

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, March 4, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Call to Order, Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of February 19, 2019:

Motion to approve Minutes from Council meeting February 19, 2019 (Trotter, Tasker passed) @ 6:31 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Review and Approval of Bills:

Motion to approve and pay bills on current bill list (Nock, Trotter passed) @ 6:32 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Planning & Zoning Dept on Green Concept Plan through Chesapeake Bay Trust:

Jennifer Merritt, 913 Market St, Circuit Rider, stated she has updates on Green Concept Plan and ask for approval to proceed with bid for lowest bidder. Valerie Mann wrote a grant to the Chesapeake Green Trust. Pocomoke City was approved for \$13,500.00. An RFP was sent out to 13 contractors from our office. It was also sent out to other contractors through UMES. We received 2 bids. \$12,000 and \$17,500.00. This grant doesn't require any match by the City. They were both great proposals but only 1 was within the grant amount. The plan has to be completed by April 12, 2019 and the final report sent to Chesapeake Bay Trust by May 15, 2019. Once the project is completed, we can use that to apply for future funding through Chesapeake Bay Trust. Once they approve funding for an initial concept plan, they are very likely to approve again. The idea with green infrastructure is to slow down or stop water before it gets to the streets and the river by giving ground for it to soak into. There is a list of items taken directly from the proposal that Valerie wrote. Examples to create green infrastructure are: bioswales, replacement of impervious surface with pervious surface, curb cutouts, and curb greenery. Councilmember Tasker asked if the materials used are real brick and grass and not a paper substance. Circuit Rider Merritt replied that it is real brick, stone and grass. Councilmember Nock asked if this is the same grant that Cambridge utilizes now. He knows of a current project in Cambridge where they are redesigning a parking lot and planting grass. The specific type of grass filters clean water in the storm runoff. Circuit Rider Merritt stated she isn't sure if it is the same grant but it sounds similar. As a part of this grant signage will also be put up. The main idea is to have less standing water. The designs don't have to be as the examples shown. Circuit

Rider Merritt asked for motion to approve the basic green concept design and award job to lowest bidder.

Motion to approve the basic green concept design and award job to lowest bidder (Nock, Downing passed) @ 6:36 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Review City Municipal Infractions and City Charter Updates:

The Charter wording had been finished. The City Attorney is waiting for a Council decision on a couple issues. The removal of a Chapter left a blank. Council suggested moving all Chapters up a number. There was also some other minor language that needed Council decision/vote. The Attorney recommended leaving the Charter Chapters the same and not shifting up a number due to the State legal process/Resolutions that have to be done to complete the changes. Councilmember Nock asked if the Charter will be in effect by the 2nd Tuesday in April? City Clerk answered that the State process takes 50 days so it is not expected to be in effect by the election date. Councilmember Nock said it's ridiculous that it hasn't been completed yet. City Clerk stated an email was sent to Council after City Attorney's review at the beginning of February and there was no response to the email that is the reason it was put on the Agenda tonight. City Manager Cowger stated that the process takes several months. Councilmember Trotter said he found 2 changes on Police Municipal Codes. On page 100604, 166.5, Noise from a vehicle should be 50 feet and not 108 feet. Also, Snow Emergency Routes, 200.37, add 8th Street.

Motion to send to City Attorney Leslie to continue State process without changing Charter Chapter numbers (Tasker, Trotter passed) @ 6:40 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Council Comments:

Councilmember Nock questioned why the Dock prices are on the City Officials page on the website. It shouldn't be on that page. City Clerk stated that that's just temporary due to the time of year. No matter what page on the site someone is on, someone can see that the docks are available for the season.

Councilmember Tasker asked if any plans have been made for demolition for the buildings on Willow St? City Manager Cowger answered no immediate plans for Willow St yet. Funds were moved from Willow St to cover demolition cost for Market St. Willow St will be a future item for discussion.

Audience Comments:

Sylvia Fletcher, 614 Clarke Ave, asked if the house on the corner of Clarke Ave and Laurel St still has plans to be demolished? City Manager Cowger answered yes, fire dept will burn it down. There are 3 houses to burn. Weather has put that behind schedule.

City Clerk asked for clarification on the Police Municipal Codes. Does the Council have to schedule a work session to update the Codes? Council deliberation recommended to ask City Attorney for procedures to update the Municipal Codes.

Action: email City Attorney to proceed with Charter updates and process for updating Police Municipal Codes.

Motion to adjourn meeting (Downing, Trotter passed) @ 6:45 PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Nock-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; none opposed

Approved: K.M. Beckett-El Soloh
City Clerk