

September 6, 2016

Pocomoke City Mayor and Council held a regular meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday September 6, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Bruce Morrison
Council Members: Diane Downing, Esther Troast,
George Tasker, Dale Trotter, Brian Hirshman
City Manager/City Attorney: Ernie Crofoot
City Clerk: Carol L. Sullivan

Review and approval of minutes from meeting August 15, 2016:

In a motion (Trotter, Downing passed) to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2016, meeting as presented.

Review and approval of Marketing License Agreement between the City and Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc., d.b.a. Service Line Warranties of America:

City Manager Crofoot stated that this was discussed a few meetings ago. Service Line Warranties of America will make water and sewer line warranties on the customer side. They will do a marketing drive with the residents of the town. We do get a little revenue from that, fifty cents (.50) per account. Our name does not go on the bill.

Councilman Hirshman stated that our name goes on the marketing material.

City Manager Crofoot stated that our name is on the marketing material, but is not on the bill.

In a motion (Troast, Trotter passed) to approve the Marketing License Agreement between the City and Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc.

Review list of FY 2017 projects that were submitted to D.H.C.D. and require a letter of support from the City: (See attached letter):

City Manager Crofoot stated he does not know why they need a letter; we did a resolution.

Councilman Hirshman asked if we requested money to demolish the old firehouse.

City Manager Crofoot stated yes.

Councilman Hirshman and Councilwoman Downing both did not want to submit an application to demolish the old fire house and the armory building.

In a motion (Tasker, Hirshman pass) made a motion to submit a letter supporting three of the proposed projects. Councilman Hirshman stated that he and Councilwoman Downing are not in support of the application for the old firehouse and armory buildings.

Authorize mayor to sign support letter for Wallops Flight Facility as the East Coast's base for the Triton unmanned aircraft. (See attached letter):

City Manager Crofoot stated that the letter is very much in-line with others written in support of the Triton unmanned aircraft at Wallops Flight Facility.

In a motion (Downing, Trotter passed) to authorize the Mayor to sign a support letter for Wallops Flight Facility as the East Coast's base for the Triton unmanned aircraft.

City Manager to discuss tennis courts at Cypress Park:

City Manager Crofoot stated that the City has a \$17,000 grant for fencing, lighting and other things at the tennis courts. The estimated total about \$42,000. We are about \$25,000 short. We are going to use the grant for the purpose that it was intended. As a side matter, we have interest from the Pickle Ball Group. This is a form of paddle tennis and is very popular with our senior citizens. They would like to line the tennis courts with different color lines for Pickle ball tournaments. They can put four Pickle ball courts on each side. They are willing to come in and fill in some cracks, put down some primer, and coat the playing surface with coating recommended for Pickle ball. Mr. Crofoot stated that before they do the work, he would like to see if the coating they use is good for tennis playing. It would be a great activity. Mr. Crofoot stated that it would become a multi-use court. He stated that he would like to move forward with the recommendation from the Pickle Ball Group.

City Manager to present bid received for a surplus vehicle:

Mayor Morrison stated that we have received a bid for a 1991 Ford Van in the amount of \$500 from Danny Clabaugh.

City Manager Crofoot stated that the bid is in line with the market value.

In a motion (Troast, Hirshman passed) to accept the bid from Danny Clabaugh in the amount of \$500 for a 1991 Ford van.

Schedule a date for public discussion of curfew matter; announce open discussion at September 19 meeting. (See Model Curfew Ordinance attached):

Mayor Morrison stated that he would like for everybody to review the sample models. They are on our website and we have hard copies for you to pick up tonight. We would like to have an open discussion at our September 19 meeting. He stated he has gotten several different opinions on this and a lot of research needs to go into this before deciding on imposing a curfew.

City Manager Crofoot stated that this is what was discussed earlier. Model drafts are available, whatever your opinion is please let us know.

Representative from Pocomoke Drug Free Coalition to address the Mayor and Council:

Ms. Tracey Cottman introduced Deandre' Wise, a senior at Pocomoke High School. She stated that they would like to do an introductory type of thing to let you know what we are working on. Back in 2014 we formed Pocomoke Drug Free Coalition, our goal is looking at substance abuse and focusing on youth development. She stated that she knew that the Mayor and City Council and the City Manager agrees that we can't really do enough to work with our young people. That's the overall goal. We have a large number of agencies that work with us.

We try to give our young people the opportunity to learn leadership skills, so they may take this initiative to share it with their peers. Kids listen to their peers. We sent two of our youth representatives to Las Vegas to a conference on safety program. The other thing is we have been looking at other activities that we can collaborate with within the City for our young people. We have talked to young people about “What is your perspective on substance abuse? Why are kids using drugs or using alcohol?” We learned quite a bit, some feel that it is an easy access, parent’s attitude is sometimes favorable. When working with young people we need to ask them what they think, as sometimes we forget to involve the young people. We would like to propose to the Mayor and Council is to explore a “Social Host Ordinance”, that it would basically be some type of fine if the police show up for a loud party. We meet every other month. We have an office space on Market Street.

Ms. Wise stated that she went to the conference in Las Vegas and she learned about over the counter medicine and drug safety. We would like to work with the 5th and 6th graders and teach them about the use of over the counter medicine.

Ms. Cottman thanked the Mayor and Council for listening.

Comments from Council:

Councilman Tasker asked about the other surplus cars. We haven’t sold them and he would like to know where they are.

City Manager Crofoot stated that some were at the Police Department and some were at Public Works. He stated that he would like to have an auction to get rid of the surplus vehicles.

Councilman Trotter stated when would he like to have the auction.

Mayor Morrison stated that we could schedule it for the first Saturday in October.

In a motion (Trotter, Tasker passed) to have an auction on Saturday, October 1, at 10:00 am.

Councilwoman Troast stated that school has started, she would like to have Cedar Street patrolled more, as they are still speeding on that street and she would like to see presence of police on Cedar Street before and after school.

City Manager Crofoot asked if the Council would like for him to look into putting speed cameras on Cedar Street.

The consensus was to look into the speed cameras for Cedar Street.

Councilman Trotter stated that a Church was interested in purchasing the old firehouse, it appears to him that it would be beneficial for them to purchase that building. Once they purchase the building they would get with other interested organizations to form a youth group to raise money to renovate the building.

City Manager Crofoot stated that if they wanted the building they need to submit a plan as to what they would be doing with the building and how they would renovate.

Mayor Morrison asked that we should bring the Church here to submit them a plan.

Councilman Hirshman stated that he would reach out to the Church to set up a meeting with them. Also asked if the grant of \$40,000 could be used to rehab the building.

City Manager Crofoot stated that he would need to submit another application.

Mr. Ronnie White stated that he spoke with City Manager Crofoot about getting the leaders to come together to come up with a plan for the youth. He stated that he would like to lead this group and he would be working on this in the near future.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would still like to bring Mr. Cartwright in and talk to them about their mission and plans for the old firehouse.

Councilman Tasker also mentioned that last week a representative from DHCD was here to talk about "First Time Homeownership." He spoke on how to buy your first home. Councilman Tasker left each councilperson a package about this program and informed the public.

Mayor Morrison asked City Manager to start the procedure to transfer the property located in the industrial park to the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company. He would like to get this completed this month.

Comments from Audience:

Mr. Billy Sparrow stated that Pocomoke City is at the low end of everything in the County. Snow Hill has a community building, Berlin has one, Pocomoke has zero. Why can't we take the Armory and rehab for the community building. Ask the County to help us with the rehab. It's time for us to stick up for ourselves. We need to get Mr. Lockfaw in here and tell him what we would like to do, he is our County Commissioner. We want something here for our children, just like Snow Hill and Berlin. Our kids are just important to us as theirs are to them and they certainly need to do something about it.

Ms. Tracey Cottman introduced the other people that came in to represent Pocomoke Drug Free Coalition. Lisa Ginn and her daughter Sheila is the other youth representative and Dr. Annette Cropper.

Mayor Morrison thanked the ladies for coming in tonight and the Mayor and Council are on board with them to help them with whatever they need.

Ms. Monna VanEss spoke about the street sweeping, she stated that the First Responders left gloves on the corner of Center Street. She stated that the employees use it is a trash dump.

Mayor Morrison asked where do we stand on purchasing a new street sweeper.

City Manager Crofoot stated that we would need to borrow the money for it and he has a financial adviser looking into the best possible solution for the City.

Ms. VanEss stated that she would like to have a regular schedule so the residents would know when their streets are being cleaned. She also stated why doesn't the City look into a lease agreement that doesn't take a lump sum of money to purchase a street sweeper.

Councilman Trotter asked if it would be possible to borrow a street sweeper from Crisfield or Snow Hill.

City Manager Crofoot stated that it was possible.

Mr. Ronnie White stated that he would like to take the \$100,000 to invest in the children. Why is the street sweeper more important than our children?

City Manager Crofoot stated that the streets need to be cleaned. If not, that pond at Fourth Street will become a lake because of all the water will end up there as the stormwater drains will be clogged.

Mr. Ronnie White asked if we could get our County Commissioner to our next meeting.

Mayor Morrison stated that he would invite Mr. Merrill Lockfaw to the next meeting.
Councilman Tasker stated that the next meeting for the Great Pocomoke Fair is next Monday at 6:30 P.M.

City Manager Crofoot thanked Mr. Nock and his fiancé and Rev. White for coming in and talking to him about the community.

With no further discussion (Tasker, Trotter passed) to adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Approved: _____

Carol L. Sullivan
City Clerk