

January 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 4, 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

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 meetings as presented.

Review Bills:

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

Public Hearing and Second reading of Ordinance No. 424 adding "Chapter 70-Purchasing" to Pocomoke City Code:

Mayor Morrison opened Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 424. Hearing no comments from the audience, Councilman Trotter made a motion to close public hearing, second by Councilwoman Downing.

In a motion (Hirshman, Tasker passed) to adopt Ordinance No. 424 adding Chapter 70-Purchasing to Pocomoke City Code.

Mr. Terrence Snowden & Ms. Yvette Snowden to address Council regarding youth center:

This item was removed from agenda until February's meeting.

A letter from a citizen to comment "Santa Claus", Billy Young:

Mayor Morrison read a letter regarding Billy Young being Santa Claus, stating what a difference he made in their daughter's Christmas. The letter stated "Santa Claus" was visiting the hospital where her daughter was a cancer patient with presents. Her daughter got the doll that she wanted from Santa. She just wanted the Mayor and Council to know how kind and thoughtful it was for Mr. Young to visit the hospital with presents.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had purchased a \$100 gift card for Mr. Young and thanked him for a job well done.

Appoint members of the City's Board of Elections Supervisors for two-year term beginning February 2016:

Mayor Morrison stated that three members of the Board are willing to serve another two years but we needed two members.

Councilman Tasker would like to request Todd Nock be on the Board for District 1.

Councilman Trotter would like to request Curtis Milbourne be appointed, he is from District 3.

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to have the following members appointed to the Board of Election Supervisors: John Hayne, Sylvia Fletcher, Grace Holland, Curtis Milbourne and Todd Nock for a two-year term beginning February 2016.

Police Chief Harden to give update on Police Department:

Chief Harden stated that in the last three months the Department has purchased two vehicles with arrest and seizure money. He hopes to have them both on the road soon. Mr. James Stant will be attending the academy tomorrow. It will be August before he will be on his own. Ms. Tanya Barnes resigned effective January 1. The new camera system from Honeywell will be up and running soon. They have started doing station checks on the PCO's, since at night they are in the building alone. The Officers' uniforms have been updated, the new shirts should last a little longer than before as the material is more durable. The partnership between other agencies has improved. On December 31, Ocean City Police Department made a stop and seized a counterfeit \$20 that matched the Salisbury case. This also matches cases in Pocomoke City. This is an on-going investigation, so he will not make any further comments at this time. Chief Harden gave a comparison of crimes in 2014 and 2015. Assault cases were down by 62%; burglary were up by 3%; 2015 had one homicide. There were two robberies reported for both years; theft was down by 22%. He has hired PCO Ericka Martin; she will start training January 5 to be certified. He is in the process of hiring three more officers. He is updating and creating written directives for the department. That is a good kick start to be CALEA certified. He stated that they were looking at body cameras for the officers to test before requesting to purchase for all officers. The Christmas Party for the kids turn-out was great. The office staff did an outstanding job.

Mayor Morrison thanked Chief Harden for giving an update on the department.

Introduce and First Reading of Resolution # 490 to amend Section C-36 of the Charter to allow "Write-In Candidates":

After discussion this item was tabled.

Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Troast asked if there was an ordinance or regulation regarding multi-family living in a single family dwelling. She has had several complaints in her district that this is happening. Also she would like to have Public Works put gravel in the potholes in the White Oaks area.

City Manager Crofoot stated that Public Works would be doing cold-patch in that area this week.

Also Councilwoman Troast stated that she would like to see the playground at Cypress Park updated. She asked if Ms. Mann would look into grant funding for this project. She would like to see if Pocomoke could attract another grocery store and a good restaurant.

Councilman Hirshman asked what was going on in the area of Sixth and Market Street. The contractors are not cleaning up and poles and debris are in the street.

Mayor Morrison stated that he was fed-up with the way the town looks. He asked the City Manager to have Harvey Davis and Terry Elliott issue citation to get the properties looking better.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would like to have a committee to work on adopting rules and regulations for rental property, so it doesn't take a complaint from tenants before something can be done to rental properties. He would like to see that the rental properties are inspected before each rental.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Ronnie White stated that the poles that the contractors were working on have metal wire on the streets that need to be removed.

Ms. Monna VanEss stated that she would like to see that the street sweeper had a schedule, as to when they were sweeping streets, as she has not seen it in her area for over a year.

With no further business, Councilman Tasker made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:37 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Troast.

Approved: February 1, 2016

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk