

February 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 1, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman,
Esther Troast, George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Manager/City Attorney: Ernie Crofoot
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review and approval of minutes from meeting of January 4, 2016:

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker passed) to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 meetings as presented.

Review and approval bills:

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

Brad Adams, Construction Superintendent of the Fay Company, to give update on progress and schedule for Rt. 13 bridge repair project:

Mr. Adams stated that the bearings needed to be replaced. When the contractors were sandblasting the steel to be painted they noticed that all of the bearings were rusted and needed replacing. This could take an additional 6 to 8 months. He stated that they planned to have the bridge opening by early fall.

Karah Lacey and Marc Scher, Downtown Pocomoke Association President, to present "Motion to Approve Special Event Exception for Consumption of Alcohol".

Mr. Scher first thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in the downtown events. He stated that in the last five years' great things were happen in the downtown area. The Art Stroll has grown and is amazing. He wanted to thanked Councilman Trotter as he is the Council person for the Downtown District. Mr. Scher stated that Councilman Trotter came to him once he was elected and said "I represent you what can I do to help you", he not only talks the talk he does what is asked of him. Thank you for all that you do for us, we couldn't do it without the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Lacey discussed the importance of the 4th Friday Art Strolls. She stated that they were inspired by our neighboring towns. Each town follows a similar outline of events, which includes: free registration to local artists, stores stay open during Art Stroll hours, live entertainment and refreshment sales including beer and wine. This will be our third year of Art Strolls in Pocomoke. She stated that Marc Scher and herself purchase, sell and serve the beer and wine. There has never been a negative incident at any of the Art Strolls in the last two years. She asked the Mayor and Council to authorize the "Motion to Approve Special Event Exception for Consumption of Alcohol".

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) the “Motion to Approve Special Event Exception for Consumption of Alcohol”.

Check presentation to United way for a successful fundraising campaign by Pocomoke City:

Ms. Kasey Decker thanked the Mayor and Council as well as City Manager Crofoot and City Clerk Sullivan for a successful United Way campaign this year. She stated that the donations were up by \$3,000.

Swear in Board of Election Supervisors:

Mayor Morrison swore in the Board of Election Supervisors for a two-year term. The members are: John Haynie, Todd Nock, Curtis L. Milbourne, Sr., Grace Holland, Sylvia Fletcher.

Mr. Terrence Snowden and Yvette Snowden to address the Council regarding a youth center:

Mr. Snowden stated that he would like to open a youth center for the summer-time. As he has about 40 kids on his street playing basketball and the games. They need a mentor and activities to keep them off the streets and out of trouble. He stated that he has found a building but does not have the funding to purchase or to get the program started. He would like to ask the City for a grant that would purchase and renovate the building. They would have basketball, soccer and other activities for the kids to play.

Mayor Morrison asked the location of the building.

Mr. Snowden stated the old shirt factory on Sixth Street.

City Manager Crofoot asked Mr. Snowden to come by his office and they could talk about looking for a grant for purchasing and renovating the building.

Mr. Snowden thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and stated that he would stop by Mr. Crofoot’s office.

Second Reading of Resolution No. 491 to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-65 Purchasing and Contracts:

Mayor Morrison opened Public Hearing on Resolution No. 491. Hearing no comments from the audience, Councilman Trotter made a motion to close public hearing, second by Councilwoman Downing.

In a motion (Hirshman, Trotter passed) to adopt Resolution No. 491 to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-65 Purchasing and Contracts.

Second reading of Resolution No. 492 to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-36 Concerning the Conduct of Elections to allow write-in candidate:

Mayor Morrison opened Public Hearing on Resolution No. 492, to amend Charter by adding and deleting language to Section C-36 Concerning the Conduct of Elections to allow write-in candidate.

Mr. Ronnie White, 804 Walnut Street, stated that this has been discussed at the last three meetings. At the last meeting Mayor Morrison stated that he was going to leave this in the hands of the citizens by having a referendum.

Mr. Todd Nock stated at the last Board of Election Supervisors meeting, the Board stated that they were not in favor to pass this Resolution for this year. He urged the Mayor and Council to postpone for this election.

Hearing no more comments (Trotter, Troast passed) to close the public hearing on Resolution No. 492.

Mayor Morrison asked for a motion to pass. There being no motion Resolution No. 492 did not pass.

Reschedule February 15 meeting for Tuesday, February 16:

It was decided if there was not anything of importance for February 16, and the meeting would be canceled. The next meeting would be March 7, 2016.

Special Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Lynnhaven Baptist Church thanking the City for allowing them to use the mobile lights during their "Walk Through Bethlehem" event. They said it was a great help when visitors parked in the over flow parking lot. They had over 3,000 people to join them during this event.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Tasker stated that Samaritan Shelter would be doing a food give away at the old firehouse tomorrow and he wanted the community to know to pass around the word. They would have a sign-up with name and address.

Councilman Trotter stated that there are a lot of street lights out.

Mayor Morrison asked about the status on the old firehouse. Is it ready to go out for bid.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he hoped to have the information completed within a few weeks.

City Manager Crofoot stated that there would be a landlord/tenant work group meeting at 6:00 PM tomorrow spread the word. He would like to see a good turn-out.

Mayor Morrison stated that he had spoken to Ms. Castaneda about dates to recognize the Field Hockey team. She would look for a date.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Wendell White

Ms. Monna VanEss asked about the lights being back on the bridge.

Mayor Morrison stated that a letter has been sent from the Fire Company, Police, City and County. He also has spoken to the Governor. He would stay on top of this, as he wants to have the lights back on the bridge.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to adjourn at 8:02 PM.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk