

## Regular Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2018

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, July 23, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison  
First Vice President Esther Troast  
Council Members: Diane Downing, Todd Nock,  
George Tasker  
City Manager: Robert L. Cowger, Jr  
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie  
City Clerk:Michelle Beckett

Deputy Clerk: Paula Sparrow

Speaker for Mayor: James Evans

Pledge of Allegiance

In a motion to open regular meeting (Tasker, Downing passed) @ 7:10 P.M.

### Review Minutes:

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2018 meeting @ 7:12 P.M.

### Review and approval of bills:

In a motion (Downing, Taskerpassed) the bills presented to be paid @ 7:16 P.M.

### Emergency Ordinance 442:

City Manager explains that the bond council at the bonding company had issues with the wording on the agreement for the Hebron Savings Bank loan. Stated nothing about the terms of the agreement changed. It was just the legal language.

Attorney, Roscoe Leslie, explains the wording in the original resolution was the language of Hebron Savings Bank. Bond council has their own approving language that has certain measured words for tax reasons. A rewrite was necessary to revise the legal language on the loan agreement through Hebron Savings Bank.

In a motion to accept Revised Emergency Ordinance 442 (Tasker, Troast passed) @ 7:25 P.M.

### Charter Revision:

Councilwoman Troast states Pocomoke Charter is in dire need of adjustments and revisions. It's outdated and obsolete and needs to be addressed. Also states a work-session so each council member can have their input to make the changes. City Manager states once everything is documented it would be sent to Roscoe for legal review. Then the matter is brought back to a meeting for public review. Councilman Tasker states that a few years ago the councilmembers met and revised the Charter but it never was brought back to a meeting to be voted on. Councilman Tasker states he will look for his copy and bring it to a work-session. Councilmembers will set a date in August 2018 for a Charter work-session in September 2018.

Business Property Sale Listing:

Dan Brandewie, Director of Planning & Zoning, states he has been approached by Devreco to market and sell the properties in the industrial park.

City Manager states that it is a good idea to let businesses know that the land is available for purchase in the industrial park and have water and sewer. It's been sitting there for 25 years. Said the City's long-range plan is to build up the industrial park.

In a motion to enter into real estate contract for business properties (Tasker, Downingpassed) @ 7:30 P.M.

Demolition of Following Properties:

Daniel Brandewie states that the following properties are in disrepair and a safety concern. He states that registered letters regarding demolition and repair were sent to all property owners on July 5, 2018 and no response from any property owners except one has been received. Residential properties had other notices sent.

- a) 114 Market St
- b) 415 Oxford St
- c) 618 Clarke Ave
- d) 126-128 Willow St

Councilwoman Troast asks audience if anyone is here to represent any of the listed properties.

Reverend Collins, steps forward for 126-128 Willow St. He states that over that last several weeks he has had several meetings for repair estimates. The amount of repair work varies at each location.

City Manager states that he recently had a call about the roof over the Hearing-Aide Center. Cracks in wall had gotten worse due to the roof falling in more.

Property owner has to enter into a contract with a contractor on or before September 23, 2018. The City will still move forward with bids for all 4 properties to demolish and will do so if not notified of repair contracts before September 23, 2018.

Councilman Nock asked Rev. Collins how much more time he needs. He said he isn't sure because these are a couple different projects and different estimates all happening at separate times. Council asks that he just keep in touch and advise them of the progress.

City Manager states keep in mind the September 23, 2018 date and that this is just the beginning of the properties that will be coming forward for demolition.

Council Vote on City Subsidized Cell Phone Plan:

In a motion to open discussion and vote on city-provided business cell phones for council members (Downing, Nock) @ 7:45 P.M.

Councilwoman Troast opens discussion for cell phone plan by the city for councilmembers. She states that she doesn't like to give out her personal number out. Consensus among council is that they don't want to give their personal numbers out. Councilman Tasker states he does give out his personal contact information.

Council vote to receive business cell phones through city plan

- Councilwoman Downing-aye
- Councilman Tasker-nay
- Councilwoman Troast-aye
- Councilman Nock-aye
- Councilman Trotter-not present

Council Comments:

Councilman Tasker commented on potholes opened up in the last few days on Lynnhaven Drive. City Manager Cowger states that street has been scheduled for paving this week weather depending. States that contract is in place and work will start. Councilman Tasker stated the trees on Winter Quarter looked junky. City Manager Cowger states that tree was cut down and road cleared but couldn't be run wet wood through the chipper yet. Will be completed when weather clears up.

Councilwoman Downing states she has received complaints about loud music and a lot of late night traffic and noise all hours of the night on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Lt. Hancock said he will get someone to look into the area.

Audience Comments:

William Sparrow recommended another company to list business properties with instead of Devreco. Might be able to save money through Worcester County Economic Developmental Center.

Ronnie White, 804 Walnut Street, comments that on the sidewalks and curbs in front of the house are cracking and sinking. City Manager Cowger states might be same problem as the other streets regarding water issues. He will go by and look. States at 507 walnut the grass is grown up.

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to adjourn meeting @ 8:10P.M.

Approved: *K.M. Beckett-El Soloh* Date: 08/20/2018  
City Clerk