

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, October 15, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:28 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President Esther Troast
Council Members: Diane Downing, Todd Nock,
George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Manager: Robert L. Cowger, Jr
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Open regular meeting @ 6:28 PM

Review minutes:

In a motion (Nock, Tasker passed) to approve the minutes from October 01, 2018 @ 6:29 PM

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

Review and approval of bills:

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) the bills presented to be paid @ 6:30 PM

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

Discuss/elect Tri-County Council voting member:

Councilmember Troast stated that Tri-County Council has 1 elected official representative from Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties. Councilmembers Troast and Trotter have served on that board in the past. Last year an official from Snow Hill represented Worcester County. A position will open for the January 01, 2019-December 31, 2019 term. Councilmember Troast stated she has an interest in running but withdrew in favor of Councilmember Tasker.

In a motion to nominate Councilmember Tasker to represent Worcester County for the Tri-County Council 2019 term (Downing, Troast) @ 6:32 PM

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

Discuss Ethics Commission appointments:

Councilmember Nock stated that at the MML Conference in Annapolis that he recently attended, it is recommended that each city have an Ethics Committee. Councilmember Nock asked if Pocomoke City has an Ethics Committee and who are the members? Councilmember Tasker stated he remembers 2 of the members are Jim Covington and Will Stevenson but he wasn't sure of their terms.

Action: City Clerk will find list of current members for all City committees and email to all Councilmembers.

Distribute Financial Statements from PKS & Company:

Leslie Michalik is the Manager at PKS & Company and is here to give an update about the City's financial audits for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. The main objective is to express an opinion of the financial statements as whether they are a fair presentation of the financial position of the City. The City was found to be following finance laws and regulations. The second thing they audit is internal accounting controls and the City was not found to have any weaknesses in any particular procedure or control. Activity in the General Fund was an increase of \$115,245.00. Included in that is sale of timber \$130,000.00 that is being used for street paving and \$96,000.00 for sale of equipment and vehicles. Expenditures was a total of \$285,000.00 increased slightly by 5 percent over the prior year. Capital Outlay was \$340,000.00 included in that is the purchase of several Police vehicles, computer software, a street sweeper, a Public Works vehicle and purchase of fixtures from the restaurant. Unrestricted deficit is almost \$24,000.00 but that overall amount has gotten smaller each year over that last several years. That shows that finances are going the right way in Pocomoke City. Councilmember Troast said "great job" to Janet Wilson and the Finance Department.

Hunting Permit for Pilchard Farm on Old Virginia Rd for Gina Tyler:

City Clerk Beckett-El Soloh stated that Gina Tyler has come into City Hall to pick up and drop off hunting permit paperwork. Both times she was in DNR uniform and turned in complete paperwork signed by both parties. Officer Tyler stated that she is a friend of the Pilchard family and asked to hunt the property in the effort to control deer and geese populations. She was out of town today and not able to attend the Council meeting but can come in on the next Council meeting if Council deems it necessary. Councilmember Troast stated that she is familiar with the Pilchard family.

In a motion to grant permission to DNR Officer Gina Tyler to hunt on Pilchard farmland located on Old Virginia Rd (Tasker, Trotter passed) @ 6:40 PM

Acclamation: Nock-nay, Trotter-aye, Troast-aye, Downing-aye, Tasker-aye; 1 opposed

Councilmember Nock felt that the applicant should be present to be granted permission for hunting permit for City property.

Council Comments: Councilmember Trotter stated the light at the Farmers Market is still not working properly for at least 6 weeks. City Manager needs to follow up with Public Works on the status of the light. It's a safety issue.

Councilmember Nock stated the Capital Outlay report for the City looked great. Capital Outlay report is the record of expense that it takes to run the City. He has been invited to speak at the National League of Cities Conference in California at the Government Municipal Leaders session.

Councilmember Tasker stated that MML Fall Conference is a good conference for the Council to attend. A lot of good information is presented there.

Councilmember Nock stated that it is important to get committee information together to make sure these committees are active. He also suggested reserve parking for the City Hall parking lot.

Audience Comments: Cheyenne Connor, 905 2nd St, stated she was interested in knowing more about the Ethics Commission and the function it has in the town.

Councilmember Nock stated the Ethics Commission is designed to review issues that the Councilmembers might have in making decisions to create Ordinances.

City Attorney Leslie explained if anyone in Government has a question it is forwarded to the Ethics Committee to be discussed then the Government can decide based on the findings.

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