

April 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, April 9, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Trotter, Hirshman passed) to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 meeting.

Review and approval of bills:

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

Second Reading of Resolution No. 514 to borrow money from Hebron Savings Bank in the amount of \$1.123 million for the water line replacements in Pocomoke Heights.

First Vice President Troast asked for discussion on Resolution No. 514. Hearing no discussion, she asked for a motion to approve.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to pass Resolution No. 514 to borrow money from Hebron Savings Bank in the amount of \$1.123 million for the water line replacements in Pocomoke Heights. The City's water rate will increase from \$6.06 per 1,000/gal to \$7.06 per 1,000/gal beginning July 1, 2018 for ten years, and once the loan is paid will revert back to \$6.06 per 1,000/gal.

City Manager Cowger added that the Council attach a letter as to who is authorized to make draws from the line of credit. He would like to request that two signatures be on the request either Mayor, First or Second Vice President and Finance Director or himself.

City Clerk Sullivan stated that it is usually one member of the Council (Mayor, First or Second Vice President) and Paula Sparrow or herself.

First Vice President Troast presented Councilman Brain Hirshman a plaque for his three-year service to the City.

Mayor Morrison to swear in Esther Troast as Councilwoman for District 5 for a three-year term and Todd Nock as Councilmember for District 4 for a three-year term:

Mayor Morrison swore in Esther L. Troast, as Councilwoman, for District 5, for a three-year term.

Mayor Morrison then swore in Todd J. Nock, as Councilman, for District 4, for a three-year term.

Select 1st and 2nd Vice President of the City Council for the coming year:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to appoint Councilwoman Esther Troast as First Vice President.

In a motion (Nock, Trotter passed) to appoint Councilwoman Diane Downing as Second Vice President.

Authorize First Vice President to sign Proclamation for Fair Housing Month (April 2018).

In a motion (Downing, Nock passed) to authorize First Vice President to sign the Fair Housing Proclamation.

Ms. Karah Lacey to request to change the date for Bike Week Block Party from Friday, September 14th at 5p.m. to Saturday, September 15th at 12p.m. This would include changing the one-day beer/wine permit. Need approval for Motion to Approve:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to move the date for the Bike Week Block Party from Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from Noon-6 PM and this will include the one-day beer/wine permit.

Ms. Karah Lacey to discuss Maui Jack's Water Park in Chincoteague. They have offered us a partnership. They are requesting we have an Employee Appreciation Day there this summer. In return they will help advertise our town & our events in their gift shop & with their campers. It would cost about \$10 per person which is under 50% their usual daily pass.

City Manager Cowger stated that management from Maui Jack's will be offering this special to all of the communities. They will give our flyers to their campers and gift shop customers to promote Pocomoke, in return we will have an appreciation day for our employees. He stated that there should be a limit on how much money the City should spend. He suggested \$1,000 which would purchase 100 tickets.

Ms. Lacey stated that they have already started handing out our flyers to the campers at their campground. They are really working to promote our town.

Councilman Tasker stated that in the past we have had a picnic and a ballgame at the Shorebirds for the employees. Maybe we purchase the tickets for \$10 and plus see if they can cater a cookout for the employees, like hamburgers or hotdogs.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to have an "Appreciation Day at Maui Jack's Water Park in Chincoteague.

City Manager to discuss changing the water bills to an average billing:

City Manager asked to strike this from the agenda.

City Manager to recommend gas/propane/diesel proposals.

City Manager Cowger stated that the bids were opened on Friday, April 6, at 10:00 AM. Pep-Up was the low bid on diesel and ethanol free gas. Liberty Propane was the low bid on propane. Two of the three bids came in as rack price plus a mark-up and one bid came in as a set rate. He stated that he tried to get the price of the rack price, to make sure that the set price was higher than the rack price plus mark-up. He would like to recommend the low bids with the understanding that the set price on the diesel will be higher than the rack price plus mark-up and if not then he would accept that as the low bid.

Councilman Tasker stated that he doesn't like to see set price as the price could drop.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to accept the low bid from Liberty for propane with the rack price plus 30 cents per gallon and Pep-Up for diesel and ethanol free gas rack price plus .16 cents per gallon.

Set a date for next budget work session:

The budget work session will be Tuesday, April 24 at 5:30 P.M.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Trotter welcomed Councilman Nock to the Council and stated that he looked forward to working with him. He wants to follow up with Dan Brandewie about the old card shop on Market Street, to have the window replaced that was broken out.

Planning Director Brandewie stated that he had contacted the owner.

Councilman Nock thanked everyone who supported him during his campaign process; the people that gave him the extra push. He looks forward to getting to work with the City of Pocomoke and the Fourth District.

Comments from the audience:

Mayor Kimberly Lawson from Crisfield, Maryland, stated that he was here tonight to see his friend Mayor Bruce Morrison. He stated that he has left Pocomoke during your time of need, in very capable hands. In a very painful and drawing time, he congratulated the Council on their class and persistence on the wonderful town. One of his biggest pleasures was attending the Winter Mayors Conference and watching Mayor Morrison advocate for this town and go toe to toe with anyone. This town and Crisfield's town of need helped through the Mayor's office while they made some transitions in municipal services. The Town of Crisfield, in a different county and different environment, has always been a friend of this Mayor. He stated that he was happy to see him back in his chair.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Frank Daniels informed the Council that in March, the Water Department failed their Total Trihalomethanes Test (TTHM) again. That's the chlorine disinfect bioproduct. They thought that repairing the filters would solve the problem. There are a couple of other things that they will be doing. They are going to be cutting back on the wells and once the problem in the Heights is corrected, they will cut back on the chlorine.

City Manager Cowger stated that he asked Superintendent Daniels to come tonight, as this needs to be publicized in the paper again. The last time there was a big outcry, because of the article in the paper. The violation is not a health hazard to the town.

Chief Harden welcomed the Mayor back and stated that from the Department, our heart goes out to you, we miss you and we need you back. He congratulated and welcomed Councilman Nock. He is looking forward to working with him.

Thelma Aaron, 3303 Lankford Hwy, New Church, Va. She thanked Councilman Tasker for the nice article in the paper that supported the American Legion. She stated that she was surprised that First Vice President asked for the best of Pocomoke City in her prayer. She wondered what the best for Pocomoke was to see, and come at the American Legion, the Veteran's home. She finds that the Legion has a struggle as it is. With the Council, the town manager and acting mayor did not stand up for "our Legion, did not stand up for the veterans". The American Legion has done so much for the town of Pocomoke. She wondered how Councilman Trotter come up with the 150 -200 people. Is he really in good judgement, as she can guarantee that there were less than 100 people at the American Legion and she can prove it. The young lady that was shot at the American Legion, has written a letter in support of the American Legion, and she doesn't hold the Legion responsible. It was a fight that was brought to Pocomoke. She stated that she too loves Pocomoke.

First Vice President Troast stated that she was offended by Ms. Aaron's comment on how she talks to God. She was asking blessings on Pocomoke and the meeting.

City Manager Cowger stated that he can assure you that this Council or anyone else has questioned what the American Legion has done over the years for the City. The problem with the American Legion is that, they are renting to groups of people, that it's a birthday party, they don't bring cake. How many people get waist bands when going to a birthday party? He continues to say that they are renting out to everybody that has been barred from places in this county and Princess Anne.

Councilman Nock stated that he made a suggestion at a prior council meeting that he doesn't believe the American Legion needs to close, but he believes the City needs to be a little stricter on the things that are going on in our town. Nor does he believe that it should lose its liquor licenses as it has done a lot for our community. We need to come up with a solution together.

First Vice President Troast stated that the City has no decision in the results of the liquor licenses. As a City, we were only backing our Police Department.

Councilwoman Downing stated that the Police Department has had some type of agreement with American Legion, whereby, they would contact the Police Department to let them know that there would be a large function or whatever. Maybe the American Legion and the Police Department can communicate when there is going to be a large crowd. She stated that she doesn't want to see them close.

Councilman Tasker stated that they are in our city limits, they should get the same protection as the rest of the town gets.

Ms. Kathy Melcher, 3303 Lankford Hwy. New Church, VA., she said that she is very proud of the work that she has done. She has worked beside her for thirty-years, it is her passion, they don't get any money from working there. The Legion is a safe place to be. She said that they are all like family. The birthday parties that City Manager Cowger is speaking of, there is cake and there are wrist bands. We want to make sure that only 100-150 people are there, as

they don't want more than that, as the larger crowds are harder to control. She stated that they are very strict.

First Vice President Troast stated that Thelma was the hardest worker that she has ever seen when it comes to helping others. She has a heart as big as gold.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to adjourn at 7:18 P.M.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Carol L. Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan  
City Clerk