

July 17, 2017

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, July 17, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Brian Hirshman, Dale Trotter, Diane Downing, Esther Troast, George Tasker
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Carol Sullivan (Interim Manager)
Deputy City Clerk: Paula Sparrow

Introductions

Mayor Morrison introduced the new City Attorney, Mr. Roscoe Leslie, of the law firm Webb, Cornbrooks, Wilber, Vorhis, Douse & Leslie, LLP of Salisbury, Maryland.

He also introduced City Clerk Carol Sullivan who is acting as Interim Manager until applications are accepted and someone is hired for this position.

Review Minutes

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed), to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting.

Review Bills

In a motion (Hirshman, Troast passed), the bills presented to be paid. (Copy of bill lists are attached to original minutes).

Nominations to BZA and Ethics Commission

Councilman Trotter recommended Mr. Rob Price to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Morrison recommended Mr. Bill Sparrow, with the council's approval, to the Ethics Commission.

In a motion (Hirshman, Troast) to accept these two nominations.

There is still one opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mayor Morrison asked the Council for recommendations by the next Council meeting.

Mike Shannon to discuss Boat Docking matters

Mike Shannon was present to discuss the Annual Boat Docking Contest to be held on August 26. This will be fifth year for this event.

Mr. Greg Stevens, of Marion Station, will be doing work to the dock. The Boat Docking Committee will pick up the bill of \$4,000, plus \$200 for all the poles that are needed for the project.

Work is expected to start in about two weeks. The canoe ramp will be placed in the second boat slip. The dock is in need of reinforcement and he feels the City should consider replacing the tall poles, as well. He is asking for the Mayor and Council's approval.

Councilwoman Downing stated the City needs an agreement. City Attorney Leslie will draft an agreement stating there will be no cost to the City for this work.

Mayor Morrison said that he wants Public Works Superintendent Bill East to be present when this work is being done.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter) to accept these recommendations.

Discuss Water Treatment Plant Loan

Finance Director Janet Wilson recommended the City securing a 15 year loan for the \$259,000 from Calvin B. Taylor Bank needed for the water treatment plant. The payment would be \$1892.75 per month. At the end of each fiscal year, the City could make a principle only payment of \$19,500 for each of seven years. That would result in the 15 year loan being paid off in 7 years. George, Miles and Buhr have presented their recommendations for the work required.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast) passed approval of this loan from Calvin B. Taylor Bank and work to be completed by Somerset Well Drilling Co., Inc.

USDA Grants Discussion

The City received correspondence from USDA about going forward with several projects. Two of those items were not listed in the upcoming budget – a street sweeper and the rehabilitation of City Hall. However, there is a grant for two police cars in the amount of \$34,894, with a 25% match from the City (which is in our budget). The total cost would be \$55,932. A memo from Chief Harden is attached to these minutes explaining the cost.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman) to approve the purchase of two police vehicles.

Delmarva Discovery Center to address Mayor and Council

Ms. Stacey Weisner, representative for the DDC, was present to discuss the following items.

1. Requesting permission to enter into a \$125,000 2016 Capital Projects Grant Agreement with the State for two grants - \$50,000 - House Bill 1573 and \$75,000 - Senate Bill 1034. The Board of Public Works requires this agreement.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter) approve the request for the projects grant agreement.

2. Request permission to apply for a one-day liquor permit for the upcoming Annual Gala on September 16, 2017. The theme this year will be a Casino Night. All alcohol will be consumed inside the Discovery Center. All attendees must be 21 years old. The DDC will hire three professional bartenders who are trained in TIPS and TAM. There will be two bars, with one bartender as a floater between the bars.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast) approve the application for a one-day liquor permit.

3. Update – Grant for \$41,287 for interpretative and signage

There is \$20,000 in tax credits available – one was used for the Touch Pool.

A prospective Eagle Scout's project will include clean up on the trail, marking signage on the trail, etc.

