

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Special Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Monday – August 30, 2010 – 6 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present: Mayor Jack Klingmeyer, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, Lt. Adam Brams, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd

President Barthel said he called the meeting for two reasons.

1. Discussion of possible extension of the seasonal bicycle police patrol, on a limited basis.

President Barthel said he had hoped to keep the bike patrol on for the month of September, but he just learned the folks would only be available for the first week. He said the reason the City Council put the Carry-In/Carry-Out policy in place was to make the park cleaner, and if the City is not going to enforce that then it is defeating the purpose of having the policy in place. His quick calculation is the extra patrols would cost the city \$1,500 through mid-October.

Mayor Klingmeyer said the rules and regulations of Battery Park are the purview of the Battery Park Commission, which is the Trustees of the New Castle Common. It is their obligation—they set the rules, they should be responsible for this.

President Barthel said the Battery Park Commission voted unanimously for it and the Trustees voted for it as well.

Mayor Klingmeyer said the City should follow the rules set by the Battery Park Commission. He said in the future the City should address that again with the Trustees.

Administrator Thomas said that the Trustees approved up to \$1,000 for startup costs as part of the policy change. Expenses for the signs, bags and other items will be put in for reimbursement.

2. Discussion of Dobbinsville matters resulting from input provided by City Police, Code Enforcement Officer and Public Safety personnel.

President Barthel said back in June he and John Lloyd spent a couple of hours driving through Dobbinsville looking at various issues the community is facing there. He then arranged for a meeting of everyone involved with enforcement to look at the alternatives. It included City officials and a representative of the State Attorney General's office.

There was a follow up meeting two weeks later. One of the efforts of the City is to target nuisance properties and the City already has foreclosed on four such properties. The City is determining the next step.

A week and one-half ago he received a call from Chief McDerby who suggested having an auxiliary police station out at Dobbinsville, using one foreclosed on property at 7-1/2 Center Street. The City has foreclosed on it and is awaiting the deed.

President Barthel, Councilperson Megginson and Building Official Bergstrom went through the building and President Barthel was pleasantly surprised with the condition. The roof is in good shape. It is going to cost money to renovate but not as much as expected.

President Barthel said Mr. Bergstrom's estimate was \$18,000 to \$20,000 to renovate it. The City will receive \$16,000 in transfer tax from the sale of Brosius-Eliason building. Additional costs the City would incur are small. He views it as an opportunity to bring the battle to the community and try to make things better.

Chief McDerby gave some background on some efforts related to drugs in the Dobbinsville area. He said one of the items looked at is to have some type of police presence in the area. He explained the City was not looking at it as a way to clamp down. He explained it might also be used as a community facility with computers for use by youth and others.

Councilperson Cochran asked if they had checked with residents. Chief McDerby said that had not been done yet, before coming to Council to gauge its interest.

Dobbinsville resident Beth Thomas said it sounds good but a lot of things could have been done already. She asked why things have not been done in the area already in terms of matters such as maintenance and cleanup.

President Barthel said the City has been working diligently to try to get those areas addressed. It is important enough to City Council that it is holding these meetings and looking at this project. The City has to go through a process, including going to court.

Council discussed having a meeting with Dobbinsville residents about the plan for the station. A meeting was tentatively set for Sept. 16 at 6 p.m.

The consensus of the Council was support for the idea.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk