

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report read by Janet Carlin.

Mr. Reese moved the report to be accepted as presented and Dr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council meeting held on December 11, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Castagno noted the minutes are incorrect.

Under new business minutes corrected to read, Mr. Castagno appoints Councilman Balascio and Mr. Martin to identify and assign fees on Planning Commission request.

Dr. Miller moved to accept the minutes as submitted and seconded by Mr. Reese. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. DiAngelo wants Council to be aware of a letter written by William Hentkowski. There are several important issues concerning the Armory that Council and Mayor need to address. Mr. DiAngelo offers to read letter.

Mr. Castagno advised every Council person had a copy. Also, there are copies available on the sign-in podium.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Castagno commented specifically on Agenda Item #1. This is not to enter into a lease but enter into lease negotiations. Also, note there was a Public Hearing held on January 3, 2002 concerning the issue.

Bill Hentkowski – As he has written he wants Council to look at other sites. Don't just go down one road.

Flo Russell – Reiterates Mr. Henkowski thoughts. Still does not believe figures are accurate. People need more information.

David June – Wants to know has Council read about Flood Plain Management.

Mr. Castagno – Yes, they have looked at the information on Flood Plain Management.

David June – As a taxpayer expects Council to make the right decision and the money Council is considering concerns him.

Janet Koczak – She is in favor of Van Dyke Armory. Votes to reuse a historical building and have an earlier move in date for police.

John Gaworski – He was on site selection committee to choose site for police facility. On the committee list the Armory was #5 not #1.

James Steele – Like to discuss Armories in the State. None have been successfully transferred to other Cities. Old building cannot handle new technology. Industry is now building for 2050 not 2002.

Ned Hutchinson – Plans for police facility should be cost effective. Need a small sub station at the Farmers Market.

Jack McNally – Concerned about placing police facility in a high traffic area.

John Houben – Hopes City Council will delay any decision that would be legally binding. P. Gerald White and others have many questions about site. A landlord creates complex consequences. Armory would be extremely costly.

Mr. Castagno – Entering into lease negotiations will answer a lot of questions. Then there would be no question of integrity.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR

Feels President of Council attempted to coerce Mayor into silence. This is beyond belief.

Mr. Castagno – No comment.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

None.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Martin received correspondence from:

- A. State of Delaware – State Board of Pension Trustee 30th Annual report is available in the the City office.
- B. Delaware League of Local Government is having month dinner meeting on January 24, 2002 In Dover, Delaware. Chief McDerby will be giving a Power Point Presentation on the 10-1 ceremony at Battery Park.
- C. City Financial Status at six months received 65% of anticipated revenue and have expended 47.6% of budget. May have a budget surplus if everything remains constant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Recommendation for fee adjustment for sub-division fee and land development fee per Section A-239-2 and Section A-239-3 of the City code.
2. Appointment of Committee to negotiate FOP contract effective July 1, 2002. Mr. Castagno appoints a committee consisting of Mr. Reese, Mr. Martin, Mr. Bob Appleby, and Mr. Castagno.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Decision to enter into lease negotiations for the Van Dyke Armory. Dr. Miller moves that we enter into negotiations. Mr. Balascio seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Balascio, yes; Mr. DiAngelo, no; Dr. Miller, yes; Mr. Reese, no; Tie breaker, Mr. Castagno, yes. Vote was 3/2 in favor of entering into lease negotiations.
2. Consideration of 2002/2003 operating budget transfer. Dr. Miller motioned to accept transfer as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Balascio. Passed unanimously. (Copy Attached)
3. Discussion for Trustee appropriation FY 2002/2003. Mr. DiAngelo questioned why surveillance camera is not a request. Need night camera for Wharf, cost of \$5,000.00, for night vision. Chief McDerby believes request not high priority.

Mr. Balascio request park equipment.

Mr. Reese suggest a request of \$15,000.00 for park equipment.

Andy Brittingham – Wants equipment for Washington Park.

Stan Skora – City should look at corporate sponsorship for parks.

Dr. Miller motioned to ask Trustees for an amended appropriation. Seconded by Mr. Balascio. Passed unanimously.

4. Request for Sandra Pitts as "Hot Dang Carts" to vend at the Wharf for the 2002 season.

Dr. Miller motion to grant vendors permit. Seconded by Mr. Balascio. Passed unanimously.

5. Request from New Castle Presbyterian Church to have two (2) handicap parking spaces in front of Church on Sundays (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Mr. DiAngelo motioned we approve handicap parking spaces. Seconded by Dr. Miller. Passed unanimously.

6. Addressed at beginning of meeting.

7. Resolution authorizing the Municipal Service Commission to inspect new domestic and industrial water service connections from the main to the meter.

Tabled until February due to condition beyond Council control.

8. Addressed at beginning of meeting.

9. Decision to accept the Planning Consultants recommendation made by the Ad-Hoc Committed.

Tabled until February.

10. Presentation of FY 2000-2001 audit of City Finance. Audit incomplete.

Tabled until February.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jack McNally – Look at other sites for police facility.

Mr. Balascio – The Council is looking for other places.

Bill Emory – Will there be a railing along the Wharf?

Mr. Martin – We are currently looking into that.

Charlotte Houben – Do we have a Real Estate attorney?

Mr. Balascio – We will use both our Solicitor and a Real Estate attorney from his office.

Mark DiAngelo – How did the Armory get to be first choice?

Mr. Castagno – Committee recommended several sites. Only two on list were available. We are evaluating both.

Flo Russell – With the Armory is there an open or closed trust? Also, did the vote tonight close the door to other options?

Mr. Balascio – Today we have requested availability of Trustee sites.

Mr. Castagno – The trust is unrevocable trust.

Corky Violo – Expressing his personal observation. Compliments to Council on how you have conducted yourselves. This is a very difficult dialog. Respects Mr. Castagno's ground rules. Appreciates everyone's effort.

Stan Skora – For the pass 13 years Councils have been trying to find a police facility. Everyone should let Council do their jobs.

Mike Alfree – Update on traffice light at Moore Lane and New Castle Avenue. Still in process.

Letter was sent to Office of Adminstrative Service about drainage problem on Green. Response, will check on letter.

Drainage problem at 2nd and Harmony Streets. Designed for the to occur. No solution.

Attended January 3, 2002 meeting and unfortunately some people tried to run the meeting. Not enough information was communicated to the public.

Ross Absam – Request Major, Council, and Mr. Martin to sent letter reinforcing stand on no Dredging. This is not a benefit to anyone.

David June – West End Civic League – Respect Council President. Would like strict code of ethics followed.

Mr. Castagno – Currently follows State's Code of Ethics.

David June – The County's are stricter than the State's.

Flo Russell - Not everyone understands this process. Need more information. Only wants what is best for police. Armory is a heated argument.

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Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Reese and seconded by Mr. Balascio. Passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Toner, City Clerk
January 8, 2002