

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Blest
Councilperson Janet Churchill
Councilperson John Gaworski, Jr.
Councilperson Teel Petty
Councilperson Donald Reese

Also present:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas

Approval of Minutes by Date: December 9 and December 16, 2008. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the meeting minutes as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Gaworski and passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report — City Treasurer Janet Carlin stated that there was \$400.00 in petty cash on hand, \$334,949.92 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$1,874,603.66 in the Certificates of Deposits and De. Government Investment Pool and \$2,209,553.58 total cash on hand. A motion was made by Councilman Reese to accept the treasurer's report as presented. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and passed unanimously.

Report from City Administrator — The full City Administrator's report is in Council's packet. Additionally, City Administrator Thomas stated that the City Annual Report Calendars are finished and are being mailed and some residents had received. Ms. Thomas then reported on items in which the City Solicitor Roger Akin had been involved, mainly issues with the property at 917 Gray Street. The house at 917 Gray Street had sold at Sheriff's auction. The City will be able to recoup the liens on that property.

Approval of Staff Reports — The Police Report is part of Council's package as well as the report from Public Services. Council President Blest stated that any of the staff reports are available at the City office. A motion was made by Councilman Reese to accept the staff reports as presented. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and passed unanimously.

Grant Review

Grant Income; Friends of Bellanca Hanger \$12,281.50

Grant Expenses; Western Gateway, Springhaus Landscape, \$39,114.50 Western Gateway 2008.

Bellanca Air Hanger; Guardian Construction Co. \$10,381.50 Certificate #3.

Remington, Vernick & Beach \$2,000.00 paid on account.

Wilkinson Roofing & Siding, Inc. \$2,599.60 Certificate #4 (final)

Communications

The City Administrator read an email message from National Parks Service (NPS) representative Peter Samuel, updating the City on creation of a National Park for the State of Delaware. The Philadelphia Regional office of the NPS has forwarded the report to the NPS in Washington, D.C. It will be delivered to the Secretary of the Interior, who will forward it to the Delaware Congressional Delegation to continue the lengthy process of having the park officially designated.

A letter from planning Commission was read, which recommended approval of the rezoning request for 300 W. 7th Street.

A report was read from Marian Hull of URS, which was an update of Comprehensive Plan process.

Business from the Floor

Business from the Mayor

None.

Business from Council President

Council President Blest announced that the union contract with City's Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), representing sworn police officers, had been settled.

Unfinished Business

1. Third Reading and Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 459, amending the Comprehensive Plan to allow a multi-family, residential development on a parcel located at 300 W 7th Street. This is an amendment to the current Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that the updated Comprehensive Plan, to be adopted in the near future, may recommend mixed use (multi-family residential and commercial) for the area where this parcel is located. The third reading was done and a Motion to approve the rezoning was considered. Motion by Councilperson Reese, seconded by Councilperson Churchill. **The motion passed unanimously.**
2. Third Reading and Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance No. 460, approving a request to Rezone a parcel located at 300 W 7th Street, from I-Industrial to R3-Residential. The third reading was done and a Motion to approve the rezoning was considered. Motion by Councilperson Reese, seconded by Councilperson Churchill. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Discussion of the report and recommendations as a result of the joint meeting between the Historic Area Commission and the New Castle Historical Society. **Council would like to move forward on their recommendation to form a review committee to continue the work and to implement the plans and proposals which were initiated by this joint meeting. The Review Committee includes participants of the initial meeting, David Bird, Michael Connolly, Janet Churchill, Robin Hegvik, Robin Krawitz, Sally Monigle, Robert Poskitt, Donald Reese and Bill Hentkowski (not present at the initial meeting).**

New Business

1. First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 461, approving amendments to Chapter 74 of the City Code entitled, "Tree Commission". **Tabled**
2. First and Second Reading Ordinance No. 462, approving the addition of a new Section to the City Code entitled, "Street Tree Ordinance". **Tabled**
3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution to pay \$25,686.94 to Joshi Construction Co., for Bellanca Air Hangar Improvements, Contract No. 5, Building Restoration Phase II, Certificate No. 6, with a notation that members of Friends of Bellanca Airfield and the project management company, Remington & Vernick Engineers, have reviewed the Joshi invoice and have recommended and approved it for payment. The motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski, and seconded by Councilperson Reese. **The motion passed unanimously.**
4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-2, adopting a policy requiring City Council review of job vacancies to determine if a vacancy shall be filled, and if so, in what time frame relative to when the vacancy occurs. The motion was made by Councilperson Petty, and seconded by Councilperson Churchill. **The motion passed unanimously.**
5. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to Appoint Sally Monigle to a New Term on the Historic Area Commission, from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011. **Council members approved the appointment Sally Monigle to a new term on the Historic Area Commission, from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011.**
6. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-3, authorizing the Mayor to sign the "Certificate of Ownership" section of plans prepared for the Trustees of the New Castle Commons, for property at 401 South Street, which proposes to construct an addition to the Good Will Fire Company. Council president had questions regarding disposing of real property. Property will be posted in accordance with City Code, and offered to Trustees.

The Council discussed the matter, and heard from the attorney representing the Trustees of the New Castle Common, Mr. Andy Taylor. Council President Blest noted that not all steps had been completed concerning property transfer, in accordance with the City Code. The Council agreed that all the required steps contained in the Code, including posting the property proposed to be transferred and offering the property to the Municipal Services Commission (MSC), as well as the Trustees, should be completed prior to the Council taking action on this matter, **and therefore it was tabled.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Burgmuller
Council Secretary