

January 25, 2016

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

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

Mayor Morrison asked for a moment of silence before the meeting to honor two long time employees that had recently passed away, Marvin Green and Martha Bivens.

First Reading of Resolution No. 491 to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-65 Purchasing and Contracts:

Mayor Morrison read for the record.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman passed) the First Reading of Resolution No. 491.

Ms. Monna VanEss had some concerns of the new purchasing order. There was a discussion on her concerns.

First reading of Resolution No. 492 to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-36 Concerning the Conduct of Elections to allow write-in candidate:

Mayor Morrison read for the record.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) the First Reading of Resolution No. 492.

Downing nay

Mr. John Haynie, 216 Walnut Street, Chairman, Board of Elections Supervisors, stated that he would like to see that this was tabled until the next election. As the Board of Elections Supervisors felt it was not enough time to adopt this resolution and educate the public for this election. He stated that there were other things that they would like to see change for the next election.

Mayor Morrison stated that he agrees with the Board of Elections Supervisors, that more time is needed to educate the citizens.

Mr. Ronnie White, 804 Walnut Street, stated that he thought this was tabled at the last meeting and was not to be brought back to Council at this time. Also the Resolution on the web-page shows that there was a meeting on January 18, and he wanted to know why the public was not aware of this meeting and who attended the meeting.

Mayor Morrison stated that the meeting for January 18 was canceled and there was not a meeting.

Members from the audience spoke concerning the Resolution. After several minutes of discussion, the Resolution was read for the record.

Mayor Morrison stated that this should be a referendum for the public to vote on; not the Council.

The Resolution was then voted down.

Approval of grant application MDE-Clarke Ave. Pumping Station and Septic Hauling Station:

Mayor Morrison discussed two grant applications from MDE regarding the Clarke Ave. Pumping Station and the Septic Hauling Station. The Clarke Ave. Pumping Station is in the amount of \$1,306,676. This project consists of a total rehabilitation of the existing Clarke Ave. Pump Station. The two existing pumps, a comminutor and the associated controls will be replaced.

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker passed) to approved a MDE grant application in the amount of \$1,306,676 to renovate the Clarke Ave. Pumping Station.

The Septic Hauling Station grant is in the amount of \$500,000. This is to build a septage receiving system. The system would include a package product which would be sized to accommodate the typical daily load received and processed through Pocomoke Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to approved a MDE grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to build a septage receiving system.

Two support letters for Bond Bill application for Discovery Center to amend prior Bond Bill and to apply for 2016 Bond Bill:

Ms. Stacey Weisner, President of Delmarva Discovery Center, gave a brief update on the happenings at the DDC. She asked that the 2015 Senate Bill 1156 for \$75,000 and 2015 House Bill 0846 for \$100,000 be amended to show that the DDC as a co-grantee with Pocomoke. She also asked to apply for the 2016 Bond Bill in the amount of \$170,000. This grant would be used to install a large handicap accessible Touch Tank and Pocomoke City will be co-grantees on this grant. She asked that a letter be signed by the Mayor to allow her to answer any questions or provide information on these Bond Bills at the Board of Public Works meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to allow the Mayor to sign all three request for the Bond Bills.

Approval of grant competition letter:

City Manager Crofoot stated that the Mayor and Council asked him to write a letter to compete in a transformation in 2016 as part of a partnership between Shark Tank's Robert Herjavec and Deluxe Corporation. The letter is to consist of no more than 500 words and the grant amount would be \$500,000. Nominees will be judged on the following criteria:

- Challenges faced by local small businesses
- Challenges faced by the town
- Potential uses for and impact to be made by the "Small Business Revolution on Main Street" Award

- Need for support and services for local businesses and communities.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to approve the submittal of the letter to MML to compete in the competition.

Authorize Mayor to sign Proclamation for Francis Lee Jones:

Mayor Morrison read for the record a Proclamation for Francis Lee Jones who will be 90 years old on January 27, 2016.

In a motion (Hirshman, Downing passed) to authorize Mayor Morrison to sign the Proclamation proclaiming January 30, 2016 Francis Lee Jones day.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Hirshman stated that he was glad to see that DDP have taken care of the old poles and cleaning the work area up.

Councilwoman Downing stated that the Council should do something for the Pocomoke Field Hockey team.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would call the Coach to get available dates to honoring the team.

Councilman Trotter asked why was Riverside Grill closed.

Mayor Morrison stated that there was a bad roof leaking and they had construction work being completed to repair the damage.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would like to inform that there will be a Landlord/tenant meeting February 8<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at 6:00 PM to discuss issues and improvements. He would like to get ideas from the public as how to improve the housing in Pocomoke.

Comments from audience:

Mr. Josh Nordstrom stated that Jim Ireton would make an announcement tomorrow in Crisfield that he would be running for Senate.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to see an apology from both sides tonight regarding the outrage. He stated that it is very upsetting and was not professional. He doesn't see where hollering and pointing fingers helps any situation.

With no further business, Councilman Tasker made a motion to adjourn meeting the at 8:34 PM, seconded by Councilman Hirshman.

Approved:

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Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk