

July 18, 2016

Pocomoke City Mayor and Council held a regular meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, July 18, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Review and approval of minutes from meeting June 20, 2016:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2016 meeting as presented.

Discuss Circuit Rider Program-Resolution No. 502 authorizing the submission of a Maryland Circuit Rider application:

City Manager Crofoot stated that the City would share with Crisfield a part-time person at each location. The grant is \$92,000 for two years. Crisfield will use the part-time person as a grant writer and Pocomoke's intention is to use the part-time person with the land use modular that was approved at budget. Usually, this is used as a manager or assistant manager for towns that are too small to hire a full-time person. This year, the grant was approved for Pocomoke/Crisfield. They are requesting a resolution approving the application.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) authorizing the Mayor to sign Resolution No. 502 approving the Circuit Rider application.

Discuss Save the Youth's fundraiser-yard sale:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Save the Youth (see attached) informing that Save the Youth will be hosting a yard-sale at a vacant lot next door to Lower Shore Vision on Market Street. This is the beginning of fundraising for a building fund and other activities for Save the Youth.

Ms. Debra Stevens of Worcester County Health Department to discuss Zika virus:

Ms. Stevens shared a power point presentation discussing the Zika virus. She also brought brochures and other handouts for the public.

Mr. Marc Scher wants to thank the City for their help during the fire at Scher's Bridal-June 11:

Mr. Marc Scher stated that on June 11 around 9:30 am the Bridal shop's second floor had a fire. There was not much fire damage, but a lot of smoke damage to dresses on the second floor. Mr. Scher stated that he didn't know what he was going to do about securing the windows on the second floor of the building. Mayor Morrison stated not to worry about it. Mayor Morrison and City Manager Crofoot asked Public Works to come and help board up the windows. Bill Harris of Ace Hardware loaned a lift to use to board up the windows. The

painters from XO Coffee Shop helped Public Works. Mr. Scher stated that words can't express the sincere gratitude they felt towards the City of Pocomoke and the community that helped them during this tragic event.

Review Transfer and participation Agreement for LEOPS and authorize to be signed:

City Manager Crofoot stated that this was to finalize the transferring of the police officers into the LEOPS program that was passed earlier.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) authorizing the Transfer and Participation Agreement for LEOPS to be signed by the Mayor.

Discuss Betty Walston Sawyer's email to close Young Street for a back to school block party:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Ms. Sawyer asking permission to close the 500-600 block of Young Street, August 20 from 1:00 pm -4:00 pm for a back to school party. He stated that the party would include donating back to school supplies, free food, and old fashion games and activities. Meet and greet teachers/principals will be in attendance. There will be a resource information table, for students and parents.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to close the 500 -600 block of Young Street from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm for Catherine Walston Back-to-School Community Block Party on August 20, 2016.

Discuss National League of Cities-Utility Service Partners, Inc.:

City Manager Crofoot stated that Maryland Municipal League(MML) and National League of Cities are pleased to offer Service Line Warranty Program through Utility Service Partner, Inc. (USP). There is no cost to MML members. This program offers affordable home protection solution for residents to help them deal with financial burden of unanticipated service line repair and replacement costs. Homeowners are eligible to purchase low-cost warranties, which provide repairs for affected in-home plumbing and outside water and sewer lines. He stated that this is not a cost to the City, it is a service being offered to the residents of Pocomoke.

Councilman Trotter asked if we knew how much it would cost the residents.

City Manager Crofoot stated that you do not know, as the price may vary, it is a voluntary program.

Councilman Tasker asked how would the residents know about the service.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we would put the link on our website and there would be brochures on tables in the hallway.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to participate in the Service Line Warranty program offered by Utility Service.

Capital item adjustment-Police Department-Protective vest:

Chief Harden passed around a vest that the officers are currently wearing. Chief Harden stated that the current vest the department has will expire in January, 2017. His budget includes \$2,660 for new vest for his officers. He would like to have a new vest for each officer. Chief Harden stated that any vest the officers wear should be capable of protecting them from their own weapon. That's because 55% of officers are shot with their own weapons. At this current

time there are six (6) officers wearing inadequate vests. They are wearing vest that don't cover the navel, don't close in on the sides and doesn't cover their shoulders. The officers like a vest called the razor. The razor is one of the thinnest ballistic offering gives officers incredible protection in an extremely light weight solution. It is about 1/3 of the weight of our current vest. The Razor armor has been built to match the most strenuous requirements. It is capable of stopping some of the most advanced rounds available.

City Manager Crofoot stated that budget was for \$2,660 for new vests, the total request of \$14, 149, these prices come from a contract of competitive bid and we can buy off that contract without doing a competitive bidding. We are holding off on a lot of our purchasing of capital budget items until we get our financial advice and talk about how much debt we issue for capital purchases. We put in capital budget of \$950,000 of capital issues that we will fund through grants. I would like to year mark the \$11,700 out of the vehicle purchase, because we will not purchase the vehicles until we get the financing for them. When time comes for the vehicles we can it address at that time.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to approve the new razor vest, moving funds from the vehicle capital lineto purchase 17 razor vest not to exceed \$14, 149.

Comments from Council:

City Manager Crofoot stated that he met with the fire department members today concerning the houses on Second Street. There are some issues with liabilities and indemnification that we drafted. In talking with the fire company, there are a lot of other issues in burning the houses. We all knowledge that burning may not be the right solution for those properties because how close they are to other properties. He stated that he was getting some estimates in bulldozing them down or that sort of thing and having it carted off. We are looking at grant sources on new programs.

Councilman Tasker thanked City Manager Crofoot for getting the shrubbery removed that was blocking the street and allowing employees to leave early due to the heat.

Councilwoman Troast stated that she would like to again bring up a City appreciation picnic. She stated that City Clerk Sullivan has agreed to organize it this year. Also, she asked again about the honor system of dumping sewer at the Clarke Ave dumping station. She feels that there are a few folks that are not being very honest. She would like see another way of keeping track of monitoring how much the trucks are dumping. She asked if we could have a meter or something that will allow us to know how much is being dumped.

City Manager Crofoot stated that a while back he had suggested that we bill them for the capacity of their truck until we could find a better way of managing the dumping of the trucks.

Mayor Morrison asked City Manager Crofoot to get pricing on putting a meter at the dumping station.

City Manager Crofoot stated that in the meantime he would send a letter to the sewer haulers stating that they will be billed the capacity of their truck and the gate would be locked after hours. The letter will include Saturday and Sunday hours to noon.

Councilwoman Downing asked about the results found on the 8th and Laurel Street hole that had a cone there. She does not want to see anybody getting hurt or falling in the hole.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he and Superintendent East went over there and the hole will be filled in.

Councilman Trotter thanked City Manager Crofoot and Public Works Department for spraying the curbs. He asked about the grant that the City received for Cypress Park, and when would the work begin.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the grant was a reimbursable grant. He stated that he gave Superintendent East direction to move forward with the work to be completed in Cypress Park.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Ronnie White asked if the Mayor and Council spoke to anybody about increasing the water bills before they approved to have them increased.

Mayor Morrison said that he had spoken to several people, they all agreed if the money could be used to improve the water quality.

City Manager Crofoot stated that it was not a City wide increase, that the non-owners were paying the rate for a couple of years.

Mr. White stated that he had been driving around and he sees a lot of grass that needs to be cut. He asked if people were getting citations.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the City has contractors that cut grass of vacant and abandoned property. Housing Coordinator Davis does issue citations, but it is hard to keep up with as we have had a lot of rain. He suggested calling Mr. Davis or himself with locations he noticed that needed attention.

Ms. Nita Holliman stated that since the SHA repaired Market Street, that she has had dirty water. They have installed a water conditioner and the filter already needs to be replaced. She also discussed the utility poles, that needed to be cleaned up after the work has been completed.

Mayor Morrison stated that DP&L had send a letter apologizing for not getting the areas cleaned-up sooner.

With no further discussion (Trotter, Tasker passed) to adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk