

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Special City Council Workshop
1 Municipal Boulevard – New Castle
Thursday – October 15, 2009 – 6 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present:

Treasurer Janet Carlin, Administrator Cathryn Thomas

1. Third reading and Adoption 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.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of barricades blocking access from Howell Drive onto Buttonwood Avenue.

President Barthel explained the issue came to City Council via state a member of the General Assembly, House Representative Michael Mulrooney, who had written a letter to Councilpersons asking them to revisit the issue. President Barthel believes the issue dates back to the early 1980s. His records indicate a resolution was signed on June 8, 2004, basically allowing blockades to be put in place. The last Council had looked at, in the interest of security which Mr. Mulrooney stated as a concern, and discussed putting in a safety fence, which in the case of an emergency would allow better accessibility for emergency equipment.

All Councilpersons agreed with the plan to address the safety concerns with a safety gate rather than a solid, concrete barricade. The gate allows for elimination of dangerous traffic situations with the need for access for in the case of emergencies.

A resident expressed concerns about the durability of the gate, particularly given the damage already done to the concrete barricades.

President Barthel said the gate will be sturdy and if there is continual vandalism the Council would reevaluate the situation.

Mr. Ennio DiAlessandro asked whether any state funds were withheld by Mr. Mulrooney due to the City putting the barricade there. He said Mr. Mulrooney said he was going to withhold the street funding. He asked if the citizens are going to pay for it.

Council President Barthel said there is nothing in writing to that effect. And, the barricades have been up for multiple City Councils.

3. Motion, discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2009-27, approving the City to enter into a Franchise Agreement with Verizon for FiOS television services to be offered within the City of New Castle.

President Barthel explained Verizon has returned to the table for negotiations with the City regarding a franchise agreement to provide FiOS television service. The remaining issue had been related to liquidated damages. The attorney the City hired for the agreement is satisfied with the agreement.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk