

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Public Hearing: Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – October 13, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Consideration of Ordinance No. 466, authorizing participation in a grant program, for three projects totaling \$1,322,500, broken down as follows:

- \$442,500 for the Buttonwood Dike Flood Mitigation, Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Enhancement project;
- \$630,000 for the Washington Park Flood Mitigation, Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Enhancement project;
- \$250,000 for the City of New Castle Stormwater Management Facility Retrofit project; including that the City would be obligated to provide a 50% match for the total project, in the amount of \$661,250, which amount would be funded by a loan over five years with an interest rate of 2%, and the first loan payment of about \$35,000 due no later than June 30, 2011.

Present:

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

Also present:

Treasurer Janet Carlin, Mayor Jack Klingmeyer, Administrator Cathryn Thomas; Building Official Jeff Bergstrom, City Engineer David Athey

President Barthel said the public hearing is for City Council to hear residents' thoughts on the City moving forward with the vote on the projects.

Earl Carpenter, West Sixth Street, said the people who live in Buttonwood and Washington Park have endured conditions most of us would not want to endure. Washington Park since the 1940s and Buttonwood for centuries. He thinks that as their neighbors and friends we ought to improve the quality of their lives. He said it was a small price to pay for improving the lives of so many people.

Jeffrey Davis, East Second Street, said he was pleased to see it on the agenda and supports all three projects. This is what cities do, he said. When we lift one area of the City, we lift the entire City, he added. He encouraged Council members to make their individual positions on the projects known—so voters know where they stand.

Jim Meek, The Strand, said there is always need for money and projects that are apparently worthwhile. He said he thought one of the goals was to protect from floods from the river, and he didn't see any of the projects to deal with the river. He asked whether that has been looked at and how Council would prioritize a project to protect the whole City from floods versus project No. 3 (the City of New Castle Stormwater Management Facility Retrofit project).

President Barthel said at the current City Council's first meeting it heard two presentations: one for the three projects that are the subject of the hearing and the other addressed studies being done that address the flooding issue Mr. Meek spoke of. After completion of the studies, it will come back to City

Council. That effort will be much more expensive.

Building Official Bergstrom said the studies are looking at the dikes, but the three projects currently being talked about also have an impact on flood control. The bids are out for six-figures worth of studies related to the dike issue—to raise the dike. The first issue is assessing the condition of the existing dikes.

John Houben, West 11th Street in Washington Park, said he has lived there for 43 years. He brought in some photos of flooding in that area. He said he is 100 percent in favor of the projects even if it increases taxes.

Mayor Jack Klingmeyer applauded City Council for taking action on the matter and called it long overdue. The City, during his tenure in office, has been aware of the serious drainage problems. It has been ignored for many years. He said it was a wise use of federal funds and the City's cooperation—it is a bargain.

President Barthel said the City is to hold an informational meeting on Oct. 20. City Council's goal is do the projects without raising taxes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.