

May 2, 2016

Pocomoke City Mayor and Council held a budget meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, May 2, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 April 18 and April 26, 2016:

In a motion (Downing, Hirshman passed) to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting as presented.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman passed) to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting as presented.

Approval of Main Street Affiliate Program:

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to approve application of Main Street Affiliate Program.

Nomination to Planning and Zoning Commission (Rebecca Horseman Skorobatsch):

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to nominate Ms. Rebecca Horseman Skorobatsch to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to accept the nomination of Ms. Rebecca Horseman Skorobatsch to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Suggestion for Boards and Commission:

Mayor Morrison reminded the Council to look for other nominees to fill the vacancies on the Boards and Commission.

Councilman Tasker suggested Shelly Daniels for Housing Authority.

Councilwoman Downing stated that Doug Matthews would like to stay on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Tim Fry stated that if there was a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals in July he would be interested, as he would be retiring and moving back here in July.

Mayor and Council Items:

Councilwoman Downing stated that she would like to thank-you for paving the streets. Also she would like an update on the old firehouse.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he had a RFP ready for the firehouse. He was waiting to hear back from the members of the Pocomoke Volunteer Fire Company regarding their storage building at the back of the lot. Broad Band service to the building would be an additional selling point of the property. He will have the ad in the paper soon and list it on eMaryland Marketplace. He would like to get full-price. He stated that the City needed the money, and we should try to sale it before giving it away.

Councilwoman Downing asked if we knew the value of the property.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he does not have an appraisal, but could order one.

Councilman Tasker stated that we should have an amount in mind as to what we will accept.

City Manager Crofoot stated that if the bids came in too low we do not have to accept them and we could re-advertise.

Councilwoman Downing asked that someone take a look at the grass at 809 8th Street, it needs to be cut.

Councilman Trotter just wanted to remind Public Works of the weeds in town, they need to be sprayed.

Mayor Morrison stated that the YMCA would like to use the City tent for "Man vs. Mud" event and the tent would need to be up by Thursday of this week.

Also he stated that Alice Jean would like for the City to plant Black Eye Susan's out there and the Fairground Committee is running short of money.

Councilman Tasker asked that someone look at the grass at 207 Winter Quarters Drive and the compost, he was getting complaints from the neighbors.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Ronnie White, 804 Walnut Street, stated that he had spoken to Mr. John Haynie regarding the new election for District 1 and the time allotted for new registered voters. He stated that Mr. Haynie refers everything back to the Council and something needs to be done about the election process.

Mayor Morrison stated that there was nothing in the Charter regarding the process and that a new resolution would have to be done to make changes to the election process. Changes to the Charter takes up to 45 days before they take effect after approved.

City Manager Crofoot stated that because of the primaries, the State had to close their books for registering new individuals on April 5th and they will be opening registration on May 9th, which would not allow time to add all the voter's names before our election of May 31.

Mr. White asked if everything will be functional for the next election.

City Manager Crofoot and Mayor Morrison stated they hope so.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the new election will be a paper ballot and the voters would just mark the ballot and drop it in the ballot box and it would be opened and counted at the end of the day.

Mayor Morrison stated also the Charter does not have anything in it regarding a tie election.

City Manager Crofoot stated that once the budget was approved, he would like to have the Charter review committee to meet again and get started on reviewing the Charter and making amendments.

Mr. White asked about a date that the Charter review would be completed.

Mayor Morrison stated before the next year's election, so he thinks sometime in the fall.

Ms. Tonya Ginn asked the Council to adopt the State law of that you need to be registered 21 days before the election to vote in the City election of May 31.

Mayor Morrison stated that could not happen as once a resolution is passed, it does not become effective until 45 days.

Mr. Scott Holland, 301 15th Street, discussed the water problems in the Heights. He stated that he had awater softener installed and that has not helped. He showed the Mayor and Council a picture of the water his daughter had to bathe in. He said the water stinks and is very hard. It is very embarrassing for him when his in-laws from Annapolis visit. He asked what is it going to take to have the problem corrected.

City Manager Crofoot stated that in this year's budget there will be a mapping system. The system will show where the lines are and where the water is feeding into the pipes for the Heights. He stated that he had spoken to the contractor today and they can start the project in a couple of weeks. The City would need to draw from the LOC and he would need to replace or repay the LOC once the City received the Bond money. He just need to have approval to proceed.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to proceed with the contractor regarding the study of the Heights and pay from the LOC until the Bond money was available in July.

Ms. Monna VanEss stated that she would like to have somebody from the company to attend a meeting to give an update on the situation. She would like to hear from an expert and not hearing it from others.

Mayor Morrison stated that was a good idea.

Following a motion by Councilman Tasker and seconded by Councilman Trotter, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:13 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) and Section 3-305 (b), (4) to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; of the General Provisions Annotated Code of Maryland the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk