

September 18, 2017

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday September 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman
Esther Troast, Dale Trotter, George Tasker
City Manager Robert L. Cowger, Jr
City Attorney Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Swear in City Manager Robert L. Cowger, Jr.:

Mayor Morrison welcomed and swore in City Manager Robert (Bobby) Cowger, Jr.

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017.

Review and approval of bills:

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

City Manager to introduce Superintendent of Water and Wastewater- Frank Daniels.

City Manager Cowger introduced Mr. Frank Daniels as the new Water/Wastewater Superintendent. Mr. Daniels lives in Pocomoke City with his wife, Shelly and two children. He recently was employed with MES as Superintendent overseeing ten (10) Water/Wastewater Plants, prior to working with MES he was employed with the Town of Snow Hill for ten (10) years overseeing their Water/Wastewater Plant. City Manager Cowger welcomed Mr. Daniels.

Mayor Morrison and the Council welcomed Mr. Daniels,

Mr. Daniels stated that he looked forward to working with the Mayor and Council, City Manager Cowger and City Clerk Sullivan. He thanked the City for the opportunity to work with them.

Ms. Stacey Weisner, of Discovery Center, to ask for permission to apply for new 2018 Bond Bill as co-applicant for capital improvements in the amount of \$78,000 and letter of support.

Ms. Weisner stated that the Discovery Center is asking the State of Maryland for \$78,000 in Bond Bill funding in the next legislative session. The purpose is capital improvements which includes the agriculture and farm improvements, which is sponsored by Perdue Farms. We are asking the City for four things: (1) Allow us to apply co-grantee, since the City owns the building, we will be using the building as a soft match; (2) permission for Stacey Weisner to make an application, the City will need to sign the application; (3) allow Stacey Weisner to

attend and testify in Annapolis; (4) would like a written letter supporting the Bond Bill, to be attached to the application.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to allow Delmarva Discovery Center to make a Bond Bill application in the amount of \$78,000 with a letter of support.

Ms. Weisner stated that they would also like to apply for a one-day liquor license for Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to allow Delmarva Discovery Center to apply for a one-day liquor license for November 11, 2017.

Ms. Weisner stated that on October 2, the DDC will have handicap push buttons installed on all bathroom doors. Delmarva Heritage Days will be celebrated October 27 and 28, a celebration of Delmarva Peninsula's rich decoy and hunting tradition. An Eagle Scout candidate has asked for permission to do some landscaping and install benches outside. On November 1, the DDC is doing a "Thank You" for WMDT channel 47, as the DDC was chosen to partnership with a \$25,000 advertising grant. She asked if the Council would allow to have a DDC picture in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Morrison stated yes, the room needed to be updated.

Second Reading of Resolution No. 508 to adopt new Employee Handbook:

Councilwoman Downing stated that under Chapter 6, page 21, Holidays, she noticed that County and State offices are closed on Columbus Day. That day is not listed on the City's list and she would like to have it added.

In a motion (Troast, Tasker passed) to accept Councilwoman Downing's proposal to add Columbus Day to the paid closed holidays and approve Resolution No. 508 to adopt a new Employee Handbook.

First Reading of Resolution No. 509 to amend City Charter regarding City Manager living within Pocomoke City:

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

A Resolution amending Pocomoke City Charter § C-20 to add the requirement that the City Manager reside at a location that allows the City Manager to be available to meet the needs of the position in a timely manner and to remove the requirement that the City Manager reside within the City.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 433 to add Chapter 186 "Rental Property" to Pocomoke City Code:

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of Pocomoke city ordaining and adding "Chapter 186 – "RentalProperty" to the Pocomoke City Code.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 434 to amend Chapter 146 "Housing Standards" of Pocomoke City Code:

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Pocomoke City amending Section §146-7 of the Housing Standards of the Pocomoke City Code

First Reading of Ordinance No. 435 to amend Chapter 195 “Solid Waste” of Pocomoke City Code.

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Pocomoke City amending Section §195 of the Solid Waste of the Pocomoke City Code.

Discuss letter from Chamber of Commerce requesting permission for use of tent and stage at Pocomoke Fair ground for Pocomoke Oktoberfest:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to allow the Chamber of Commerce to use the tent and stage for the Pocomoke Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 7, 2017

City Manager to give an update on Winter Quarters Golf Course.

City Manager Cowger stated that two months for FY 2017/2018. To date the revenue is \$26,913, of that revenue \$9,225 is annual dues for membership. Collected for golf and cart fees \$16,000; expenses \$31,926 for July and August; it has operated at \$5,100 loss. Compared to the same date last year, the revenue was \$22,608, this year the revenue is up by \$4,000. The play has doubled for this year from last year. It is on a better track this year, City Manager Cowger stated that he would give an update each month.

Councilman Tasker stated that the advertising has helped in the play.

City Manager to discuss USDA grant for street sweeper, 75% USDA funds, 25% matching funds.

City Manager Cowger stated that the City has two street sweepers; one that is barely working, it is not worth spending any more money on. The other one is a parking lot sweeper, it does not clean the streets like it should. The City has received a grant from USDA in the amount of \$50,000 for a new sweeper, we contacted USDA and asked if we could purchase a used sweeper as we could not afford a new sweeper now. They informed us that it was a matching grant of 75% USDA funds with 25% matching from the City. City Manager Cowger stated that he found a 2008 Pelican street sweeper in the amount of \$46,000, with 13,000 miles on it. If it is maintained it will last for approximately twenty more years. It has been refurbished and looks like new. City Manager Cowger recommended to purchase this used street sweeper.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to purchase a 2008 Pelican street sweeper in the amount of \$46,000 with USDA 75% matching grant.

City Manager to discuss update on gas lines repairs.

City Manager Cowger stated that he had a meeting with Sandpiper Gas Company on gas line repairs. The Pocomoke Heights, Fifth Street, and the 600 block of Walnut Street are completed. They are going to abend the existing line. They will start paving the week of September 25 and should be completed by the end of October.

City Manager to give an update on the restaurant.

This item was removed from the agenda.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison read a thank-you card from Billy Young.

Comments from the Council:

Councilwoman Troast stated that she had some complaints from Homewood Drive and White Oaks residents concerning some unusable activities she would like to have the police patrol in the area more frequently

Councilman Trotter would like Public Works to check on the street lights downtown as they are coming on at various times.

Councilman Hirshman asked if recycle plan was going to be centralized.

City Manager Cowger stated that would be a discussion they need to have, as it is not a budget item and it will cost approximately \$80,000 to get site ready to move the recycle bins.

Mayor Morrison stated that he was tired of getting phone calls concerning noise from neighbors from around 8th to 9th Street on Walnut Street. The police have been by and haven't done anything. Mayor Morrison stated that every weekend there are four or five cars there all jacked up and the music is very loud. He stated that a business could not operate from a residential area. He would like a citation to be issued or something to stop all the activity that is happening in that area.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Ronald Sawyer, 803 Walnut Street, Pocomoke City, MD, stated that he would like to see the the golf course stay open, but he does not want his taxes increased to keep it open. He is concerned that there is conflict between the golf course and city hall.

Mayor Morrison stated that having tournaments on Monday or Tuesday will not work, as most people work during the week. Tournaments should be on Friday or Saturday's.

City Manager Cowger stated that the younger generation is not playing golf. He stated that he called Pocomoke High School and the golf coach said they only have three people playing golf, not even enough to have a team.

Mr. John Walker, 111 8th Street, stated that he has tried to get a neighborhood watch program for his area for sometime. He has talked to the Chief twice; the Chief said he was waiting on paperwork.

City Manager Cowger got Mr. Walker's phone number and will call him after speaking with the Chief.

Mr. Wendell White stated that the employees on the trash truck were leaving the trash cans in the middle of the street.

Following a motion by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilman Tasker, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:25 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Hirshman, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, Councilwoman Troast, City Manager Cowger, City Attorney Leslie, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. The Mayor and Council 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; to discuss or to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State of Maryland items.

Approved: October 2, 2017

Carol L. Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk