

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MASONIC HALL – 1406 WILMINGTON ROAD – NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY – AUGUST 8, 2000 – 7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Councilman DiAngelo
Councilman Marinelli

Councilman Davis
President Blest

Also, present Mayor Houben, Mr. Robert Martin, City Administrator, and Mr. Herb Swanson. Housing Enforcement Official, Chief Kevin McDerby, New Castle Police Department and Mrs. Jean Williamson, Council Secretary and attached list of audience.

ABSENT:

Councilman Reese

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Martin read the Building Official's Report	-	July 2000
Mr. Martin read the Finance Report	-	July 2000
Mr. Martin read the Public Works Report	-	July 2000
Chief McDerby gave the Police Department Report	-	July 2000
Mr. Swanson read the Health and Housing Report	-	July 2000

Mr. Marinelli made a motion to accept all committee reports. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Janet Carlin, City Treasurer read the treasurer's report for the month ending July 2000.

Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the report as read. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE:

President Blest asked if council had read the minutes and if there were any question or corrections.

Mr. Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mr. Marinelli read a letter from St. Peter the Apostle Church requesting permission to place 2 signs on 4th Street by the graveyard entrance to allow access during funerals. Mr. Marinelli asked that 2 signs be placed prohibiting parking from 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mayor Houben asked if it would be possible to notify the police when a funeral is going to take place and the police could designate no parking for a specific time. Council decided to investigate several options for restricting parking during funerals and put it on the agenda for next month.
2. President Blest read a letter from Brian Whittaker representing paralyzed veterans, regarding no handicapped accessibility at service stations. Mr Marinelli already responded to Mr. Whittaker explaining there were no service stations within the New Castle City limits.
3. President Blest stated he received a letter regarding the property at 802 Clayton Street. President Blest stated there were quite a few individuals in the audience who were interested in the discussion of that property so it would be discussed later when more time could be devoted to it.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Mrs. Clark spoke regarding reducing the speed limit on 8th, 9th and 10th Streets.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Houben stated he had no business to discuss at this time.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Blest stated that the city council meeting for the month of September would be held in the Old Town Hall, which has been newly renovated.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Mr. Martin read a copy of a letter written by Mary Davis to the Secretary of Transportation regarding the curbing at the Ferry Cut-off. Mrs. Davis stated she would like to see brick sidewalks incorporated in the project.
2. Mr. Martin also read a letter from the Delaware Credit Union League located at Quigley Boulevard and Route 273 inquiring about being annexed into the city limits.
3. Mr. Martin then read several other pieces of correspondence that would be of interest to the citizenry.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 2000-10 re-naming 6th Street Extended to Glebe Lane.** President Blest stated that council is not ready to proceed on this resolution at this time. He stated that several steps have to be completed prior to voting on this resolution. Letters have been sent to the Post Office, Del Dot, Planning Commission, Emergency Commission and the Police Department. Also council has to advertise in order to inform the public of the anticipated change in name.
2. **3rd and final reading of Ordinance No. 395-re-zoning the Buttonwood School property.** President Blest read in its entirety Ordinance 395. Mr. Davis then made a motion to accept the ordinance as read. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Discussion regarding up-dating the existing City Zoning Code.** President Blest stated that council has not really progressed on the re-zoning issue. They have received recommendations from the Historic Area Commission. The Planning Commission has started to work on this project, but before council hires a professional planner they want the Planning Commissions recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Consideration of 15/mph speed limit on all streets east of the railroad tracks.** President Blest explained that this came about because of all the traffic on 3rd Street. Council said a public hearing has to be held prior to implementing the new speed limits. A public meeting was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. before the September 12th meeting. Mr. Marinelli stated the speed limit should be enforced throughout the city.

2. **Bank resolution to pay the following:**

- a. **\$40,487.84 to Cecil Construction Corp. for Contract #2000-01, "Buttonwood Avenue Rebuild" – final estimate.**
- b. **\$110,558.00 to Insurance & Financial Services for insurance premiums for July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001.**

Mr. Davis read both bank resolutions authorizing the city to pay Cecil Corp and Insurance & Financial Services. Mr. Davis then made a motion that council accepts the resolutions as read. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Petty spoke about the poor condition of the sidewalks in Buttonwood and the fact that they cannot get mail delivered. Mr. Petty will get together with Mr. Martin after the meeting to see if these issues can be resolved.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. Al Bonaparte stated the city should check out completed projects done in the city to see if they are done correctly before paying the bills. He wanted to know who is responsible for inspecting this work.
2. Mrs. Teel Petty stated that the Post Office has said they spoke to the city several times about the problems with the mail delivery in Buttonwood.
3. Stan Taylor from Buttonwood stated that where the tree was removed and a wall built next to his patio caused a hole under his patio that collects water.
4. Mr. Petty stated he wants to put a house on Old New Castle Avenue and the city building inspector told him he has to pay \$33,000 to open the street. Mr. Petty also complained that they never see any police patrol. There has been school has been vandalized several times. He stated they also need radar out there.
5. Beulah Warren from Buttonwood spoke about the amount of traffic and having more police patrol the area. Chief McDerby spoke about how the police patrol the city of New Castle and that the city is in the process of hiring 2 new police officers. Mayor Houben spoke about patrolling with the city police on several occasions and that they do patrol all parts of the city.
6. Sarah Hutchinson wanted to know if council could send a formal thank you letter to Del Dot for extending the path along the river. President Blest stated council would send a letter.
7. Jamar from Buttonwood stated he lives 2 houses away from the school and when the house was taken down they left the trash. Council stated the contractor will remove the trash and the Trustees of the New Castle Common will pay for the disposal cost of \$13,000.

8. Dave June, President of the West End Civic Association spoke about individuals organizing and then talk to council about problems in their area.
9. Nicole Goad from Shawtown stated she complained to Mr. Bergstrom about a building in her neighborhood a month or so ago and has not received a response. It seems Mr. Bergstrom told her not to worry about the deck then placed a stop work order, but the deck was built any way.
10. Mr. Ned Hutchinson asked if council has received a letter back from the county in regard to helping with the maintenance of Battery Park. President Blest stated we sent the letter and have not received a response. Mr. Hutchinson also asked about the status of the Bull Hill Boat Club.
11. Mr. Bonaparte from Boothhurst asked about city elections and what council members would be up for election?
12. John DiMondi asked why the city doesn't get parking meters.
13. John Ioannoni spoke regarding the property at 802 Clayton Street. He questioned whose responsibility it was to check what was being built? President Blest stated it was Mr. Bergstrom the Building Official for the city. Mr. Ioannoni talked for a period about issues with the 802 Clayton Street property.
14. Julie Maninetti said Mr. Bergstrom told her that the footers were moved. Council told the audience they would have answers by Friday.
15. Mark DiAngelo asked why council doesn't go and look at the property?
16. Mr. Petty wanted council to know he was not criticizing the police.
17. Chris Robinson of Boothhurst wanted to know when the roads were going to be done in his development.

Mr. Davis made a motion to enter into executive session. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Public meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The Mayor and Council convened into executive session at 8:30 p.m. with city solicitor Gerald Kavanaugh to discuss an offer to sell land to the city for a new municipal complex. After much discussion the offer will be taken into consideration pending further review of the offer. Councilman Marinelli made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Returning to open session no further business was discussed. Councilman DiAngelo made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9:00 P.M. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Fuller
City Clerk