

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Public Hearing: Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – July 14, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Consideration of Ordinance No. 465, amending the New Castle City Code, in all sections which provide for fees to be paid for various items associated with the City (i.e., licenses, permits, etc.)

Present:

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

Also Present: City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Roger Akin, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

Council President Barthel said the City Council was holding the public hearing regarding the proposal to amend the City Code regarding fees. The proposed ordinance was sponsored by Councilpersons Cochran and Megginson.

Councilperson Cochran explained the fees for the City have not been raised for 10 years. They have reviewed the fees of nearby communities and new fees would put the City's fees in line with those communities.

Administrator Thomas added the ordinance being proposed would not set any fees, but would change how fees are set by Council. The proposed ordinance would, in all cases where a fee is specified in the City Code, eliminate the requirement that they be established by ordinance, which is a more lengthy process. It instead would specify fees to be established by Council by resolution.

Mr. Ennio DiAlessandro said he was disappointed. He believes the audience should have a list of fees that are proposed to be changed and what they would be changed to. He said the rumors are that the fees will be doubled.

Council President Barthel reiterated that this ordinance does not set the fees, but just changes how fees are set.

Solicitor Akin explained that under the proposed ordinance, fees would be changed by resolution and that resolution will be publicly noticed as part of an agenda of Council. There will then be an opportunity to comment.

Mr. DiAlessandro contended the ordinance is being considered at this meeting and residents should know now what the fee changes are.

Administrator Thomas said she proactively would provide Mr. DiAlessandro with a copy of the proposed fee changes when they are ready for consideration before a meeting. She added it is likely some fees will not be increased, but simply restated.

Solicitor Akin explained one disadvantage to adopting fees by resolution rather than having them

embedded in the City Code is that the City Code is easily available, but with resolutions, citizens would need to take an extra step. He suggested also putting the new schedule of fees online as well.

Administrator Thomas explained any fees currently set by resolution are placed online. In addition, the City Code is available online. City Code A239 is an appendix that lists the fees that have been set by resolution.

Councilperson Megginson moved to adjourn the public hearing; Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.