

April 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, April 11, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman, Esther Troast, George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Manager/City Attorney: Ernie Crofoot
Acting City Clerk: Deborah Tull

Review and approval of minutes from meeting of March 28, 2016

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting.

Mayor Morrison to swear in Councilmember Diane Downing, District 2, for a three year term.

Mayor Morrison swore in Councilmember Diane Downing as Councilwoman for District 2 for another three year term.

Election Discussion

Mr. John Haynie, Chairperson of the Pocomoke City Board of Elections Supervisors stated that they met and discussed at length the issues before them, in the next few days they should have additional information that will enable them to make a final decision.

Comments from Council

City Manager Crofoot stated that the regular Mayor and Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18th at 6:00 P.M. He suggested that it be kept on the calendar. The meeting time will remain at 6:00 P.M. through the month of April. Beginning in May, the meetings will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Councilwoman Troast stated that there is still speeding on Cedar Street. She has a couple of addresses she would like for Harvey to look at. The water on Tenth Street needs to be flushed.

City Manager Crofoot stated to email the addresses to him and they will go out and look at them.

Mayor Morrison asked Lt. Hancock if they would step up the patrol on Cedar Street. Try to do some periodic patrol on that street and all the school zones. Broad Street is bad too.

Councilman Trotter stated that Public Works did clearing of the brush on Center Street and some of the brush is piled up alongside of the roadway, obviously too deep for the street sweeper.

Mayor Morrison stated that the ESAM is meeting next Tuesday (April 19, 2016) and LESMA is meeting next Thursday (April 21, 2016). Please RSVP to City Hall as soon as possible.

City Manager Crofoot gave an update on a couple of comments. The fair and grim financial outlook, he is not sure if a new sweeper can be purchased at this time. He has talked to

Bill East about piggybacking those sweepers and will start using the two machines; doing the worst areas first where debris and other things are blocking storm drains. When we get the other short term items under control, we will start. One of the obvious solutions for actions we could take on Cedar Street and some other areas is speed bumps. People don't like to take their low riding cars over them. They have been used in other jurisdictions and school buses haven't had a problem. The school buses have had problems with other traffic calming devices where the street is narrowed and moved a little bit and put flowers in the center. They have been okay in other jurisdictions. We can't have the police there 24/7.

Mayor Morrison stated that the only thing to do is to put speed cameras up.

City Manager Crofoot stated that is another social political issue with speed cameras.

Councilwoman Downing stated that the school bus drivers complain about the Stop signs. If you put up speed bumps, it will be a whole lot worse.

City Manager Crofoot stated that they should be going slow enough that the bump shouldn't bother them.

Mayor Morrison asked Billy Holden (school bus driver) what he thought.

Mr. Holden stated that if you put speed bumps out there, it will slow us down getting to school a little later. Every time you come to a speed bump that is time loss.

Mayor Morrison asked that more research be done on the speed cameras. They can be put in school zones, Broad Street, Cedar Street, and Old Virginia Road.

Councilwoman Downing asked if there would be speed cameras and stop signs.

Mayor Morrison stated no, the stop signs would be taken down.

Comments from audience:

Monna VanEss – She would like to thank the City for working on Linden Avenue. What is going on with the housing issues? The meetings that were scheduled have been cancelled and not rescheduled. She hasn't seen any progress on several homes. There could be something that is going on behind the scenes, but she hasn't seen anything physical being done. She would like to see the abandoned properties focused on first; that way, you're not upsetting the landlords right away. There are three houses on Second Street; Oxford Street house has been vacant for years, it's about to fall down; and one on Maple Street near the old firehouse.

Mayor Morrison asked if the three abandoned houses on Second Street can be burnt down.

City Manager Crofoot stated yes, as long as you don't burn the one in the center down.

Councilman Trotter stated he spoke with Harvey about the Oxford Street house and it's scheduled to be demolished.

John Haynie stated to consider a new voting system

Eric Underhill, 1509 Princess Anne Lane stated he has been experiencing a continuing problem with water. He showed a bottle of water that had been filtered and a used filter. The bottle of water was taken from a 60 day water filter clogged up in 20 days. This is some, not all of the sediments and stuff that came out of it. The water lines from the street have been replaced. It goes through three filters. There is also a problem with the smell and low water

pressure. When the bathroom is flushed, he doesn't have enough water pressure to take a shower. When the hot water tank was replaced, the bottom was full of gunk.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the City is trying to flush the system more. It is interesting that we could go to your house and someone else a few houses down the street and it be completely different. It's hard for us to tell which line is feeding, which direction it is coming from. I am making a proposal for a hydraulic study in the budget for the coming year. He asked Mr. Underhill if he would leave him the bottle of water. He would like to send it to a lab.

Mr. Underhill stated yes, he would like to know what was in it as well.

There being no further business a motion was made by Councilman Trotter and seconded by Councilwoman Troast to adjourn at 6:20 P.M.

Approved: _____ 2016

Deborah Tull
Acting City Clerk