

January 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 9, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2016 meeting as presented.

Review Bills:

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve the bills to be paid.

Mayor Morrison introduced Mr. Bunk Luffman, Intergovernmental Affairs for Eastern Shore Liaison for Governor Horgan.

Mr. Luffman stated that he has been visiting all municipalities meetings and introducing himself. He stated that he was here to help with any projects that the municipalities may have.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like for Mr. Luffman to see the status on getting the lights back on the bridge on Rt. 13.

Mr. Luffman stated that he would check on the status of having the lights installed on the Rt. 13 bridge.

Mr. Morrison thanked Mr. Luffman for taking the time to visit our council meeting.

Appoint alternate members of the City's Board of Elections Supervisors for one-year term beginning February 2017:

Mayor Morrison asked for nominations for one-year term to the Board of Elections Supervisors for one-year term beginning February.

Councilwoman Troast stated that she would like to appoint Patty Forbush.

Councilman Tasker stated that he would like to appoint Alan Butler.

With no other nominations, Councilman Trotter made a motion, second by Councilman Hirshman to appoint Patty Forbush and Alan Butler.

Update on Clarke Ave. pump station project:

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had received a call from Ms. Denise McLeish asking him to sign the awarded loan in the amount of \$966,000, a grant in the amount of \$24,000 and the City's match would be \$8,000 and Maryland EWIP grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 with

the total project cost of \$1,998,000. The rate of the loan will be 1.375%, by signing in December. This application was approved and funds are available for project. Bids will go out in February or early March with construction to begin June 1st. City Manager Crofoot stated that the Council had authorized him to sign the agreement earlier. (A copy of the agreement is attached to the original minutes).

City Manager to discuss Xerox lease agreement for Police Department:

City Manager Crofoot stated that last year we updated the Xerox multi-lease with new equipment. Recently the Police Department activity has required them to make bulk copies. The equipment is not up to par to make the bulk copies. This lease agreement will be a cost savings to the City and he recommends approval.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to approve the Xerox lease agreement for the Police Department.

Discuss transferring property to Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company:

Mayor Morrison stated that the documents are in the emails that you received. We can go to settlement by the end of month. There were few changes, he asked City Attorney Crofoot if he had made the changes.

City Attorney Crofoot stated that he had made the changes in the contract of sale, but has not in the deed yet. As he is waiting to get the signed contract of sale back. The change was 180 days for the Fire Department to remove their equipment and supplies out of the storage buildings and we increased it to 270 days. Because there is some work to be completed at the VFW building before they can move their stuff in there.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to transfer of the VFW property to Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Department for exchange to their quit claim deed to the storage sheds.

Second Public Hearing update of CDBG grants MD-08-CD-32 Housing Rehab; MD-12-CD-28, Housing Rehab and Me-11-CD-30 Ambulance Garage:

Councilman Trotter made a motion to go to Public Hearing on closeout of CDBG grants seconded by Councilwoman Downing.

City Manager Crofoot stated that these grants are in the closeout status.

CDBG grant MD-08-CD-32 Housing Rehab was in the amount of \$159,094 and twelve (12) housing were rehab; MD-12-CD-28 Housing Rehab, has been completed with a total of sixteen (16) houses being rehab, the total of the grant was for \$250,000; MD-11-CD-30 Ambulance Grant was in the amount of \$140,000 this grant was used to build a garage at our Ambulance Department for our ambulances. All grants were completed with twenty-eight houses being rehab and a garage at our Ambulance.

Hearing no comments from the audience Councilman Hirshman made a motion to close Public Hearing seconded by Councilwoman Troast.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would like to ask for consideration, the three houses on Second Street for control burn was a fantastic job, very well coordinated operation, he thanked the Pocomoke Volunteer Fire Department and Public Works. He stated that he started

looking around for removal, so that we didn't have to remove it. He got an estimate from Reese Construction a flat fee of \$6,500 to remove all debris and level it out. He has not been able to get other quotes yet, he would like to get approval from Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Downing asked why couldn't the City employees complete this job.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we have some equipment but we would need to rent dump trucks. Also, it would take them away from doing other projects in town, he would like for them to start cleaning the drainage ditches and swales.

After some discussion, it was determined to get other quotes before contracting with Reese Construction.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison read a "Certificate of Appreciation" from Assateague People of Delmarva. (A copy to original minutes).

Council items:

Councilman Tasker asked about the email that was sent from MDE.

City Manager Crofoot stated that yes, it was about hiring somebody while Mike Phillips is out. No, not having him available by phone is efficient. We have to have an operator's license on premises.

Mayor Morrison asked how long does it take to get the license.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he has asked Eric Gomez to start preparing to obtain his license. Once he has completed the courses than he would send another person.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to proceed with hiring a person from MDE at \$1,770 a week for an operator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilwoman Troast thanked Mr. Crofoot for taking caring of her complaints earlier.

Councilman Trotter stated that he would like to thank the Fire Department for an outstanding job on the control burn of the houses on Second Street.

Comments from audience:

Ms. Monna VanEss stated that she knows the City will be working on the budget soon and she would like for them to consider closing the Golf Course. She stated that it is a terrible expense on the City.

Mr. Billy Sparrow stated that there are several lights out on Rt.13 Maryland to Virginia line. Also, would like to know who is in charge of the street lights in town, as somebody is falling down on their job as it used to be the Police Department when he was on Council.

Following a motion by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilman Trotter, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:04 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Hirshman, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, Councilwoman Troast, City Manager/City Attorney Crofoot, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. The Mayor and Council discussed to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State of

Maryland Section 3-305 (b), (4) of the General Provisions Annotated Code of Maryland the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk