

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MASONIC HALL – 1406 WILMINGTON ROAD – NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2000 – 7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Councilman DiAngelo
Councilman Marinelli
Councilman Reese

Councilman Davis
President Blest

Also, present Mayor Houben, Mr. Robert Martin, City Administrator, Herb Swanson, Housing Enforcement Official, Rick Harrison, Director of Public Works, Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official, Lt. Patrick Cannon, Officer in charge of New Castle City Police, Gerald Kavanaugh, City Solicitor and attached list of audience.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Martin read the committee reports and announced they are available at the City Administration Building.

<u>Police Department Report</u>	-	<u>December 1999</u>
<u>Building Official's Report</u>	-	<u>December 1999</u>
<u>Public Works Report</u>	-	<u>December 1999</u>
<u>Health and Housing Report</u>	-	<u>December 1999</u>
<u>Finance Report</u>	-	<u>December 1999</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Janet Carlin, City Treasurer read the report for the month ending December 1999. Mr. DiAngelo motioned that all reports be accepted as read. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE:

Preisent Blest asked if council had read the minutes and if anyone had any changes or corrections. Council had no changes. Mr. Reese motioned that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motioned passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. President Blest read a letter from the Arasapha Garden Club in which they applied for a grant of \$1,000 from the city to help pay for expenses incurred in the beautification and improvement of New Castle. The Christmas decorating cost the club over \$2000. The trustees gave the club \$750. Mr. Reese made a motion for the city to give the Arasapha Garden Club a grant in the amount of \$1000. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Mayor Houben read a letter from Mr. Meddleson of the Visitors Bureau informing council that they will take advantage of the \$7,000 grant from the Main Street Program USA.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Mr. Ned Hutchinson spoke regarding the beautification of the city. He felt there was a lot of garbage littering New Castle City that should be removed. Mr. Martin stated that the work release inmates would soon be helping with cleaning up the litter in the city.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Houben stated he had no business to discuss at this time.

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Blest read a letter from Mayor Houben to council regarding a proposed recreational park to be built by Greggo and Ferrara on Route 9. The park will even have a track for all terrain vehicles. Mayor Houben is worried about the increase of traffic through our city.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Mr. Martin talked about the Boothhurst flooding problem. He stated after a joint meeting with the residents and the developer, it was agreed the contractor and developer would fix the grading problems. Several residents requested copies of the minutes of the meeting.
2. Mr. Martin informed the public that the Buttonwood School property was now within the limit of the City of New Castle.
3. Mr. Martin stated that all went well with Y2K. He thanked all those involved for their help.
4. Heather from WILMAPCO presented a summary of the costs of Route 9 improvements by Del Dot. She suggested a formal resolution signifying councils approval of the recommendations be submitted to WILMAPCO so they can make sure it receives the attention it deserves.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. President Blest read resolution #2000-01 amending the fees of the code of the City of New Castle. This resolution would raise the fees for building construction, subdivision and land development and all other fees for construction to bring them up to what surrounding city 's charge. Mr. Reese made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. President Blest stated he just wanted to keep the Buttonwood residents up to date on the Buttonwood Drainage Study. Mr. Martin has talked to Larry Irlean and it is now being studied by the Soil Conservation. President Blest stated since there is no new business he would like to table this item at this time.
3. Discussion on sale of unused city property i.e.: street vacations. After a lot of discussion between council and the city solicitor it was decided that this agenda item would be tabled at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. President Blest read the first and second reading of Ordinance No. 391, Amending Chapter 221, Taxation of the Code of the City of New Castle. President Blest explained this is the ordinance that the first public hearing tonight was on.
2. President Blest lead the discussion on the proposed Ordinance No. 392 Amending Chapter 230-Zoning of the Code of the City of New Castle by adding Article X, Buyers Information Package. This proposed ordinance was changed to a discussion only item as it is a zoning change and has to be sent to the planning commission prior to action by council. After quite a bit of discussion council decided to drop the idea and not refer it to the planning commission.
3. Mr. Davis suggested increasing the income limits on the over 65 and disability tax exemptions. He suggested raising the single income limit from \$8,000 to \$12,500 and the married from \$15,000 to 25,000. Council asked Mr. Davis to get a dollar figure how much money the city will lose due to the increase. Mr. Davis decided to table this item until he has that information for council.
4. President Blest read Resolution No. 2000-02 approving a minor subdivision of property located at 250 – 262 East 2nd St. President Blest stated that the planning commission recommends the subdivision. Mr. Marienelli made a motion that council approves the minor subdivision. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Consideration of Resolution No. 2000-03 authorizing the Mayor to execute Agreement with New Castle Conservation District. President Blest asked Mr. Martin to explain this resolution to the public. Mr. Martin stated this project is being funded through FEMA FUNDS at no cost to the city. Mr. Martin stated, in 1950 Del Dot constructed the tidegates to control the flooding on 7th Street. Because of that they will share in the costs of repairing the dyke and tidegate. Mr. Davis moved that we accept resolution 2000-03 as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Council received a request from Larry Guessford to vend Italian water ice and operate a hot dog vending cart on the wharf near Battery Park. Mr. Reese made a motion to accept Mr. Guessford's request. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of Fy-99-2000 operating budget transfers and additional transfer tax revenues. Mr. Davis stated that the city has received additional funds not earmarked for budgeted items. Mr. Davis made a motion that council has a budget workshop next Thursday, January 20, 2000 to discuss these funds. Mr. Marienelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
8. President Blest read a memo from Mr. Martin regarding the city engineers change of employment. Mr. Martin suggests council retain Mr. Wijkowski to complete the "in-works projects" at an agreed upon hourly rate and that the city solicitor agreed with this arrangement. Mr. Marinelli made a motion to retain Mr. Wojkowski until the projects are completed. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Joann Quinn wanted to go on record that she would like to see the excess funds be used for the new city administration building.
2. Al Bonaparte from Boothhurst wanted to know who is going to monitor the work the developers are doing to correct the water problems in his development? Mr. Martin told him there would be two sets of engineers and the city. Mr. Bonaparte also wanted to know where the original plans for Boothhurst are located. Mr. Bergstrom replied there are copies in the city administration building.
3. Mr. Reese stated that truck traffic through the city has slowed down. Lt. Cannon stated truck traffic has reduced drastically. Del Dot will put more signs that will specify City of New Castle instead of reading local deliveries only.
4. Earl Carpenter asked where these signs would be placed. Lt. Cannon stated one past Grantham Lane stating no trucks with more than 2 axles are allowed.
5. Mr. Reese asked if public works were mulching Christmas Trees this year? Rick Harrison assured Mr. Reese that they were.
6. Mike Alfree suggested that the city send notices to the companies that own the trucks that are being ticketed in New Castle.
7. Teal Petty asked council to please explain the term "paper streets".

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8. Mrs. Russell of Washington Park reminded council about the stop sign between 12th and Juniper needed to be replaced.

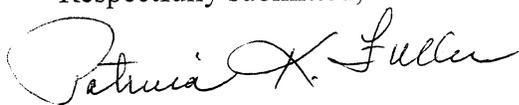
Mr. Reese made a motion that council adjourn the regular public meeting and go into executive session. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council convened into executive session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss with the city solicitor the terms of proposed leasing of Bull Hill Boat Yard.

After much discussion regarding the land leasing issue, Councilman Marinelli made a motion to return to open session. Councilman DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon return to open session, being no further business the council meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia K. Fuller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patricia K. Fuller
City Clerk