Mayor Morrison thanked Ms. Weisner for the update to the Council this evening.

Correspondence

Thank you note from Ruth Ann Pilchard for flowers sent to her in the hospital.

Mayor and Council Items

Councilman Tasker said he attended the recent meeting of the Jenkins Orchard Homeowners Association. There is a problem with the drainage ditches in some areas of the subdivision and they did not know where the project stands. Former Manager Crofoot and Harvey Davis did a drive through and made notes of the area. Bill East was not involved that day. Mayor Morrison stated he thought Mr. East was on top of the problem.

Councilwoman Troast thanked the Council for the flowers sent to her husband. She gave an update on her husband's condition.

She said she got a phone call from Alice Jean Ennis asking the Mayor and Council to participate in the Hobby Horse Races at the Great Fair this year. The entrance fee is \$25.00 per person and will be held on Friday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. She will notify Ms. Ennis of our participation.

She said and Councilwoman Downing networked with some people at the MML Conference in Ocean City recently and met someone who could help in financing/leasing ambulances. Mayor Morrison asked she give the contact information to EMS Director Mike Thornton.

Councilman Trotter said he had a very nice compliment from the Downtown Business Association for Bill East's crew in the clean-up of the downtown.

Councilman Hirshman said he has concern for all the trash in the street. Also, the recycling center behind Tractor Supply needs work. There is a lot of bulk trash in town.

Mayor Morrison said the challenge is to clean up the town and to start now. The State Highway Administration will be here to sweep Market Street, spray all the weeds and paint the parking spaces. The City crew will begin spraying weeds on the other streets.

Councilman Hirshman stated when he was in high school everyone was required to do community service. He liked the concept of "Adopt a lot". Mayor Morrison said the City would be utilizing everyone we can to clean up the town. It is an embarrassment how this town looks.

Comments from the Audience

Laura Kamp, of Dorchester Avenue, and Ann Hurley, of 26 Somerset Avenue, were present to discuss their concerns with the drinking water. Mayor Morrison said they were late coming in tonight, and the City just spoke tonight about spending \$259,000 to correct the problem. Councilwoman Troast explained what the City has been doing to address this issue. Mayor Morrison stated the Council is committed to fix this problem. Councilman Trotter added that a study was done with mapping certain problem areas, etc. This is why the Council approved a \$250,000 loan tonight for work needed which impacts the Heights.

Ron Sawyer addressed the Council regarding the hiring practices of the City. He said no announcement was made for the part-time positions at the golf course. He feels he was qualified but

did not know they were even hiring. Carol Sullivan said it is posted on the website and in the Daily Times usually on Wednesday and Sunday. It was suggested that we put job postings at the golf course in the future.

Marlene Milbourne said that Pocomoke City is a disgrace. She is a 1971 graduate of Pocomoke High School and the City was beautiful. She said people now put bulk trash out on the sidewalks and it is out there for days. Bulk items are even put in areas where there are no houses. Mayor Morrison said the City Code states that bulk items are to be put out for collection no longer than 24 hours before. We have a new person in charge of Housing and Zoning and he is committed to enforcing violations. Mayor Morrison said he is tired of going to meetings and being embarrassed by having people tell him how bad the town looks and riding down Market Street and seeing the grass growing up in the streets. Landlords are evicting people and putting all their stuff out in the streets. Mayor Morrison promised to stay on top of this. Also, store owners of vacant buildings will be contacted to keep their properties up or they will be fined.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Following a motion by Councilman Hirshman and seconded Trotter, by the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:25 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison; Councilmen Hirshman, Trotter, Tasker, Councilwomen Downing and Troast; City Attorney Leslie; and Deputy City Clerk Sparrow. Items discussed were personnel issues as permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305 (b), (1) of the General Provision of the Annotated Code of Maryland Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter that affects one or more individuals, The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved: August 14 2017

Paula M. Sparrow
Paula M. Sparrow
Deputy City Clerk