

June 2, 2014

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

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Rob Clarke, 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 (Clarke, Trotter passed), to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014.

Review Bills:

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

Public Hearing on proposed fiscal year 2013-14 annual budget:

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing.

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

First Reading of Ord. 416 to set tax rate for fiscal year 2014-2015:

ORDINANCE 416
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND SETTING THE TAX RATES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015.

First Reading of Ord. 417 to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015:

ORDINANCE 417
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ADOPTING THE BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015.

First Reading of Ord. 418 to establish certain City fees, and other charges for fiscal year 2014-2015:

ORDINANCE 418
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF
POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND ESTABLISHING THE
FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Discuss recommendations from Downtown Loan Review Committee for matching loan for improvements at 124 & 126 Market Street, (Mark Lusby, owner) and 145C Market Street, (Maria Voituc, owner):

Mayor Morrison read a letter from Chairperson Ellen Whitehouse recommending approval of two loan requests: one from Mark Lusby in the amount of \$23,750.00 and one from Maria Voituc in the amount of \$1,785.00 to help with renovations. At 124 & 126 Market Street (Lusby property) the contractor would rebuild the front wall with new red brick. At 145C Market Street (Voituc) they would repair toilets, install a sump pump, and upgrade electric services. Funds will be provided by a State Community Legacy grant, in the form of a 3% deferred loan, on a 50/50 match basis.

In a motion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to grant the request for deferred loans to Mark Lusby in the amount of \$23,750.00 to rebuild front wall with new red bricks at 124 & 126 Market Street and to Maria Voituc in the amount of \$1,785 to continue the renovation of 145C Market Street.

Review and approve proposal from PKS from three year extension of auditing services contract:

City Manager Blake stated that he has been satisfied and pleased with PKS's work and that they are very professional to work with. He also stated that they were very helpful during our recent change-over in the finance area.

Councilman Clarke asked if we would be charged the additional audit fee for Federal money over \$500,000.

City Manager Blake stated that he hopes so, but he doesn't see an immediate rise in grant or loan funds. This is a single audit that the Federal Government requires when the City spends more than \$500,000 of federal funds in one year.

In a motion (Trotter, Clarke passed) to approve the proposal from PKS for a three year extension of our audit contract.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Tasker asked when the potholes on Lynnhaven drive would be fixed.

City Manager Blake stated that he just received a proposal from a contractor at \$3.00 per sq.ft. with approximately 11,000 sq.ft. for a cost of \$33,000. He would ask Mr. East to get the job started at the beginning of July, with severe problem areas to be done more quickly if possible. He added that the prepared budget includes \$70,000 for paving work.

Mayor Morrison stated that Walnut Street and Newtowne Blvd. also had areas that need to be repaired.

Councilman Clarke asked that they reset the storm grates while repairing the streets.

Councilman Clarke stated that the City may need to reschedule flushing the hydrants on Cedar Street. As of now school is being dismissed and the streets are flooded and the kids are playing in the streets. Also need to have more police patrols in the area of 14th and Cedar as people are running the stop signs.

Mayor Morrison stated he was amazed at how clean the water pipes were that the engineers tested this week in the Pocomoke Height area. Mayor Morrison also asked what the result was on the I&I study that was completed a couple of years ago.

City Manager Blake stated that the study was completed by a grant, and that there are several areas in town that needed to be repaired including man-holes and private clean-outs in yards.

Mayor Morrison stated that a letter should be sent to the residents that needed to repair their sewer line clean-outs.

Mayor Morrison stated that he was proud to say that this is the first year that Pocomoke City got “Banner City”. There was a list of several things that the City had to do to become a Banner City with MML.

Comments from the Audience:

A member of the audience stated that the old police station has a broken window on Maple Street side, also there is a light on in the basement. He also stated that the City could save a lot of money if they would handle their own street patching.

Mayor Morrison stated that the City did not have the equipment or the crews to patch the streets which is why we use private contractors.

Mayor Morrison stated that the Armory building grounds need to be cleaned up.

There being no further business a motion was made by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilman Clarke to adjourn at 7:59 P.M.

Approved: _____ 2014

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk