

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Budget Workshop Meeting: Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – June 15, 2010 – 6 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present: Mayor Klingmeyer, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance Director Marian Delaney

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to hire two temporary workers.

President Barthel said the resolution is OK under FOIA because it was posted yesterday under an emergency notice.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve a resolution to hire two temporary workers at minimum wage to block out with paint the DSWA contact information from the recycling containers as requested by DSWA. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Cochran.

Councilperson Megginson said the City is close to having 1,000 containers and needs to get the contact information off the cans. They will be spray painted.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Budget Workshop

Beautification Committee

Tom Maddux provided a brief overview of the committee's activities, including various plantings through out the year, the triangle across from Happy Harry's and trails and parks.

Gene Dempsey said the Committee's total expenditures are \$2,500 a year. As of this point in many years, it has not had to come for any funding. This year it has not gotten anything from the Trustees of the New Castle Common. The committee is petitioning to get some money to continue the work. The Trustees in the past had given \$2,500, but sometimes it was more depending on needs. The Committee has roughly \$500 left in its treasury.

Administrator Thomas said the City has always provided some funds for beautification. It used to be \$2,500. To address the maintenance needs, the City instead hired a seasonal person to do the work. That system has worked. It went from \$2,500 for plant materials to \$11,000 for maintenance labor. Public Works Supervisor George O'Neal is asking for another full-time seasonal person to work on beautification. That would be a boost to \$20,000 on the budget line.

President Barthel said the amount requested would thus total \$22,500.

The committee next year will need to take over maintaining the Western Gateway.

Administrator Thomas went through the budget starting with the City Council area. The economic development area has \$6,000 requested. That includes decorative flags and the Historic New Castle Alliance request for \$5,780, up from \$4,780. Council will need to determine how to handle requests from that organization as well as the New Castle Senior Center, \$12,000; Arasapha Garden Club, \$1,500; Summer Concerts, \$1,000; and Buttonwood, which is seeking the same amount as the New Castle Senior Center. The budget includes the third year of the commitment to the Library at \$100,000 a year.

Finance Director Delaney led Council through the Finance Department and Human Resources budget line items.

Council discussed the parameters and costs of the educational reimbursements for union members.

Administrator Thomas went through the Administration budget

Councilperson Cochran said the problem the City is running into is the number of groups that are asking for money. He questioned where does it stop at?

Administrator Thomas said many communities have their own programs, such as senior programs, where the City of New Castle does not.

Councilperson Cochran added he was looking at the increases in salary in the Police Department with promotions which are astronomical. He acknowledged the City has to live with the current contract. With the Trustees cutting back on funding to organizations, the groups are coming to the City Council for money. The City is not getting additional revenue in.

President Barthel said the City is looking at \$100,000 in overage on the referendum projects. The Trustees are cutting everyone back.

Administrator Thomas said the next meeting is revenues and then the Council will see the entire budget.

Council wants to get financial information from the organizations requesting funding. Councilperson Petty suggested creating a form for organizations to fill out that provides information for the City to base its decision on.

A discussion was held about Separation Day and its funding.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Councilperson Petty. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk