

June 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, June 1, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Brian Hirshman,
George Tasker, Esther Troast, Dale Trotter
City Manager Russell W. Blake
City Attorney Bill Hudson
City Clerk Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed), to approve the minutes of June 1, 2015

Review Bills:

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

Public Hearing on proposed City budget for 2015-2016 fiscal year as required by Sect. 49 of Pocomoke City Charter:

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing.

With no comments from the audience, a motion was made (Trotter, Tasker passed) to close the Public Hearing.

Second Reading of Ord. 420 to set tax rate for fiscal year 2015-2016:

ORDINANCE 420
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND SETTING THE TAX RATES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016.

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to adopt Ordinance 420 to set the tax rates for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Second Reading of Ord. 421 to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016:

ORDINANCE 421
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ADOPTING THE BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

In a motion (Trotter, Troast passed) to adopt Ordinance 421 to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Second Reading of Ord. 422 to establish certain City fees, and other charges for fiscal year 2015-2016:

ORDINANCE 422
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ESTABLISHING THE
FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to adopt Ordinance 422 establishing the Fee Schedule for fiscal year 2015-2016.

City Manager to present proposed Ord. No. 423, to update existing Flood Plain Management Regulations, as required by FEMA:

City Manager Blake stated that every so often Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates the flood zones/maps. Ordinance No. 423 is the Flood Plain Management model that MDE sent us. This model has been adopted by Worcester County and is approved by FEMA. It has little change from the one that we previously adopted.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to adopt Ordinance No. 423 to update Flood Plain Management Regulation. Roll call: Tasker, aye; Troast, aye; Downing, aye; Trotter, aye; Hirshman, aye.

Review recommendation from Planning and Zoning Commission for approval of site plans for new Cobb-Vantress building on Broad Street in Pocomoke Industrial Park:

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Chairman Austin for approval of site plans of Cobb-Vantress, Inc., Tax Map 83, Parcel 33, Lots 2 & 4 for construction of a new building on Broad Street in the City's Industrial Park.

In a motion (Downing, Tasker passed) to approve the site plans for Cobb-Vantress building, Tax Map 83, Parcel 33, Lots 2 & 4 on Broad Street in the City's Industrial Park.

City Manager to recommend purchase of new Programmable Logistics Controller (P.L.C.) unit to replace older unit at Wastewater Treatment Plant:

City Manager Blake stated that they received a couple of proposals, one from Shorite Controls in the amount of \$32,576.70 and another one from Parkson in the amount of \$85,280. This is a computer that makes sure everything is being monitored and it has failed recently. John Funk of Shorite Controls is our local maintenance person. City Manager Blake stated that this needed to be replaced as soon as possible.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to hire Shorite Controls to replace the Programmable Logistics Controller unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$32,576.70

Approval abatement of taxes for properties on Taylor Ave. and others:

City Manager Blake presented a memo recommending that the taxes on certain real properties be abated (copy of memo attached to original minutes).

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) abate the taxes as requested in Memo.

Discuss proposed observation of the Independence Day holiday on Friday, July 3 for City employees:

Mayor Morrison suggested that City Hall be closed for employees on July 3 in observance of July 4, Independence Day.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to approve to be closed on July 3, in observance of July 4, Independence Day holiday.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Trotter stated that the weeds on Second Street from railroad tracks to Laurel needed to be sprayed. Also, there are several street lights out on Market Street.

Councilman Tasker asked when patching work would begin on Lynnhaven Drive that area is in bad shape.

City Manager Blake stated that after July 1, the budget included \$150,000 and they could schedule the patch work around town.

Mayor Morrison stated that he had received a letter from Great Pocomoke Fair President John Smith stating that they had extra expenditures of \$13,800 and asked if the City could help in some kind of way.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to donate \$5,000 to the Great Pocomoke Fair to help with their expenses.

Councilman Trotter reminded everyone of the Open House being held at Pocomoke Volunteer Fire Company.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Rob Clarke, of Cedar Street, stated that Stockton Road had been paved recently and he felt that Market Street should have been paved before Stockton Road as Market Street is one big pothole. He suggested someone should contact the State Highway Administration to have them pave Market Street.

Mayor Morrison stated that Ms. Lynn Blake came tonight to her first Council meeting, as it is her husband's last Council meeting as City Manager. He thanked City Manager Blake for

keeping him straight for the last ten years. He said that they had a good working relationship, even though there were times that they did not agree on things.

Councilman Tasker thanked City Manager Blake and stated that he was a great man to work with. He continued to say that the two of them started working together many years ago and that Blake had done an awesome job as City Manager.

Councilwoman Troast stated that she would miss City Manager Blake, and she was sorry that she would not be working with him. But fore and foremost you are my friend, good luck in your retirement.

Following a motion by Councilman Tasker and seconded by Councilman Trotter the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:52 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Hirshman, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, Councilwoman Troast, City Manager Blake, City Attorney Hudson, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. The Mayor and Council discussed legal and employee issues as permitted under the provisions of Section 10-508 (a), (1), (7) and (8) of the State of Maryland Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan

City Clerk