

May 4, 2015

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 4, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman,
George Tasker, Esther Troast, Dale Trotter
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Attorney Bill Hudson
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed), to approve the minutes of April 14, 2015.

Review Bills:

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

Public Hearing on proposed 2015-16 CDBG application and status report on current CDBG project. (CDBG MD-14-CD-29 Sidewalk Phase 2):

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing on the City's proposed 2015-16 CDBG application.

Mayor Morrison stated that the items proposed for the application would include: Housing Rehab Loans, Downtown Area Business Start-Up and Building Rehab Loans, and similar eligible projects.

City Manager Blake gave an update on one open grant project: Downtown Sidewalk Repairs-Phase II (CDBG MD-14-CD-29) This project replaced sidewalks on Maple, Market, Vine Streets, and Clarke Ave. Beauchamp Construction completed the work. All funds have been spent. We expect to close this grant out in the near future.

All Council members were in agreement with the proposed application. There were no other comments from the audience.

In a motion (Downing, Tasker passed) to close Public Hearing.

Emergency Resolution No. 488 to authorize submittal of 2015/16 CDBG application:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY,
MARYLAND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A MARYLAND CDBG
APPLICATION.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to pass Resolution No. 488 to authorize City Manager Blake to submit 2016 CDBG application: Roll call: Tasker, aye; Downing, aye; Hirshman, aye; Trotter, aye; Troast, aye.

Adopt revised Section 3 Plan related to CDBG application:

City Manager Blake stated that several federal regulations need to be approved and revised periodically. The Section 3 Plan states that the City will encourage, to the greatest extent possible and consistent with existing federal, state and local laws and regulations, that employment and contracting opportunities are provided to low and very low income persons.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to adopt Section 3 Plan related to CDBG application.

Second reading of Ordinance #419 to permit the raising of chickens in certain zoning districts with permission:

City Attorney Hudson gave an update last month that the proposed ordinance to allow raising chickens in the R-1 or R-2 Zones on single-family unit lots. There would be a permit required to keep, maintain, house, harbor or possess chickens, where it is determined that doing so will not create a nuisance, and subject to regulations and conditions.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to approve Ordinance #419 to permit the raising of chickens in certain zoning districts, subject to various regulations and conditions.

Brad Adams, Construction Superintendent of the Fay Company, to give update on progress and schedule for Rt. 13 bridge repair project:

Mr. Adams was not present.

Mr. Ricco Dimattia to present update on proposed grain elevator project on Clarke Avenue south of Railroad Avenue:

Mr. Ricco Dimattia introduced Mr. Charlie Floyd, Jr, President of Coastal Commodities. Mr. Dimattia stated that they thought they would have this project up and operating by now. We are now hoping to have our grain elevator project operational by May to mid-June 2016, depending on financing. Nothing has changed in the foot print of the proposed project on Quinn Ave adjacent to the Pocomoke River.

Mayor Morrison thanked Mr. Dimattia and Mr. Floyd for coming in and giving an update on this project.

City Manager to recommend lease/purchase of rough mower for W.Q.G.C.:

City Manager Blake stated that this rough mower is in the proposed budget for next year. We have an opportunity to get it now on a four-year lease/purchase, so that the golf course could benefit from it now. It is eleven (11) feet wide and one person would be doing the work that two (2) people are now doing.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to approve the purchase of a John Deere 1600 Turbo mower from Finch Services, Inc. in the amount of \$24,995, with a four-year lease of \$6,816/year.

Authorize donation to Spring Auction for Great Pocomoke Fair Committee:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from The Great Pocomoke Fair asking for a donation for their Spring Quarter Auction being held on May 8, 2015.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to donate a round of golf for four people with a cart to be used by December 31, 2015.

Consider proposal for repairs to front brick sidewalks:

City Manager Blake stated that the company that completed re-pointing of the steps and deck at City Hall has given us a proposal to re-point the front brick sidewalks in the amount of \$1,600.00. City Manager Blake stated that the steps and deck look good and he thinks they did a good job on completing them.

In a motion (Hirshman, Tasker passed) to approve Ryan Pinter to re-point the front sidewalks in the amount of \$1,600.00

Consider proposal from C.E.S., LLC, for cleaning of main sewage pump station on Clarke Ave.:

City Manager Blake stated that he received a proposal from CES to perform cleaning services located at Clarke Ave Sewage Pumping Station in the amount of \$12,775.

Councilwoman Downing asked if other companies perform this job.

City Manager Blake stated that he doesn't know anyone else, and that this is a very specialized type of work.

Councilman Tasker asked what happened to the screen that was there to help stop some of the trash going through.

City Manager Blake stated that the septic haulers objected to having to use it because it takes an extra 10-15 minutes, so they stopped using it. He is proposing to use part-time employees to assist with this process in the new budget year.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to accept the bid from CES in the amount of \$12,775 for clean-out of the Clarke Ave Sewage Pumping Station.

Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Downing stated that there are potholes near her house on 8th Street and before the railroad tracks that need to be repaired.

Councilman Trotter stated that there are weeds in the sidewalk on 4th and 2nd Streets.

Councilwoman Troast complained about the speeding on Cedar Street, and stated that speeding was not being enforced in that area. She would like to see an officer sit on 11th Street before and after school for the children's safety.

Mayor Morrison asked that the old office trailer located at 300 Second Street be declared surplus, as there may be someone interested in it.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to declare the old office trailer located at 300 Second Street to be surplus.

Comments from the audience:

Mr. John Hutchinson stated that the plywood is coming off of a window at the old police station and needs to be repaired.

With no further business, Councilwoman Downing made a motion to adjourn at 7:54PM seconded by Councilwoman Troast and approved.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk