

March 7, 2016

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, March 7, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

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

Review and approval of minutes from meeting of January 25, and February 1, 2016:

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 and February 1, 2016 meetings as presented.

Review and approval bills:

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

Authorize Mayor to sign Proclamation for Rotary Club Four Way Test Week (March 20-26)

Mayor Morrison read for the record a proclamation for Rotary Four-Way Test Week.

In a motion (Downing, Hirshman passed) to authorize the Mayor to sign the proclamation for Four-Way Test Week.

Discuss- Line of Credit- Taylor Bank:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Taylor Bank concerning the renewal of the City's line of credit. This line is for \$300,000 and is used at the end of the year.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the renewal of the Line of Credit with Taylor Bank in the amount of \$300,000.

Mr. Paul Becker to discuss recreation ideas for local youth in the community:

Mr. Becker stated that he is a teacher at Pocomoke High School. He stated that he has been involved with sports for the youth for about 25 years. He feels that children in this area are not being served like they were once served. He doesn't feel like the City needs to purchase a building; as they could use Pocomoke Middle and Pocomoke High Schools like they did in the past. He thinks the City should hire a Parks and Recreational Director. The County offers programs but it is difficult for the kids in this area to travel to Snow Hill to the County Recreational Center. He said when kids are involved in sports, it reduces the negative and increases the educational performance. It keeps the kids off the streets and an opportunity belonging. It is skill building and integrates family and school. He continues to state that there was grant money available to help fund this program.

Councilwoman Troast stated that she would be willing to help.

Mayor Morrison asked if the City could find funds for this, could they use the schools.

Mr. Becker stated he thought that they could use the schools.

Mayor Morrison stated that they would discuss this at their upcoming budget meeting this year.

Highway User Revenue-Revised Estimates-Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from State Highway Administration stating that the Highway User Revenues for Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 has been revised. The revised estimates for Pocomoke City are \$40,530.73 and \$40,926.35 respectively. He stated that Governor Hogan has promised to get the HUR back to where it was several years ago.

Discuss request from Great Pocomoke Fair Committee for one-day Beer Permit during Truck and Tractor Pull event June 25, 2016:

Mayor Morrison stated that in previous years there had not been any trouble at the Truck and Tractor Pull because of the beer permit.

Mr. John Smith stated that they have had the Truck & Tractor Pull event for the past five years and they have not had any problems. Last year was rained out.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to allow the Mayor to sign the Beer License for a One-day Beer Permit. (Passed 4-1).

Discuss "Buy a Brick, Leave a Memory" fundraising campaign for Pocomoke Little League:

After discussion a motion was made by Councilwoman Troast, seconded by Councilman Tasker to purchase two bricks and a banner in the amount of \$500 for the Pocomoke Little League fundraising campaign.

Review Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services Inc. request funding for budget:

Mayor Morrison stated that this is a line item for the budget process. They request \$3,000 each year to help support programs to help improve families in our area.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he liked the detailed budget they sent with their request.

Delmarva Discovery Center-easement Maryland Heritage Areas Program Grant:

Delmarva Discovery Center asked for the City to sign a letter for Maryland Heritage Areas Program Grant, to confirm the City's willingness to support the project and, if required, convey to the Maryland Historical Trust or other eligible entity a perpetual preservation easement on the property or enter into a preservation/maintenance agreement. DDC applied for this grant last year but it was not funded.

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to approve for the Mayor's to sign the letter giving Maryland historical Trust or other eligible entity a perpetual preservation easement of property located at 2 Riverside Drive.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from American Cancer Society asking permission to use Pocomoke Fair Grounds as well as the city's stage and tent for Relay for Life to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the use of Pocomoke Fair Grounds, as well as the city's stage and tent for Relay for Life held on June 11, 2016.

Mayor Morrison read a thank you note from Ms. Shirley Greene for contribution in memory of Marvin E. Greene.

City Manager Crofoot stated that Maryland Department of Transportation has posted a "Draft 2016 Non-Metropolitan Area Consultative Process" on their web-site to be reviewed and make comments if one would like to comment on.

Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Troast stated that the clock in the mini park needs to be repaired. It has been 9 o'clock for some time. She also asked if something could be done about the speeding on Cedar Street. Cars are not stopping at the stop signs and they are speeding down Cedar Street. She said that she is afraid that after school, a child will be hit by a speeding car.

Councilman Hirshman asked about street sweeping, he stated that he would like to see the street sweeper out more. He also said he was getting a lot of complaints of loud mufflers or vehicles in town.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had received an official notice on policing services on COPS hiring grant. They found everything to be in compliance and satisfied. The audit is closed and the City does not need to return any monies from the grant.

Mayor Morrison stated that while he was in Annapolis, he met with the Secretary of Transportation concerning the lights on the bridge. After he returned, he got a phone call from Donnie Drewer stating that the lights will be back on the schedule to install on the bridge. The construction on the bridge should be completed before July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Mayor Morrison asked if anybody would object to the meetings beginning at 6:00 PM in the future instead of 7:30 PM.

In a motion (Downing, Tasking passed) to have monthly Mayor and Council meetings beginning at 6:00 PM beginning with April's meeting.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. James Jones stated that the Save the Youth building has a water leak somewhere. Their water bill is up to \$900 and the building has not been used. He asked if the pad-lock could be removed and somebody check to see if there was a water leak underneath the building. They have had a plumber there and could not find any leaks in the building.

Mayor Morrison stated that the pad-lock will be removed the next day.

Mr. Jones stated that before the City did anything with the Armory building, he thinks the Mayor and Council need to hear from the citizens before demolishing. He said "Citizens for Better of Pocomoke" feels it could be utilized for many great things.

Mr. Rob Clarke, President of MarVa Theater, thanked Councilman Tasker and Councilman Trotter for their families volunteering at the Theater. He said they were always looking for volunteers. He said that the MarVa website is a good place to look to see what was happening at the MarVa and also to see if volunteers are needed. He also agreed with

Councilwoman Troast on the speeding on Cedar Street, and that 75% to 80% of the traffic did not even slow down at the stop signs.

Ms. Monna VanEss asked when was the paving going to begin, she has not seen any activity.

Following a motion by Councilman Trotter and seconded by Councilwoman Troast, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 8:19 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Hirshman, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, Councilwoman Troast, City Manager/City Attorney Crofoot, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. The Mayor and Council discussed employee issues as permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305 (b), (1) of the General Provisions Annotated Code of Maryland the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk