

June 18, 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 6:30 P.M.

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

Review and Approval of Minutes

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting with one change noted.

Review and approval of bills

In a motion (Trotter, Nock passed) the bills presented to be paid. (Copy of bill list attached to original minutes).

Second Reading of Ord. No.440 – Set Fees and Other Charges

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR CITY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

In a motion (Downing, Tasker passed) to approve this ordinance to establish the fee schedule.

Second Reading of Ord. No. 441 – Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

In a notion (Nock, Trotter passed) to approve this ordinance and adopt the budget.

Emergency Ord. No. 442 – Approve bonds for U.S.D.A. Financing

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY AND UPON THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF POCOMOKE CITY, OF ITS TWO GENERAL OBLIGATION INSTALLMENT BONDS, AS REPLACED, SUPPLEMENTED OR AMENDED, THE NET PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF THE NOTE AND THE BONDS ARE TO BE USED AND APPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FINANCING AND REFINANCING RESPECTIVELY, A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF THE CITY'S CLARKE AVENUE PUMPING STATION PROJECT.

City Manager Cowger stated the council had approved this in a previous meeting. The U.S.D.A. did not like the wording used in the previous document. The bonding counsel has asked their wording be used in this emergency ordinance.

City Attorney Leslie approved of this approach.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to approve this as an emergency ordinance.

Approve bids for 2018 Street Repair Project

City Manager Cowger explained the process and which streets are to be paved. Funding for this project is from the sale of timber earlier this year. Bozman Paving was the low bidder. Work is scheduled to commence the first or second week of July.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to award the bid to the low bidder – Bozman Paving.

Discuss and Vote on Trees in Downtown

After a discussion of crape myrtle trees and containers containing shrubs, City Manager suggested using one or two crape myrtles mixed with the containers on the several street sections.

In a related topic, Councilwoman Troast said she would like to see the hanging baskets contracted out next year, as well as in the future.

Great Fair to request additional \$4,000 in funding for event

The Fair Committee provided a letter requesting an additional \$4,000 for the East Coast Pullers Truck and Tractor Pull which will be held at the fairgrounds on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Councilman Tasker said that he told the committee in January it would be okay with the council. City Manager Cowger said the Fair has a portion remaining in their budget and the City will add

whatever is necessary to make the \$4,000.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve their request for \$4,000 for this event.

IOREX

City Manager Cowger stated the City is having excellent results with the IOREX system but there are still some problems with water quality in several locations. He has been testing several locations weekly. The only problem in the Heights is the hot water heaters. He recently went to ten homes and found the cold water okay, but the hot water is not. Residents need to drain their heaters to remove the build-up of previous iron sedimentation.

His suggestion is to install a new IOREX unit at the Water Treatment Plant. The new unit will be at the distribution point for the entire town. The 8" unit will cost \$55,000. He said he is 95% sure it will resolve the remaining water quality issue. The funding would come out of the Heights project, costing the City no additional money.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve the purchase and installation of another IOREX unit.

Paul Becker regarding Pocomoke City Video

Paul Becker was present to discuss a video his class at Pocomoke High School had made. He proposes to do a similar video promoting Pocomoke City featuring businesses, employees of various departments, and citizens, and requests the City's permission and support of the project. The project should be completed by the end of September. He is requesting a letter of support from the Mayor and Council.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve the video.

In an unrelated matter, Mr. Becker spoke about the City's monthly events and would like to incorporate sports activities. He would like to see local organizations sponsor different types of tournaments. City Manager Cowger said he would contact the City's insurance provider and obtain a price to include these activities under the City's current coverage. He will contact the Mayor and Council with the results.

The council was in favor of the proposed sports activities.

Authorize Lease Purchase Agreement

City Manager Cowger said the excavator was bid out in May. The equipment was on trial

for 30 days to do work on the streets and ditches. The lease/purchase is for a 12-month period.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve of this agreement for the excavator.

Council Items

Councilman Tasker said there were potholes on Payne Avenue.

Councilman Trotter said the wood needs replacing on the benches in front of the MarVa Theater and Scher's. There are weeds that need to be sprayed. Mulch is needed where the children play.

Councilman Nock said he attended the M.M.L. Conference in Ocean City where he learned of Seat Pleasant being named the "First Smart City in America". The City obtained a grant from I.B.M. to redo City Hall. Seat Pleasant's population is less than ours. Seat Pleasant uses an app for everything. He explained the different functions with the app.

Councilwoman Troast said she enjoyed the M.M.L. Conference, as well. She learned that things such as playground grant money is available through private companies such as Walmart, Target, and Verizon.

Comments from the Audience

Wendell White said he thought the Council should reach out to the spiritual leaders in town. The council could send letters to see what's on their minds. There are 73 churches in the Pocomoke area.

There being no further business, in a motion (Downing, Trotter) the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

In a motion (Nock, Trotter) to go into a closed session at 7:23 p.m.

Under the provisions of Sec. 3-305 (b), (1) of the General Provisions 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 specific individuals.

Approved: July 2, 2018

Paula M. Sparrow
Deputy Clerk