Councilman Hirshman, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:01 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Acting Mayor Troast, Councilman Hirshman, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, City Manager Cowger, City Attorney Leslie, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan and guest Matt Gordon and John Quade. The Mayor and Council to consider a matter

that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

Approved: February 5, 2018

Carol L. Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk