

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 20, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
First Vice President: Todd J. Nock
Council Members: Diane Downing,
Dale Trotter, R. Scott Holland, Esther Troast
City Attorney: Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Call to Order, Prayer by Chief Lee Brumley and Pledge of Allegiance @ 6:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 8, 2019:

Motion to table minutes from May 6, 2019 until May 20, 2019 for more time to review (Nock, Trotter passed) @ 6:37 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Review and Approval of Bills:

Motion to table bills until review of Becker & Morgan bill is reviewed (Troast, Trotter passed) @ 6:32 PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approve Emergency Resolution 519, Credit Line Extension with HSB for Completion of Heights Water/Road Repair:

Janet Wilson, Finance Director, this is an emergency resolution on a line of credit that we already have that was approved last May 2, 2018. It matured on May 2nd of this year and we have not needed to draw all the funds yet and finance department is asking to extend it for another nine months to finish the Heights water/road repair project.

Motion to approve Emergency Resolution 519 to extent the line of credit for 9 months to finish water/road repair project in the Heights (Trotter, Troast passed) @ 6:33PM.

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

508 Bonneville Ave. (Unsafe Building-Orders to Demolish per Chapter §107-1 through 107-5, Public Hearing to confirm recommendation to demolish fire damaged building at 508 Bonneville Ave.; to allow property owner to show cause why he or she should not comply with requirements to repair or demolish building:

Dan Brandewie, Planning Director, this is a second notice for dangerous and unsafe building with fire damage at 508 Bonneville. Back in December 2018, the first notice was issued. The second notice also allows a Public Hearing in front of Counsel for the property owners in case they object with moving forward with demolition. It is our hope with the upcoming budget that we will have money in the budget to move forward with some of the other demolition projects that have been approved by the Council. This property has a significant impact on the neighborhood and it should be demolished.

He spoke to the property owner, Monica Brooks, back in December. She was part of the LLC that is now defunct. She is claiming no interest or ownership of the property whatsoever. Councilmember Trotter asked if the City has confirmed that the Fire Marshall investigation has been completed? Planning Director Brandewie said he cannot confirm that at this point, he will be in contact with them. Tonight, is the Public Hearing to let property owners voice concerns.

Motion to move forward with demolition for 508 Bonneville Ave. as long as it is confirmed with Fire Marshall that their investigation is completed (Downing, Trotter passed) @ 6:37PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Approve Request to Seek Bids for Demolition/Removal of Properties:

Planning Director Dan Brandewie said that there are 4 properties that have been submitted to remind Council of the City's obligation to move forward with removal. They have been posted and notices sent to property owners. The City would like to begin the process of seeking bids and estimates for demolition and contact the fire department for assistance. We have not been successful on moving forward with that yet. We are investigating other options. There is a company that might salvage and repurpose the wood. Councilmember Nock said what does it mean not to be successful yet? The Council approved the demolition almost a year ago. Why? Is it the Council, the fire department? Planning Director said it is because of budget. That is why it is back in front of Council as we move forward into the next fiscal year to take this expense into consideration. Councilmember Nock said you do realize that there are people in the audience that are sitting here now that when we approved them in June a year ago and the buildings are still here. 704 4th St, next to his grandmother's house, is still standing. These buildings need to come down this year. Planning Director Brandewie said there were decisions made to do other necessary demolitions. Councilmember Nock said those decisions weren't made by the Council. Councilmember Troast said she would like to contact the fire department again. She knows these buildings are supposed to be scheduled. The only charge to the City is for clean-up. She would rather go that route first instead of allotting more funds.

Action: Councilmember Troast will contact the fire department regarding demolish and clean-up of 4 properties.

Motion to table bid/estimate process to demolish 4 properties until Councilmember Troast has the opportunity to speak with fire department and bring issue back to Council (Troast, Holland passed) @ 6:39PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Discuss Tax Abatement for City Property Tax at Ronnie Durham Business at 223 Bypass Rd, Annexed Property:

Councilmember Troast said she doesn't feel comfortable in making a decision without knowing full circumstances and research. Would like to table issue until the Council has time to do a discovery.

Motion to table issue until Council can do a discovery (Troast, Downing passed) @ 6:40PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Discuss Brass Plaque Estimates for Cypress Park:

Councilmember Trotter commented the plaque is for the children's park dedication to the Mayor that is coming up soon. He was happy with the Selby estimate.

Motion to accept Selby Sign Company bid (Trotter, Troast passed) @ 6:42PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Discuss 218 Laurel St, Waiver of Delinquent City Utility and Service Charges Requested by New Owner, Tim Fry:

Removed from Agenda. Already taken care of by Finance Department.

Approve Street Dedication Name Change in Honor of Bishop Isaac Jenkins:

Rotunda Jenkins came forward and said she delivered the petition as requested and is excited about the dedication. Councilmember Nock said Bishop Isaac Jenkins was the Pastor of New Macedonia Church for 57 years. He started a non-profit program in the community called "Save the Youth" and is now in his retirement. Some citizens thought it would be nice to dedicate a street in his honor. Councilmember Nock announced "Short Street" will be renamed after Bishop Isaac Jenkins.

Motion to rename "Short Street" in honor of Bishop Isaac Jenkins (Downing, Trotter passed) @ 6:44PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Resolution 520-Public Hearing for City Charter Updates:

Councilmember Nock said are there any comments for resolution 520 tonight? Susan Harrison, 2610 Cambrook Dr, asked what exactly is resolution 520? Councilmember Nock stated it is the Charter amendments that were made and posted on the website. We made changes the qualifications of the City Manager position. There were also other changes. Susan Harrison commented that she would like to address the concerns that she has about some of the changes that were made to the Charter. These revisions affect every citizen of the City and many in the surrounding community. Her question is why would the proposed changes to the Charter not be voted upon by the citizens? Councilmember Nock said the Charter says that when there are Charter changes, we vote on it. That's why we have a Public Hearing so that the Council can make changes from citizen's input. Susan Harrison said she thinks that the citizens should have a vote on it. We the people have elected the officials, not elected dictators. She realizes that citizens might have some input but the group that is there tonight is very small and doesn't represent the majority of the town. She thinks that Council would agree on that. She knows that in many towns that when revisions are made, the town does vote on it. This is very, very important when we change our City Charter. Councilmember Troast asks if she is asking to change the Charter so that the town has a referendum vote. City Attorney Leslie said there is a State law that governs how municipal Charter amendments are put into place and there are very specific and strict guidelines to be followed. The City is following those guidelines. Ms. Harrison asked so it cannot be put forth to the citizens? City Attorney Leslie said there are ways to have referendums, you have to read the statutes. Ms. Harrison said she isn't a lawyer and would like an explanation of how to do the referendums. City Attorney Leslie said citizen petitions can be put together, the City is following the guidelines. It's State law. Councilmember Nock said the Council started working on the Charter, all the work sessions were public and were posted and no one came to the sessions. We started in August of last year. There were no hardcore changes made to the Charter. Most of it was changing the language. A lot of the Charter said "he". That was changes to "he/she", "councilmen" to "councilmembers". We wanted to honor the female councilmembers. Ms. Harrison said she would like to address C-35, Election of Mayor and Councilmembers. First of all, with all the deception being

experienced at this time, why would the subject be discussed about extending the term limits? In 2002 it was changes from a 2-year term to a 3-year term. And the proposal now is to change it to a 4-year term. With all the deception that's going on now about the City Manager, why would this even be a concern of the Council? She isn't sure how it is to the City's advantage for the Mayor and Council to be elected to a 4-year term instead of a 3-year term, especially at this time? Councilmember Troast said, in all fairness, that change was done before all this started with the City Manager. Ms. Harrison said well that is why she is speaking. If each Councilmember is producing results and doing a good job, the constituents will return you to office. Councilmember Nock said before any term is extended to 4-years, each seat will have to go through an election. Ms. Harrison said whether it's this Council or others members she is very much opposed to a 4-year term. That is too long for a municipal term. That's not a healthy environment and is very destructive to the City. For everyone's information, Snow Hill has a 2-year term. Councilmember Nock said he has been in touch with LaToya Purnell and they are trying to change that. Ms. Harrison said that might be but as a citizen she thinks that a 2-year term is much healthier business environment. You don't get the cronyism or nepotism that this city is badly experiencing now and causing a lot of conflict. She feels very much against a 4-year term, a 3-year term is acceptable but a 2-year term is optimal especially when you can serve consecutive terms. Chapter C-65, Purchasing and Contracts. She is relying on the honesty and integrity of the to inform her correctly, why is it in the best interest of the City to raise the amount of a contract from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 before being brought before Council? Councilmember Trotter said the amount was brought from \$25,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to help control spending. When the former City Manager was in office, it was \$25,000.00 and the Council asked to drop it to \$10,000.00. Ms. Harrison said in the Charter it says \$5,000.00, where is that change reflected in the Charter? City Attorney Leslie said an amendment was passed but it was never formally recorded. That is why the updates are being researched and completed. There was also a change made to city manager requirements that was not recorded and it is being put through again this time. Ms. Harrison said the last issue might be a typo but she isn't certain. C-68, Merit System for Chief of Police and C-69, Duties of Chief of Police. The last line states that candidates "should" be a graduate of a Maryland police academy or a qualified police academy. "Should" indicates something that is not mandatory. "Shall" is the normal legal language used. What is the intention of the Council? Councilmember Trotter said "should" is used because according to the State of MD, the Chief of Police or Sherriff doesn't have to be a law enforcement officer, they can be elected or appointed. The reason we hire a chief is for his/her abilities to manage a department. Her last comment is that she thinks a 3-minute limit is awful to put on somebody. Two weeks ago, she had one more sentence to say and if it had been held in a more professional manner, that incident never would have happened.

Deborah Jones Grace, 222 Laurel St, said she has a comment regarding the lady who just spoke. Everything that she is bringing to your attention about how the chief of police gets his term, how this or that happens, the length of term of Council, she is only speaking for a very few. Everyone is not in agreement.

George Glover, 332 Winter Quarters Dr, has a comment regarding C-35, Term Limits, should be left like it is at 3-years. Our senate is 2-years, our congress is 4-years, we are in the middle. It has worked since 2002 and doesn't see any reason too change it. He also has a question on C-65, Purchasing and Contracts, when reading the Charter, it says \$5,000.00 with \$10,000.00 in italics, which means a change. Councilmember Nock said before he got here and before Councilmember Holland got here, the Council made a motion to extent the city managers spending limit to \$25,000.00. It was originally \$5,000.00 and that is in a case of emergency and even in a case of emergency 2 people from the Council or 1 Councilmember and an office personnel has to sign the check so there should really never be a case of emergency and it should have never been raised to

\$25,000.00. The city manager does not have authority to sign checks. City Attorney Leslie advised that a motion can be made to change the amount currently stated in resolution 520.

Motion to amend spending limit for city manager from \$25,000.00 to original Charter amount of \$5,000.00. Resolution 520. C-65, Purchasing and Contracts be updated to \$5,000.00 (Troast, Trotter passed) @ 7:02PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; none opposed; motion carried

Dean Guy, 1621 Colona Rd, many years ago before most of the Council came into existence, the former city manager changed the City Charter so that people that lived on that side of town and could not vote and we had no say at the time so we wound up living with that decision. My question, last week I came into City Hall with a question about changing the venue of the Council meetings. Councilmember Nock said he is welcome to speak about that issue in a few minutes. Now we are still in the Public Hearing about resolution 520.

Laurie Kamps, 1306 Dorchester Ave, she agrees with other audience comments about lengths of term. She thinks four years is too many to serve. Council should consider keeping it at three years and maybe revisit that down the road there are more than just a couple people here tonight that have voiced the same concern. Councilmember Nock said again, it would have to cycle through each Councilmember's election before the Councilmember would have a four-year term. His election isn't until 2021 and would not become a 4-year term until after the election. Ms. Kamps said that's her point. If you did win again that would be a combined total of seven years. Councilmember Nock said most surrounding communities have a three-year term. Snow Hill has a 2-year term. Pocomoke is the only city with a three-year term all the other surrounding communities are four years.

KeriAnn Foster, 814 Market St, under C-23 you wrote that you approve all new hires for positions of city clerk, deputy clerk, finance director, water department billing, public works, cashier and accounts payable and all other department heads shall be brought to the attention of the Council. It is my understanding that Council is here to hire city manager and city attorney and here for legislation items. What she doesn't understand is, is the Council requesting they handle the hiring or just look at resumes? Councilmember Nock said absolutely not. Basically, after the city manager brings us the final candidate the Council would approve the final candidate. She also agrees with the other audience comments and disagrees with a 4-year term. She feels that it should go back to a 2-year term. If the Councilmember is doing a good job, you'll be voted back in.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Troast said there has been some confusion this week and personally, I was just confused as everybody else, about moving the Council meeting to a bigger venue. I am for moving our next meeting to the community center and I want to make that motion tonight. We need a bigger space to accommodate the people with what's going on in the City right now. I would move to hold the meetings, at least for the next month or two, to move the Council meetings to the Community Center. Councilmember Nock said he was open to having the meeting at the Community Center but judging from the attendance tonight there are seats available for everyone. He does not believe that meetings need to be held at a bigger venue. He believes we should keep our Council meetings at City Hall but if a public hearing is requested by the former city manager then the City should accommodate that. Then he would be willing to change his vote. Ms. Harrison said there are, in fact, some people outside today and a lot of people left or didn't bother to come to the last meeting because they knew they couldn't get in. We don't want to discourage citizen involvement. Mr. Dean Guy said It's easy to get up there and make that comment tonight, Councilman Nock, because there aren't as many people here tonight. That's like closing the barn door after the horse is already gotten

out. If there was an overflow tonight, you wouldn't be able to make that comment so easily. Councilmember Nock said that's exactly why he made that comment. Because there are not as many people here as last time. He's not disputing why he made the comment. However, if a public hearing is called for then he would be willing to move the meeting to a different location. Councilmember Troast said she feels like the people have spoken and need to be listened to and we need to accommodate them.

Motion to move Council meetings to Community Center for the next month (Troast, Holland passed)
@ 7:15PM

Acclamation: Trotter-nay, Holland-aye, Nock-nay, Downing-nay, Troast-aye; 3 opposed; motion failed

Councilmember Holland stated he has a statement to read from the Mayor. "I understand that I may be asked to respond in regards to the firing of former City Manager, Robert Cowger, my voice is the first and second vice presidents on this Council. It has been said multiple times that this is a personnel issue and we cannot comment at this time. Our City Attorney, Mr. Leslie, has already given an official statement on behalf of the Mayor and Council. I am not clear on the reasons for your wanting a response directly from me as I do not have a vote as the Mayor. I can only speculate that you are in pursuit I have a personal agenda. I will say that I fully support the decision that was made as it was necessary for us to positively move forward in doing business as Pocomoke City." On another matter, Pastor Ayer has asked to no longer be involved with City Hall. He wants to concentrate on his church and serving the community. There was a dispute last week involving him. Councilmember Holland has respect for him and what he has endured. There are no bad feelings towards him what-so-ever. The second thing is the water in the Heights. He spoke with some people in the Heights and understands the water conditions. He spoke with Superintendent Frank Daniels last week. Starting this week, they are starting a new flushing technique. The engineers had a recommendation to close off the water around the high school and open up the hydrant near Dunkin' Donuts to flush some of the dirty water in the Heights. He said he knows people get tires of calling but complaints are tracked and flushing schedules are based on complaints so we have to stay on top of it. The number is 410-957-3311 anytime there is unsatisfactory water.

Councilmember Trotter said it would be nice to see people walking through the Memorial Day flag path to reflect on the holiday meaning.

Councilmember Nock would like to speak about the matter with Pastor Ayer, and he has permission from the Mayor to speak in open session about this matter. The issue at hand was that the Mayor signed and requested the check for pastor Ayer. The City has seen many of the comments on Facebook and the public was wrong. It had nothing to do with the former City Manager. Despite all the comments that we were trying to railroad him, it had nothing to do with him.

Debating in audience from unidentified audience members about various issues.

Councilmember Nock said the floor is not yet open to audience for comments yet.

Rebecca Hammond-Jones, 1922 Orchard Dr, Pastor Ayer is her pastor and she cannot believe that this has fallen on her pastor and she's upset about that. The reason that she is here is for water problems in the Heights. Water overflowed the ditch and came up to her first step. Her Councilmember at the time, Mr. Tasker, tried to help her but to no avail. It took her neighbor, Dr, Diane Carusio, and her working together calling City Hall for help. All we needed was a drain to go from our ditches to the woods because water would not run uphill. Finally, when it was going to be

done all these people were outside and the city manager, Crofoot, was out there watching. It took over three years to get the help. That is a concern. There will be another drain needed out there in Mr. Glover's yard or the same flooding is going to happen. I also have a lift station in my front yard there's only one more left station in Jenkins orchard on the other cul-de-sac, which is an island. The city manager, Mr. Crofoot has been to my house many times and he finally had a fence put up around it. It was a cheap fence and the next week the wind blew and blew it down. We rebuilt it ourselves. I have a manhole and there's a sewer smell. I don't think there's anyone here that would like to have that smell and with all the city taxes I pay, it shouldn't be. All they do is drop a little tablet in and that is supposed to help but it doesn't. One city manager told us that something really needed to be done that would cost just a little bit of money but not much and it would've relieved us of this problem. Well, also, to no avail. Mr. Holland said if we keep calling something will get done. This has been going on since 1970. My father had to wear white shirts to work. My mother couldn't even wash his work clothes at home. She had to take the clothes to a friend's house out in the country. We took the clothes to City Hall in the 1970s to show the the city manager the stained clothes, but to no avail. 30 years later my mother's street has been done and Linden Drive has been done. I have property at 1403 and 1407 Linden Dr and their water is unbelievable. The tenants tried to say it was my fault. They have never had to pay taxes and had water like this anywhere else. Everybody says get a water softener but not everybody has the extra money to get a water softener. Is there another street on the list at this time to get done? Councilmember Holland said once Payne Ave is done, Public Works will start on Princess Anne St and go all the way down. Somerset and Dorchester Ave have the worst pipes in the Heights. Councilmember Nock said the water problem is a city-wide problem and is being repaired as quickly as possible. She was asked if an lorex unit could be installed on her property. She said if it will help, then yes. She said it was leaked and leaked and not done its job for the amount of money that the City has spent on them. Councilmember Holland said the City has to install another unit to do the testing to prove they work. If they don't work and the City has to pull them up, the City will get reimbursed for what we have spent so far.

Charles Fontaine, Fontaine's Barber Shop, he has a concern about the renovation of his property. He has a contract that the Planning Director Brandewie is familiar with. The City has issued checks to one of the former contractors. Mr. Fontaine's work was funded by the Community Legacy grant in 2016. Mr. Cowger authorized the City moving forward with the additional repairs. We are bringing it before the Council at this time to make sure it's ok to move forward and make some corrections that were done under former City Manager Crofoot. The contract was originally underbid and caused additional work to be needed on this building. City has committed approximately \$9,000.00 in City and State resources to make corrections on the exterior of the barber shop and the adjacent attached building. Councilmember Nock said he wasn't comfortable in making a decision until he has more information about the City issuing checks to someone who wasn't doing work. Councilmember Trotter said he remembers the situation and thought that Mr. Crofoot was going to pursue legal action in the attempt to recuperate some of the funds. On the advice of City Attorneys, the City would not have prevailed in court and a decision was made not to pursue legal action.

Motion to approve \$12,000.00 to paint exterior, correct roof issues and other minor corrective repairs, 1/3 down (approx. \$4,400.00) to contractor to begin work with a lien to be placed on building so City can re-cooperate expenses (Trotter, Troast passed) @ 7:42PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-abstain, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; 1 abstained; 0 opposed; motion carried.

Jaime Evans, Dockside Restaurant, 2 Riverside Dr, Mr. Evans is here requesting the opportunity to put a playground in the grassy knoll area of the restaurant. They would like to put in a small

playground for families and kids that might be in the restaurant. The only way in and out would be through the restaurant and they will put up all the necessary signage as required by their insurance company. Councilmember Holland said he has already spoken with him about this and it was going to be on his own insurance policy so the City would not be liable. A lot of restaurants where his wife and he go to eat have playgrounds. Councilmember Downing said it just seems a little bit dangerous by the water. Mr. Evans said it is completely fenced in. Councilmember Nock said the only thing he's afraid of is when the restaurant is closed kids might try to lift each other over the fence. For him to approve, it would need maybe a double fence. Mr. Evans said he's taking the responsibility for this on his own insurance and there's more security at the restaurant than at some of the other parks in the City. Mr. Evans said he will take that extra expense of a double fence into consideration.

Motion to allow a small-scale playground in the grassy knoll, fenced in area of Dockside Restaurant (Holland, Trotter passed) @ 7:45PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; 0 opposed; motion passed.

Laurie Kamps, 1306 Dorchester Ave, she just wanted to say a couple things. Every past Councilmember has been awarded their service plaque at the Council meeting at the conclusion of their term. She was appalled to see on Facebook That Rev. Tasker, even though there were ill-feelings, was given his service plaque by a city clerk and not during the Council meeting. We should be able to get over our differences and treat people how we would want to be treated and I have to ask would, you like the same type of treatment at the conclusion of your term? I don't think it was done correctly and we have to do things right. She realizes that there were ill-feelings and that you didn't get along but we still have to do the right thing I'm wondering if there's any way to rectify this. Councilmember Nock called City Hall after Councilmember Holland's election and did everything in his power to make sure it was done correctly. The Deputy Clerk was not available to do a proclamation and both the City Clerks just dropped the ball on this. Her other concern with the Council is the Ethics Committee. It doesn't make sense to to have to call the Ethics Committee on yourselves. The checks and balances system should have someone on the outside. Councilmember Nock said Pocomoke is a very diverse City and needs to expand by 2 more members for proper representation.

KeriAnn Foster, 814 Market St, she would like to address the 3-minute rule. She can't find anything in the Charter about it. On the Senate floor they have set rules and you are allowed to donate time. Was that allowed here? And you are allowed to speak more than one time. If we are going to have rules, they need to be clear. Councilmember Troast said she was advised by County Commissioners to implicate the 3-minute rule to maintain control of meetings. Ms. Foster said she has seen a lot of bicycles with no reflectors. Police need to enforce that law.

Kathleen Palmer, 1929 Cedar Hall, geese and buzzards are a problem. There is always a mess where children try to play and always buzzards sitting on her house. They are protected so how are you supposed to control the mess. Councilmember Nock said a sound cannon solved the problem at the fairgrounds. Sometimes they come back. Councilmember Trotter said call a pest control company. They can install other types of noise machines that do not sound like gun-shots.

Dean Guy, 1621 Colona Rd, wanted to know who is running the City in the absence of the City Manager? Councilmember Nock said the Council has always run the City. The City Manager took direction from the Council. Jeff Gleason is the Point of Contact. If you call City Hall you will get either Jeff or Michelle or will handle the issue or get in touch with a Councilmember. The other department heads are also doing a great job handling situation. Mr. Guy said he came in about 3-weeks ago and no one from City Hall could get in touch with Councilmember Nock. Councilmember Nock said he and

Councilmember Holland both work full-time jobs but staff knows how to get hold of both of them. Mr. Guy said he isn't sure of the final vote for moving the venue to the Community Center. Councilmember Holland said Councilmember Troast and himself voted in favor of having it at the Community Center and the other 3-voted against it. Councilmember Trotter said there have been other employees that have been terminated and upset the City and the meeting location was not changed for them and it doesn't need to be done now. Meetings are tape-recorded and the Council Chamber equipment cannot be moved.

Audience discussion pertaining to there would be more audience attendance at Council meetings if seating was available and whether the Community Center was booked or not.

Monda Marsh, 1 2nd St, she would like to commend each and every Councilmember for what they have done here tonight. There are a lot of people here who obviously like to hear their own voices and are squabbling over things that just do not matter. She came here from Annapolis and was on the Historic District Commission where we had megabucks. This is a tiny town and there's not a lot of money in it so we really have to decide what our priorities are to take care of it. The Council, as elected officials, enough people trusted in you and your values and your integrity that if there's an ethical issue you will address it and not try to cover it up. This is my first Council meeting and she will try to come to all meetings. She hopes the town starts to treat the Council a little bit better including our Police Chief. Why are we questioning what he puts down for qualifications? We should be happy that they're willing to put on their equipment and serve this community. She realizes this town also has a problem with water and has spent \$2600 on her own water and she assures the citizens that when the town has enough money the Heights is the priority to get fixed. She met Planning Director Brandewie on her 2nd day here to get a permit for a fence and garage. Once she completed the application it only took 2 minutes to get it. She thinks this is a precious little town and she's embarrassed by what she heard here tonight.

Councilmember Nock said he has one more thing to say before there are any more comments from the audience. If you all want to work together, we can fix this all of us together. One thing we have failed to realize is everyone is having a water problem; it is not just in the Heights. You can roll your eyes and do all of that but until we get to work nothing is going to change. We've spent 3 meetings with everyone coming up here personally attacking us. We spent a month of you calling us clowns and other names and it's not fair. Everyone who is part of this regime has attacked us. This is not a city manager issue this is a Pocomoke City issue and until we start working together, we're not going to get anywhere. We just told you that there's a chance that lorex systems never worked. We need to find out if they work. If not, we need to get the money back. We need to work together.

Councilmember Downing said in regards to the City Manager issue, he was told when he left here that he needs to request. It is not up to the Council to schedule it.

Don Layman, 302 15th St, how many people sit on the variance board? Planning Director Brandewie said 5 members on Planning & Zoning Commission and 5 on Board of Appeals. The reason he's asking is he had a client that wanted to do a structure build The client was disappointed because he was told he was told the next hearing would be on June 5 but if a quorum wasn't available the homeowner would have to wait another 30 days to go in front of the next board meeting with no guarantee of a quorum. He doesn't believe it's fair to the homeowner to wait an additional 30 days if they don't have a quorum when contracts have to be signed. Councilmember Nock said that Council does not know what goes on with Planning and Zoning but as of July 1 each and every Council member will oversee one committee that is underneath the City. What you're saying is true, it's not fair for the homeowner to have to wait. Planning Director Brandewie said the homeowner was advised that all he needs to do is come in and apply for the permit and pay the fee. Once that is done,

the hearing date will be determined, we have to run advertisements, send notices to property owners and run public notices. Once all that is done and then we call the members and schedule the meeting but until were at that point, we can't do anything There's never been an issue with having a quorum.

Kyle Pilchard, 4127 Stockton Rd, getting the revitalization committee started might be the healing that this town needs. He realizes that there were other more important issues at the moment but it will help to get this started and active.

Wendel White, 214 11th St, what is understanding from all the conversation is there is a lack of communication. The City needs to work on this to make things better.

George Glover, 332 Winter Quarters Dr, the golf course is being taken over by geese. They are also taking over the docs. You can't walk on the docks with out getting in a mess. Town owns the dock but maybe DNA would help.

Motion to adjourn (Toast, Downing passed) @ 8:40PM

Acclamation: Trotter-aye, Holland-aye, Nock-aye, Downing-aye, Troast-aye; 0 opposed; motion passed.

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