

July 1, 2014

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday. 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 Attorney William Hudson
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed), to approve the minutes of June 11, 2014.

Review Bills:

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

Presentation of special plaque honoring Police Sgt. Robert Horseman for his recent selection by the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers, Inc. as the Police Officer of the Year for 2014:

Mayor Morrison presented St. Horseman a plaque honoring him for his service to the City and Pocomoke Police Department. Mayor Morrison stated that he is very proud that Sgt. Horseman was selected for the Maryland Law Enforcement Officers award. Only one officer is selected in the State of Maryland each year. "Congratulations Sgt. Horseman, we are proud of you."

Mr. Steve Hoehn, representing Shore Transit and the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, to make a presentation concerning the "Free Rides to Veterans Campaign" and the upcoming overhaul of the Fixed Route System for Shore Transit:

Mr. Steve Hoehn stated that new rates would be going into effect on Monday, July 7, 2014. Also, there will be new routes starting on Monday. They have decided to add twelve more routes each day. There will be more routes from Pocomoke to Ocean City; and Salisbury to Pocomoke City so there will be less waiting time and bus stops. They have partnered with the Worcester County Commission on Aging to offer senior citizens a bingo voucher valued at \$60.00 at the discounted price of \$20.00, trying to get more people into the Senior Centers. Salisbury Taxi will be transporting these folks and they stay in Worcester County. Mr. Hoehn stated that they have started doing advertising wraps on their buses. He will get the cost for the Mayor and Council.

Councilwoman Cottman thanked Mr. Hoehn for the information that he provided.

Councilman Tasker asked if they could do something with the stop located at Fifth Street and Market. He was held in traffic there for five minutes and could not go around because of on-coming traffic.

Mayor Morrison stated that they could make a right on 5th Street and pull into the parking lot and head back out to Market Street, so they are not stopping on Market Street for loading and

unloading customers. Mayor Morrison thanked Mr. Hoehn for attending the meeting and providing the information to them tonight.

Authorize Mayor to sign resolution to authorize the submission of a grant application for Maryland Community Legacy Funding and Strategic Demolition & Smart Growth Impact Fund:

Mayor Morrison read Resolution 483 and 484 for the record:

RESOLUTION NO. 483

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND APPROVING THE A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN AND APPLICATION AND RECEIPT OF FINANCING FOR A COMMUNITY LEGACY PROJECT(S) IN POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND TO BE FINANCED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (THE "DEPARTMENT") OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OR THROUGH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

RESOLUTION NO. 484

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF POCOMOKE CITY APPROVING THE APPLICATION AND RECEIPT OF FINANCING FOR A STRATEGIC DEMOLITION & SMART GROWTH IMPACT FUND PROJECT IN POCOMOKE CITY MARYLAND, TO BE FUNDED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (THE "DEPARTMENT") OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OR THROUGH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing) to authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution No 483 and 484 to submit Community Legacy Grant Application and Strategic Demolition & Smart Growth Application. Roll call: Downing, aye; Tasker, aye; Trotter, aye; Cottman aye; Clarke aye.

The applications will request funding for Costen House repairs and renovations; downtown building improvements/start-up funds; and demolition of the former Armory building at 300 Second Street.

Discuss letter from Planning and Zoning Commission recommending approval of a site plan for the proposed solar energy project on Dunn Swamp Road:

Mayor Morrison read for the record a letter from Chairman Austin of the Planning and Zoning Commission recommending approval of the site plans for a solar plant on Dunn Swamp Road, tax map 91, parcel 120.

In a motion (Cottman, Clarke approved) to move forward with the solar plant to be located on Dunn Swamp Road, tax map 91, parcel 120.

Authorize Mayor to sign grant award and acceptance form for grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to assist with the purchase of new body armor for the police department. (\$1,500 grant):

City Manager Blake stated that this is a matching grant from Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. It is for bullet proof vests and body armor. This is a matching grant and it is in the budget.

In a motion (Clarke, Downing passed) to authorize the Mayor to sign a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and prevention in the amount of \$1,500 to purchase bullet proof vests and body armor.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Tasker stated that there are still a few potholes on Lynnhaven Drive that need to be repaved.

Councilwoman Cottman asked if City Manager Blake had heard back from the businesses on Hearne Street as to when they were going to pave that street.

City Manager Blake stated that he had not heard anything but he would call them to follow up.

Councilman Clarke stated that he had received complaints that Public Works employees were riding on the back of vehicles. Also, he stated that a water cut-off notice was handed to a child and not put on the door. He just asked City Manager Blake to remind employees to put the notice on the door and not to give to children.

Councilman Trotter stated that the sidewalk project was looking good and they have made excellent progress.

Mayor Morrison stated that he had received several compliments on how good City Hall looks. He stated that it looks the best it has ever looked, since the trees were removed and the new sidewalks were installed.

Councilman Clarke stated that the brick sidewalks in the downtown area need to be reset.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like to see the downtown area power washed again.

Following a motion by Councilman Clarke and seconded by Councilwoman Cottman, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:58 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Trotter, Councilwoman Cottman, Councilwoman Downing, Councilman Tasker, Councilman Clarke, City Manager Blake, City Clerk Sullivan, and City Attorney Hudson. Items discussed were personnel issues as permitted under the provisions of Sec. 10-508 (A), (1), (7), (8) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and perform executive actions. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Approved: _____ 2014

Carol L. Sullivan