

July 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, June 18, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M.

Present: Mayor Morrison
Council Members: Todd Nock, Dale Trotter, Diane Downing, and George Tasker
City Manager Robert L. Cowger, Jr.
City Attorney Roscoe Leslie
Deputy Clerk Paula Sparrow

Public Hearing – Annexation Res. No. 02-2018

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ANNEXATION TO POCOMOKE CITY OF A 5.5-ACRE AREA CONTIGUOUS TO AND BINDING UPON THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF POCOMOKE CITY LOCATED AT 1242 OCEAN HIGHWAY.

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker) to open the Public Hearing.

Planning Director Dan Brandewie explained the annexation process thus far. There were no comments from the audience.

Second Reading of Annexation Res. No. 02-0218

Planning Director Brandewie explained the resolution adopts the plan.

In a motion (Tasker, Nock – roll call Nock aye; Trotter aye; Tasker aye) passed to approve this resolution.

Second Reading of Annexation Res. No. 01-2018

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ANNEXATION TO POCOMOKE CITY OF A 5.5-ACRE AREA CONTIGUOUS TO AND BINDING UPON THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF POCOMOKE CITY LOCATED AT 1242 OCEAN HIGHWAY.

In a motion (Tasker, Nock – roll call Trotter aye; Nock aye; Tasker aye) passed to approve

this resolution.

National League of Cities

Mr. Timothy Evans, Program Manager of the National League of Cities, was present and gave an overview of the organization. He explained the Cities Summit will which be held in November 2018 in Los Angeles. He stated that 80% of the N.L.C. membership is with towns and cities with populations less than 5,000 persons. Attendance at the summit will enable our chosen representative to network with other small cities.

One of the many benefits of the City's membership is a prescription medicine discount for City residents up to 24%. Another benefit for our residents is a program entitled Service Utilities Line Warranty.

Council Vote on Attendance to N.L.C.

The Council voted for Councilman Nock to attend the National League of Cities Summit on November 7 – 10, 2018 in Los Angeles.

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker passed) for Councilman Nock to attend and represent the City.

"Smart Cities" Discussion

City Manager Cowger, along with Councilmen Nock and Tasker, traveled to Seat Pleasant, Maryland on Thursday, July 5. Seat Pleasant has a population of 4,580 with a \$12 million budget. It is named the "First Small Smart City on the East Coast". I.B.M. funded the project for the community. Home ownership is up in the community.

City Manage Cowger said that the program networks your entire City into a data system. It monitors crime from the Chief of Police's office, as well as public utilities, refuse removal, etc. The City has been able to acquire and rehabilitate dilapidated homes.

It was decided to seek more information on what steps to take to see if this would be beneficial for Pocomoke City.

Mayor and Council Items

City Manager Cowger said that Jeff Gleason, part-time human resources staff, had met with all fifteen applicants for the City Clerk position and narrowed the selection to three. He and the City Manager interviewed the three applicants and agreed to hire Michelle Beckett. She will commence work on Thursday, July 19.

Councilman Tasker said that the filters on washing machines in the Pocomoke Heights may need to be cleaned since the recent water system upgrade. He brought the same filter from his home as an example. City Manager Cowger said residents should drain their water heaters to remove residual iron debris.

Councilman Nock asked Planning Director Brandewie about 704 Fourth Street. The property has been vacant for ten years. The dwelling is full of mold and contamination. Mr. Brandewie said his office is building a new list of properties now. As a reminder, there will be a Public Hearing on July 23 regarding the City's present list.

Comments from the Audience

Josh Nordstrom, of the 800 Block of Market Street, thanked the City for taking care of the problem across the street from him. The yard was an overgrowth of vegetation.

James Jones said he was glad to see the way the council is working together.

There being no further business, in a motion (Trotter, Tasker) the meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Approved: July 16, 2018

Paula M. Sparrow
Deputy Clerk