

**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Regular City Council Meeting at Town Hall**  
**201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Tuesday – February 14, 2012 – 7 p.m.**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** Councilperson Ted Megginson

**Also present:** Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, City Solicitor Daniel Losco, State Sen. Dori Connor

**Approval of Minutes by Date**

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to approve the minutes of January 5, 10, 24, 31 and February 7, 2011. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Carlin reported that, as of January 31, 2012: petty cash on hand was \$1,100; total cash in checking accounts and M&T Bank, \$1,088,726.36; total certificates of deposit, money market and Delaware Government Investment Pool, \$2,024,894.71; and total cash on hand, \$3,113,621.07.

A motion was made by Councilperson Cochran to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

**Report from the City Administrator**

Administrator Thomas said the only addition to her written report was to bring Council's attention to the property at 19 Arbutus. She will be looking for direction from Council in terms of how to proceed. She has recently heard from two individuals who may have an interest in purchasing the property. They did not participate in the sealed bid process. Council may want to consider another sealed bid. The other item is there is a Special Council meeting on Friday, February 17, 2012, at noon to discuss a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. It would require a match either of funds or in-kind match.

President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

**Staff reports**

Chief McDerby said two officers were involved in an accident. They were no serious injuries.

Administrator Thomas pointed out the City officers did not contribute to the cause of the accident.

President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

**Grant Review**

Councilperson Cochran provided the review. Grant income: ARRA Green Project-storm & water pond, \$539,924.07; MSAF, final payment, \$43,433.12.

## **Communications**

Councilperson Petty said the Delaware Recreation and Park Society is having a conference on February 22 and 23 in Rehoboth. She would like to attend. She also provided information from a workshop on the housing crisis.

Administrator Thomas said the cost is roughly \$300 for the stay and the cost of the conference.

## **Business from the Floor**

No comments from the floor.

## **Business from the Mayor**

Mayor Reese said the NEA grant that Mrs. Thomas mentioned would be like the Bellanca funding that was funneled through the City and dispersed. He was interviewed by “Smart Money” on New Castle as a good place to retire. He participated in the placing of the sign at Bull Hill for the former church land being added to the City’s property holdings. Many City people were there. He acknowledged the work done by Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Losco on that project. He said it is a great addition to the City.

President Barthel recommended putting that article from “Smart Money” on the City website.

## **New Business**

1. Consideration of a request from Bailey’s Dawgs for a vendor locations in Battery Park. The applicant currently is seeking one location near the big trees near the Wharf.

Council agreed with that location.

The applicant asked about the possibility of a concrete pad there. Council will bring the matter up with the Battery Park Committee.

2. Motion, discussion and vote on a Resolution approving a policy for removal of dead wood from the Battery Park beach and River coastline.

The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Discussion and agreement on a date for a public hearing to consider a City Code amendment whereby the City would withhold issuance of a Building Permit or Certificate of Occupancy if the property is not in conformance with all requirements of the Municipal Services Commission, State and Federal governments relative to the property for which the Building Permit or Certificate of Occupancy is being requested.

Mr. Losco said this stems from recent concerns at Riverbend following its issues with DENREC and MSC. He has prepared a draft. There was a discussion about the issue and some revisions to the City Code.

4. Comments from the Floor

Dave Baldini said he is speaking regarding the agenda item on the property on South Street that was taken off the agenda. He said he was guaranteed it would be done.

Administrator Thomas said she thought they would have a resolution prepared for this meeting but did not.

President Barthel said it would be addressed at the special meeting on Feb. 28.

State Sen. Dori Conner said Delaware is now one of the top 10 places in the country to live, but especially to retire. Sen. Connor said yesterday the Department of Transportation came before the joint finance committee for its budget hearing. She brought up the intersection of Washington Street and Route 9. She received notice today that the location will be the first location for its hot-mix work. They have received funding now and it should have the patch completed by mid-to-late March. The major project is to start in the fall.

She expressed concern with the ponding of the water there. She asked when the last time the drain there was cleaned out.

Administrator Thomas said Erv Thatcher has that information. She will connect with Mr. Thatcher and get the information to Sen. Connor.

A discussion took place about the area and the project.

Councilperson Cochran made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting into an executive session to discuss a personal matter. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson  
New Castle City Clerk