

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday – March 10, 2009 – 7 p.m.

Present:

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

Also Present:

Mayor John Klingmeyer, City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, MSC Secretary Chip Patterson

Approval of Minutes by Date

With the exception of a correction Councilperson Petty requested be made, a motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Minutes of February 10 and 24 as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Carlin reported that there was \$400.00 in petty cash, \$69,137.92 total deposits for the month, \$458,608.16 total in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, \$1,445,688.73 in the Certificates of Deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool and \$1,904,296.89 total cash on hand. A motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the report as presented. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.

Approval of City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Thomas stated that her report to Council was in their packets. Mrs. Thomas also spoke on some of the projects she has been working on the previous month particularly the upcoming City Election.

Approval of Staff Reports

Chief McDerby stated that the Police report was not in Council's package this month but would be available at the Police Station for review upon request and due to the stimulus plan, the police department is entitled to a grant which Chief McDerby would like to take advantage of the grant. Chief McDerby also stated that notice to the public will be placed in the weekly paper. Chief McDerby thanked Council President Blest and Councilperson Reese for their service as Council members on behalf of the Police Department.

Grant Review

Mrs. Churchill stated that there was no grant activity for the month of February.

Communications

None.

Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)

A resident asked about re-registering to vote in City elections due to him just moving back into the City. Mr. John Cochran asked about the item regarding the Library's request.

Business from the Mayor

None.

Business from the Council President

None.

Unfinished Business

1. Third Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 461, approving amendments to Chapter 74 of the City Code entitled, "Tree Commission". Councilperson Churchill gave a summary of the Ordinance. Councilperson Petty made a Motion to accept the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilperson Reese and passed unanimously. (Gaworski-yes, Petty-yes, Reese-yes, Churchill-yes, Blest-yes)
2. Third Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 462, approving the addition of a new Section to the City Code entitled, "Street Tree Ordinance". Councilperson Churchill gave a summary of the Ordinance. Councilperson Reese made a Motion to accept the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously. (Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Reese-yes, Gaworski-yes, Blest-yes)
3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-8, approving a Minor Subdivision for 300 W. 7th Street. Council President Blest read the Resolution and a letter from the Planning Commission regarding the subdivision. A Motion was made by Councilperson Reese to accept the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill. Councilperson Churchill questioned which conditions requested by URS have been met. Jeff Bergstrom spoke on which conditions have been met and noted that until all conditions were met, he would not be authorized to issue a building permit. The Motion passed unanimously. (Reese-yes, Gaworski-yes, Churchill-yes, Petty-yes, Blest-yes)
4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-5, amending Resolution No. 2007-14, approved by the City Council on July 10, 2007, approving transfer to the Trustees of the New Castle Commons the Banks Building on the Wharf at the end of Delaware Street. Councilperson Reese made a Motion that this matter be tabled at this time. Councilperson Petty stated that she felt better communication is needed between Council and the Trustees and she hopes that Council and the Trustees can work together on this project. The motion to table this matter was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Discussion of and Action on a Request from the New Castle Public Library for the City to provide the first installment of \$100,000, of a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the City, for Library Renovations. Council President Blest read a letter from Katie Newell of the Library Campaign Fund requesting the funds. Councilperson Churchill requested that Resolution 2007-37 be followed and that Council hold off on the contribution for right now but to make the contribution no later than June 30, 2009, as per the Resolution. Mr. Corky Viola spoke on behalf of the Library to answer Council's questions. Councilperson Churchill made a Motion that Council will forward a check to the Library Fund for \$25,000 now and forward a check for \$25,000 thereafter every 30 days until the \$100,000 contribution for this fiscal year is met. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
2. Discussion of Verizon Cable Franchise negotiations. Mrs. Thomas gave an overview of the discussions to date with Verizon.
3. Motion, Discussion and Vote to appoint Ms. Shannon Nelson to the New Castle City Board of Elections. Council President Blest made a Motion to appoint Shannon Nelson to the New Castle City Board of Elections. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously.
4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Bank Resolution to pay \$46, 441.05 to 1st Source Bank. Councilperson Reese made a Motion to accept the Bank Resolution. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously.
5. Comments from the floor.

Dee Duzak spoke on recycling and requested that maybe Council do more to encourage residents to recycle.

Dr. Padmalingam again requested that the beach at Battery Park be kept cleaned and notified Council that there will be a clean up on April 4, 2009.

Mr. John Cochran, Mr. Bill Barthel, Mr. Ted Megginson and Ms. Esther Lovlie introduced themselves and stated that they are running for various Council positions in the upcoming election.

Mr. Mike Alfree spoke about the Penn/Quigley Farm and noted there will be a meeting and then an open house on March 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. which will take place at the conference room at the Police Station and then they will take a tour of Farm regarding what can be done with the property.

6. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Reese to adjourn to Executive Session. It was seconded by Councilperson Churchill and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill DiAngelo
City Clerk