

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 23, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President Esther Troast
Council Members: Diane Downing,
Dale Trotter, Todd Nock
George Tasker-Not Present
City Manager: Robert L. Cowger, Jr
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Call to Order, Colors and Pledge of Allegiance ceremony presented by Pocomoke Boy Scout Troop #143 and Prayer @ 6:31 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 07, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from Council meeting January 07, 2019 (Trotter, Nock passed) @ 6:34 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed

Review and Approval of Bills:

Motion to Approve and Pay Bills (Trotter, Nock passed) @ 6:35 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed

Introduce Emergency Resolution 518 for HSB:

Janet Lynne Wilson, Finance Director Pocomoke City, stated the City applied and was approved for a loan with Calvin B Taylor bank for work done at the Water Treatment plant on July 17, 2017. The USDA said that the City qualified for funds. Calvin B Taylor bank pulled back the loan. No funds were received from the USDA. Upon investigation, it was found that the person handling the paperwork at USDA retired and papers were never processed. By the time the City resubmitted the application the project had been completed. They then said since the City had completed the project, we were no longer eligible for the funds. We now have the opportunity to qualify for funds through Hebron Savings Bank. The terms are similar to what Calvin B Taylor Bank had offered. It is a 20-year loan, quarterly payment of \$5,678.25. It is a budgeted line-item, The City had planned for this because the funds for the project had come out of the General Fund. This will replenish the General Fund. We plan to pay extra on the principal at the end of each fiscal year to reduce the time of the loan from 20 to 10 years.

Councilmember Troast asked if the Council votes tonight, do they need to vote again and make it a 2-step process?

The City Attorney stated that normally, according to the City Charter, it is a 2-step process, but in the case of Emergency Resolutions, only 1 vote session is needed.

City Manager Cowger stated that this included in the Revised Budget that was approved at the last meeting. Since this was a budgeted item, it was already included in all the changes and adjustments.

Motion to Approve Emergency Resolution 518 for Hebron Savings Bank loan to replenish General Fund account (Troast, Nock passed) @ 6:40 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed

New Board of Elections Supervisor Sworn in:

Councilmember Troast called forward Ms. Clara Jackson to be sworn in as a Board of Elections supervisor.

Ms. Clara Jackson stated she formally accepts the nomination and stated the Oath of Office and signed the oath to be entered into record.

Council Authorization to apply for 2 grants:

Planning Director Brandewie stated that he is requesting Council authorization to apply for 2 grants. The US EPA Brownfield Grant Application for Armory and Old Fire Dept. Building (Grant Amount Available \$800,000. City Match: \$40,000) has been applied for before but the City didn't qualify. This year will be multi-purpose use to remove asbestos and mold from both the old fire department building and from the Armory building. Total we are requesting is \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 for clean up and \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 environmental assessment. It requires a \$40,000.00 City match. That can be labor or cost. We will be hauling the clean up and will incur tipping fees. There were 5 people in attendance. There was strong community support for the clean up and use of the Armory building for youth recreational purposes.

Second grant is through MHAA, MD Heritage Area Association to be used for the Costen House to improve handicap access to interior restrooms. Grant amount request is \$7,900.00 for a total project cost of \$15,000.00. Costen House will provide their own funds for the grant match.

Motion to proceed with grant applications with Council authorization (Trotter, Downing passed) @ 6:45 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed.

Public Hearing-Second Reading Ordinance 443: Zoning Map Amendment, Case No. REZONING 1-ZM-2018: To rezone from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business property located on Linden Avenue, Parcel 421, Tax Map 400, LOT 8, Tax Account 01-023667:

Planning Director Brandewie stated this is the second reading of Ordinance 443 for a Zoning Map Amendment for 1-ZM-2018: To rezone from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business property located on Linden Avenue, Parcel 421, Tax Map 400, LOT 8, Tax Account 01-023667. First reading of the Ordinance last month included a letter of support and a letter of recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission. Some background information is this property is a vacant lot next to the old city pharmacy. The owner intends to build a new retail store and start a new business at that location. The Planning Department has received one letter from the public in regards to stormwater drainage. This will be going back in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission for review.

Motion to permit Planning and Zoning Department to move forward with Zoning map Amendment for property on Linden Ave, Parcel 421, Tax Map 400, LOT 8, Tax Account 01-023667 (Nock, Downing passed) @ 6:47 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Nock stated that 4th graders from Pocomoke Middle School will be participating in the "If I were a Mayor" essay contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League. Mr. Records was very excited about the contest and continues to look forward to the partnership the school is building with the City and Council.

Audience Comments:

None

Motion to adjourn open meeting (Nock, Downing passed) @ 7:00 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed.

Motion to open closed session (Downing, Nock) @ 7:01 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-not present; none opposed.

Adjourn to closed session 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: K.M. Beckett- El Soloh
City Clerk