

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Special Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – May 3, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Dan Losco, Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd

New Business

1. Organizational meeting of the New Castle City Council: Liaison Assignments:

a) Finance/Human Resources b) Public Safety/Police
c) Public Services d) Buildings/Parks & Recreation

President Barthel said that following the recent election he wanted to review the organizational structure. Based on the vote counts, which is how the liaison assignments were chosen two years ago, he recommended they stay the same unless someone sees a reason why that is not working.

Finance/Human Resources—Councilperson Cochran
Public Safety/Police—Councilperson Gaworski
Public Services—Councilperson Megginson
Buildings/Parks & Recreation—Councilperson Petty

He reminded everyone the meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Mayor Reese led a discussion about a ceremonial swearing-in for officials since the original swearing in was done in the hospital. The consensus of the board was to have a celebratory event but not another swearing in.

Mayor Reese said he does not wish to sit up with the Council since they are the deliberative body. He also pledged not to interrupt Council if they have already given the people time to talk. He does not believe it is the Mayor's prerogative to interrupt Council. He should be prepared to comment when the other citizens are given an opportunity. He also said he would not blindside the Council.

2. First and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 482, amending the following New Castle City Code sections:

Section 140: Housing and Property Maintenance
Section 141: Dangerous or Vacant Buildings

President Barthel did the first and second readings.

3. Discussion on Appointment of Members to a Charter Change Committee.

President Barthel said this matter was discussed at the last regular meeting and he had asked Councilpersons to bring any names for individuals to serve on the committee.

Councilperson Megginson recommended John Houben; Councilperson Cochran recommended Josephine Moore; President Barthel recommended Genevieve Miller as the chairperson and Jim Vincent as a member. Mayor Reese recommended Monroe Gerhart.

A vote will be taken on the members of the committee at the next regular meeting.

Solicitor Losco said he would be happy to serve on that committee or make himself available to the committee for advice. The consensus of the Council is he should be on the committee.

4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to Sell City-Owned Property at 19 Arbutus Avenue.

This item was not ready to be considered for a vote at the meeting. Solicitor Losco asked that a member of Council make a recommendation that the property at 19 Arbutus Avenue be sold.

Councilperson Megginson made a recommendation to sell the property.

5. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution supporting a request from DNREC to the General Assembly Bond Bill Committee to provide funding for needed repairs to the Board Dike and Gambacorta Dike in the City of New Castle.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to approve resolution 2011-16. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Carter from DNREC said he thinks the resolution will be helpful but there is a lot of competition for the funding. He said that if the projects are going to get funded this year the City will know the first couple days of July. DNREC asked for money for five dikes.

Administrator Thomas thanked Mr. Carter and the others at DNREC for their work on this project.

It would be valuable for the members of Council to lobby the Legislature for this funding.

A discussion was held about the possible options the Legislature might consider in terms of funding.

Councilperson Petty welcomed the City's First Lady.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to adjourn the meeting into an Executive Session to Discuss the FOP Union Negotiations. Councilperson Megginson second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk