

January 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 23, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting as presented.

Introduce Ordinance 429 to make changes to Zoning Code Section §230-34 (G), §230-35 (F); §230-41 (L); §230-42 (F) §230-48 (P); §230-49 (G); §230-63 (L); §230-64 (E); §230-71 (M); §230-72 (E); §230-78 (N); §230-79 (Q); regarding solar panels.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to introduce Ordinance 429 to make changes to Zoning Code.

City Manager Crofoot stated that at present all solar panels applications go to Board of Zoning Appeals. The BZA asked us to change the process to allow this as an accessory use. It is a long bill as there are several places that need to be changed. It is a great idea and approve to schedule a Public Hearing for February 6, 2017.

In a motion (Hirshman, Troast passed) to hold a public hearing for Ordinance 429 to make changes to the Zoning Code on February 6, 2017.

Proclamation National School Choice Week 2017:

Mayor Morrison read for the record Proclamation National School Choice Week 2017.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman, passed) to authorize Mayor to sign Proclamation National School Week January 22-28, 2017.

Appoint member to Board of Elections Supervisor for one year. (vacancy):

Mayor Morrison stated that he would to see them to move Allen Butler to the vacancy on the Board of Election Supervisors.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to move Allen Butler to the Board of Election Supervisors as a permanent member for one year.

Swear in new member of Board of Elections Supervisor Allen Butler:

Mayor Morrison swore in Allen Butler to the Board of Election Supervisors for one-year term.

Authorize Mayor to sign letter to submit renewal of Sustainable Communities designation:

City Manager Crofoot stated that periodically we have to renew our application for Sustainable Communities. This is something that we need to do to continue our designation as a Sustainable Community.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter to submit the renewal application for Sustainable Communities designation.

City Manager to discuss credit card fee charges:

City Manager Crofoot stated that we now have the Incode system ready to use. Our customers will now be able to go on-line and make their payments. There is a fee for this service of \$1.45 per transaction. The fee is for anyone using a credit card, as we shouldn't absorb the cost for this use.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to allow the charge of \$1.45 to be imposed when using a credit card to pay for any transactions.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison stated that we received a letter of resignation from John Haynie resigning from the Board of Election Supervisors.

Mayor Morrison read a thank you card from Karah Lacey for the flowers sent following birth of her daughter.

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Maryland Department of Transportation stating that the State Report on Transaction Funding (SRT) for 2017 will be available on line beginning January 18, 2017.

City Manager Crofoot stated he spoke with Mr. Merritt, who is Donnie Drewer's replacement, that the lights for the bridge are in the planning stages and they are moving forward with replacing the lights.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we received two letters regarding grants for the Armory Demolition and Firehouse Demolition were denied. We also received a letter of denial from a Community Legacy grant for the Costen House. An application for façade improvements for downtown was granted.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we had gotten a lower bid to clean up the houses on Second Street. It was \$4,800 from Reynolds in Princess Anne, he has done other work for us.

Council comments:

Councilman Tasker asked if the ditch at the end of his street be cleaned. There is a hole on Market Street that is getting larger, needs to be repaired.

Councilman Trotter asked if we could move forward on the bridge repair in Cypress Park.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he is still in the process of getting more estimates. We are looking for a bridge plate that we can bolt down and cover over the bridge. One estimate was \$4,200.

Councilman Trotter also stated his other concern is the speed cameras on Cedar Street.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he is going to have the representative to come in and do a presentation.

Councilman Tasker asked if they can put a police vehicle out there to slow down traffic.

City Manager Crofoot stated that GMB will be at our February 6 meeting to present their hydraulic study with a recommendation as to what they think will help the water in the Heights.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Greg Frostram, 1406 Linden Drive, Pocomoke in Councilman Tasker district. He stated that his water is so bad, he has replaced all water pipes in his house with pvc pipes. He stated that this is not just at his house as you can see where others are watering their lawns with stain, where they flush the fire hydrates the streets are orange. He would like to see it repaired as it ruins his clothes and he has an added expense of a water conditioner and he is paying for the flushing of it ever night and still has bad water. He stated that they have a shower filter that needs to change every so often.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we are doing the hydraulic study and hope to have results by next council meeting ofnFebruary 6, 2017.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hirshman, seconded by Councilman Trotter to adjourn at 7:06 P.M.

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Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk