

October 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, October 2, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing,
Esther Troast, Dale Trotter, George Tasker
City Manager Robert L. Cowger, Jr
City Attorney Roscoe Leslie
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review Minutes:

In a motion (Tasker, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2017.

Review and approval of bills:

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

Second Reading of Resolution No. 509 to amend City Charter regarding City Manager living within Pocomoke City:

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

A Resolution amending Pocomoke City Charter § C-20 to add the requirement that the City Manager reside at a location that allows the City Manager to be available to meet the needs of the position in a timely manner and to remove the requirement that the City Manager reside within the City.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approved Resolution No. 509 to amend City Charter regarding City Manager to reside within 5 miles of the City's boundaries.

Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 433 to add Chapter 186 "Rental Property" to Pocomoke City Code:

Mayor Morrison open the Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 433.

After hearing comments from several members of the audience a motion was made by Councilman Trotter, seconded by Councilman Tasker to table Ordinance No. 433, to add Chapter 186 "Rental Property, Ordinance No. 434, to amend Chapter 146 "Housing Standards" and Ordinance No. 435, to amend Chapter 195 "Solid Waste", for 30 days. These items will be on the November 6, 2017 meeting. A committee will be formed that will include landlords, residents and City employees/officials to discuss the new Chapter 186, "Rental Property".

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 434 to amend Chapter 146 “Housing Standards” of Pocomoke City Code.

This item was tabled to November 6, 2017 meeting.

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 435 to amend Chapter 195 “Solid Waste” of Pocomoke City Code:

This item was tabled to November 6, 2017 meeting.

First Reading of Resolution No. 511 to accept partial of full financial responsibility for street lights in Woodland Manor and Southern Fields Subdivision:

Mayor Morrison read for the record:

A RESOLUTION FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO ACCEPT PARTIAL OR FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STREET LIGHTS IN WOODLAND MANOR AND SOUTHERN FIELDS

Housing Director Brandwie stated that after the subdivision is fully developed that the contractor would ask the City to take over the maintenance and responsibility. The street maintenance has been taken over by the City. Why the street lights have not been assumed by the City we don't know as typically it is all done at the same time.

Mr. Mike Hall asked what was meant by partial or full financial responsibility.

Councilman Tasker stated that it should be full financial responsibility for street lights.

Mayor Morrison agreed.

Discuss letter from Tri-County Council concerning appointment of municipal representative from Worcester County to that board:

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to re-appoint Esther Troast to be considered to represent Worcester County to the Tri-County Council.

City Manager to give update on Clarke Ave. Main Pumping Station:

City Manager Cowger stated that we had three bids for the work to be completed on at the Main Pumping Station. One was right in-line with our funds, but he withdrew his bid as he forgot to include the electrical cost. GMB verified that the electrical cost was not included. We went with the second bid which was over by \$400,000. We went back to USDA and MDE to see if they could help us with the difference. Denise McLeish with USDA stated that they would give the City a grant in the amount of \$500,000 and the City would then need to borrow approximately \$367,670 to complete the project. We have received \$1.5M in grant funds. The City will borrow approximately \$1.3M to complete the total project at a cost of \$2.8M. This loan will be for 30 years at a low interest rate.

In a motion (Tasker, Troast passed) to move forward with the improvements at the Clarke Ave Main Pumping project with an estimated amount of \$2.8M.

Correspondence:

Mayor Morrison stated that he received a thank-you note from the Malloy family.

Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Troast requested that she would like to see the police department patrolling Cedar Street an hour before and after school.

Councilwoman Downing thanked Housing Director Brandwie for moving quickly on the trash on 8th Street.

Councilman Trotter asked about the grant on Cypress Park Improvements, and asked the City Manager to get started on the grant.

Comments from Audience:

Ms. Keri Foster asked if there was a law for bicycles to have lights on them after dark. She almost hit two bikers as she did not see they. They had dark clothing on as well.

City Manager Cowger stated that he would be having a meeting with Chief Harden and he would bring it up the lights on bicycles problem in town.

Mr. John Walker thanked the Mayor and Council for getting the police to respond to him concerning the Neighborhood Watch program. But, he didn't get the response that he wanted, because Sgt. Beauchamp stated that at this time the Police Department did not have the man power and funding to start the program. Mr. Walker stated that the Chief of Police told him that they do not have the proper paper work to start this program.

Mayor Morrison stated that there should not be a funding problem, as the signs were already in place. He asked City Manager Cowger to follow-up with Chief Harden.

Following a motion by Councilwoman Downing and seconded by Councilman Trotter, the Council voted to meet in a closed session at 7:19 P.M. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Morrison, Councilman Trotter, Councilman Tasker, Councilwoman Downing, Councilwoman Troast, City Manager Cowger, City Attorney Leslie, and City Clerk Carol Sullivan. The Mayor and Council to discuss or to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State of Maryland items.

Approved: November 6, 2017

Carol L. Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk