

February 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 2, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Rob Clarke, Tracey Cottman
Diane Downing, George Tasker, Dale Trotter
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed), to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015.

Review Bills:

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

Special recognition of Mr. Royce Smith who recently retired from the City's Planning and Zoning Commission:

Mr. Smith was unable to attend.

Mayor Morrison introduced a Carter Spicer, from Boy Scout Troop 817; he is working on his Eagle Scout badge for the Boy Scouts and needed to attend a meeting.

Ms. Neelam Strom to discuss the Community Garden Project. (Corner Clarke Ave. & Willow Street):

Ms. Strom thanked the Mayor and Council for giving them time and for use of the land on Clarke Ave. and Willow Street for the Community Garden. She stated that the Community Garden first began in 2012 to promote unity throughout the community. Last year the garden yielded approximately 1,000 pounds of produce that was donated to the Samaritan Shelter. Several Pocomoke Middle School, 7th grader students, under the leadership of Phyllis Porter, volunteer each year with the garden. A new goal of the Community Garden Committee is to establish a healing and meditation garden for the elderly and disabled, and we would like to have permission to expand the garden.

Ms. Julie Golightly and Mr. Garrett Neeb gave a power point presentation on the proposed expansion of the Community Garden.

Councilwoman Downing asked about the liability for them to use the property.

City Manager Blake stated that an agreement would need to be signed for the use of the property to cover liability issues.

Mayor Morrison said that the City would need to reserve the right to sell the property in the future.

In a motion (Cottman, Trotter passed) to give the Community Garden Commission permission to expand the garden with the understanding that if somebody was interested in purchasing the property the City could sell it.

Ms. Stacey Weiser of the Delmarva Discovery Center to discuss Maryland State Bond Bill application for floor repairs:

Ms. Stacey Weiser introduced board members: Barbara Tull, Don Holdren, Barry Laws and Bill Kerbin who were in the audience. She said that the City of Pocomoke has been wonderful to work with so far. That Public Works employees are always very helpful with things at the Discovery Center. Recently, the Discovery Center has changed their name to Delmarva Discovery Center and Museum, Inc. Ms. Weiser asked permission to apply for a Maryland State Bond Bill in the amount of \$250,000 to repair the floor that is settling under the fish aquarium. With the permission theof the Mayor and Council DDC would like to use the building as a soft match for the Bond. The City would not be allowed to sell the property or lease it to anybody else for fifteen years if the Bond Bill grant is received.

City Manager Blake stated the City has successful obtain Maryland State Bond Bills in the past, and he doesn't see any reason not to approve their request.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to allow Delmarva Discovery Center and Museum, Inc.to apply for a Maryland State Bond Bill in the amount of \$250,000 using City property at 2 Market Street as a soft match.

Ms. Carol Jacobs, of Worcester County G.O.L.D., (Giving Other Lives Dignity) to discuss services offered by their organization.

Ms. Carol Jacobs introduced Barry Laws and Dr. Aaron Dale as members of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Laws stated that they were here to show the Mayor and Council and others what Worcester County G.O.L.D. has done in the past six months and to discuss the mission of G.O.L.D.

Dr. Dale showed a power point presentation stating the mission of G.O.L.D.:“Worcester County GOLD improves the quality of life of local citizens for whom traditional means of well-being support is not fully available.A non-profit organization, Worcester County GOLD promotes dignity by providing financial aid to families in crisis, vulnerable adults and children.”

Mayor Morrison thanked the Board members for sharing the services that Worcester County G.O.L.D. provides to our residents.

Mr. Jim Smith, Delmarva Power Co., Governmental Liaison, to discuss proposed project to replace poles and wires in several neighborhoods:

Mr. Smith stated that over the last five years Delmarva Power has invested approximately one billion dollars to strengthen its transmission and distribution systems to improve reliability. This year they plan to invest one million dollars to improve electric service in Pocomoke City. Delmarva Power plans to upgrade the electric distribution systems on Market Street between 10th Street and Pocomoke Beltway; Payne Ave between Market Street and Rt. 13; Pocomoke Beltway between Cedar Street and Rt. 13; Walnut Street between Second Street and 10th Street between Market and Walnut Street. They plan to replace approximately 70 -75 poles and install new wire, crossarms, switching equipment and other upgrades. Once the poles and line construction are complete the customers will be switched to the new lines. Prior to switching the customers will be notified when power will be out. They plan to coordinate outages for businesses during non-business hours.

Councilman Clarke asked if the poles could be moved out of the sidewalks.

Mr. Smith said he would need to talk to the engineering department concerning easements and right-of-way issues. He stated that he would get back to City Manager Blake regarding their response.

Mayor Morrison thanked Mr. Smith for coming and giving updates concerning plans to improve electric reliability in Pocomoke City.

Discuss vacancies on various Boards and Commissions:

Mayor Morrison stated that Ryan Hurley, Gail Gladding and Alex Kagan have been contacted and have agreed to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Councilwoman Downing stated that she had contacted Steven Mills, Jr to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission and Douglas Matthews to serve on the Ethics Board.

In a motion (Cottman, Tasker passed) to approve Ryan Hurley, Gail Gladding, Alex Kagan and Steven Mills, Jr as an alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Douglas Matthews to serve on the Ethics Commission.

Authorize purchase of new automatic irrigation system controllers for Winter Quarters Golf Course (Budget item).

Mayor Morrison referred to a memo from Superintendent Doug Guns with two quotes for replacement of the irrigation controller at the golf course. The low bid is from Turf Equipment and Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$5,285.23. Atlantic Irrigation Specialties, Inc. gave a proposal in the amount of \$6,589.29. Mr. Guns' recommendation is to purchase this equipment from Turf Equipment and Supply.

In a motion (Tasker, Cottman passed) to purchase automatic irrigation controllers from Turf Equipment and Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$5,285.23.

Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Cottman asked about schedule for pot hole repairs on Eighth Street regarding the pot holes.

City Manager Blake stated that the City had just received a better quality patching material, and the work should have been completed today.

Councilman Clarke stated that a sewer may be settling in Market Street between 11th and 12th Street, and a temporary patch is needed again.

Councilman Trotter asked if Public Works could look at the sidewalk on the south side of Sixth Street between Market and Walnut Street it is in bad shape. (207 Sixth Street).

City Manager Blake stated that he would ask Public Works to look at the sidewalk.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to see a nice plaque and sign at the new solar plant.

In a motion (Downing, Cottman passed) to approve to purchase of a sign and plaque for the new solar plant.

Councilman Clarke stated that the City needs to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at that location soon.

Comments from the audience:

None was heard.

With no further business, Councilwoman Cottman made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 PM seconded by Councilwoman Downing and approved.

Approved:_____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk