

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – October 13, 2009 – 7 p.m.

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 Solicitor Roger Akin, City Engineer David Athey

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski to accept the minutes of September 1, 8 and 17 as written. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Petty. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

City Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of September 30, 2009, total petty cash on hand was \$400; total monthly deposits were \$1,538,508.34; total cash in the Wilmington Trust accounts, \$700,353.14; total certificates of deposit and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$2,602,755.22; and total cash on hand, \$3,303,108.16.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to accept the report as presented. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas said she has spent a great deal of time on the Special Election on October 27 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Good Will Fire Hall. There is a public information meeting on October 20 at the New Castle Middle School. The City's federal energy efficiency grant application appears to be done after working with officials in Washington, D.C. Also the City has learned that Verizon has agreed on the final sticking point for a franchise agreement. The City is slated to approve that agreement at a special meeting on Oct. 15. The City has won a first-place award for the Western Gateway project from the Philadelphia Horticultural Society.

Council President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

Approval of Staff Reports

Council President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran said there was no grant income in September. Grant expenses were: Mayor & City Council, \$652.42; Springhaus Landscaping Company, \$12,500; Collins Business Systems, \$1,396; Delmarva Communications, \$3,301.25; FuturTech Consulting Inc., \$2,850; Lawman Supply Company, \$2,975.70; Stalker Radar/Applied Concepts Inc., \$6,220; and Progressive Microtechnology Inc., \$3,850.

Business from the Council President

President Barthel asked if any member of City Council had any people to suggest for an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the City Charter.

Councilperson Petty recommended Bonnie English, Buttonwood Avenue.

President Barthel spoke with Jim Vincent and Genevieve Miller and they will start with those individuals.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-25, in memory of retired New Castle City employee Herb Swanson.

Councilperson Cochran moved to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2009-26, in memory of former City Election Worker Betty A. Merrill.

Councilperson Petty moved to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

1. First and Second Reading 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. (Council President Barthel – posted: 9/9/09)

2. Discussion to schedule Public Hearings on two proposed Ordinances relative to the following rezoning requests:

- Rezone 0 and 901 Delaware Street;
- Rezone 0 and 610 W. 7th Street.

A public hearing was set for Nov. 10 at 6:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. respectively.

New Business

1. Discussion of a proposal to extend City garbage pickup service to three non-City residents on Buttonwood Avenue.

Councilperson Petty explained there are three residents on Buttonwood Avenue that are not City residents, if would be proper to offer service to them.

Councilperson Megginson said an area of Boothhurst has a similar situation. He is concerned if the City offers it to those three people, it might open up a can of worms.

Councilperson Cochran and Councilperson Gaworski concurred.

2. Discussion of Bids Received for Recycling services.

Administrator Thomas explained the City's current contract is with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. The City pays \$1 per household per pickup.

The City put it out to bid and received five bids. The City obtained bids for once per week pick up and every other week pick up.

DSWA was the low bid for \$1.58 per household. The annual cost is \$32,864—which is a \$12,000 increase. Administrator Thomas did an analysis looking at doing it internally with City crews, but found the wages alone would be more than \$31,000, not including benefits, trucks or gas. She recommended going with the low bid, DSWA, and continue at every other week service.

Councilperson Megginson said he thought it was best the City could do.

Council concurred with the selection of DSWA.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to Amend the following appointment to the Tree Commission:

Approved by the City Council on April 14, 2009:

Appointee	Term	Appointing Body
Lillian Shue	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	Arasapha Garden Club

Amended by the City Council on October 13, 2009:

Appointee	Term	Appointing Body
Lillian Shue	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	Arasapha Garden Club
Nancy Coning	5/1/09 to 4/30/12	Arasapha Garden Club

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Comments from the floor.

A resident of Collins Park said he was appearing before City Council for the third time. There are 850 people who live in the area and the road was closed on the other side of the railroad tracks. He said he believed the move was racist. He asked City Council to open the street. He said the speeder who lived in Collins Park that was causing the problem has moved. He said if there is ever a derailment of the train, the fire department would not be able to get in there and there is only one way out.

President Barthel said it was the first time the individual had addressed the current City Council. His comments were something the Council will take into consideration.

Mike Alfree, from Harmony Street, thanked President Barthel for addressing his concerns about trees on Foundry Street. He pointed out there are still some trees hanging over the roadway that need to be addressed.

Bruce Williams, a resident of VanDyke Village, said they have a drainage ditch collapsing. It has been a problem for years.

Councilperson Megginson said they are working on it and Administrator Thomas has had the county out and there is meeting set to discuss it with an engineer.

Esther Lovelie asked whether providing trash pickup to non-residents might be a potential new revenue stream for the City.

5. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn the meeting into an executive session. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Date: November 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk