

New Castle City Council
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – December 11, 2012 – 7 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, City Solicitor Daniel Losco

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Gaworski to approve the minutes of Nov. 13, 2012. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Administrator Thomas presented the report on behalf of Treasurer Carlin. As of November 30, 2012: Total cash in accounts was \$565,869.02; Delaware Government Investment Pool 1, \$1,586,164.48; DELGIP 2, \$40,754.93; DELGIP 3, \$218,623.78; M&T Retention Money Market, \$578,519.47; Fulton Bank Money Market, \$249,776.78; and Midcoast Community Bank Money Market, \$249,689.14. Total certificates of deposit, money market and Delaware Government Investment Pool was \$2,923,528.58. Total cash on hand, \$3,479,397.60.

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

Report from the City Administrator

Administrator Thomas said she spent a lot of time in November working on items related to Sandy. She said the debris removal has not been done more timely as she would have liked. An issue related to the contractor's availability and an equipment failure caused delays. The fence was put up by the damaged walkway. The paving project is ongoing. The Washington Street DeIDOT project is starting and the City has gotten some calls from residents with questions. She provided an update on meetings scheduled related to the Sheriff's House and requested minor subdivision from the State.

President Barthel said the report was accepted as presented.

Staff reports

President Barthel said the staff reports were accepted as presented.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran provided the review. Grant income: DNREC Bond Bill-Waterfront Revitalization \$125,000; Trustees of New Castle Common, trash truck, \$49,022.49.

Business from the Floor

No comments from the floor.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese said he had a copy of a letter from Mike Alfree sent to DelDOT. Mayor Reese also read a Memorial Resolution for New Castle native and former Major League Baseball player Dave May.

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson to approve resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilperson Gaworski said he had the privilege of playing Little League Baseball with Mr. May. He described him as a nice guy and he enjoyed his company. He jokingly recalled throwing a baseball to Mr. May 100 mph; it came back 200 mph, hit him in the stomach and knocked him out. He could drive the baseball across the railroad tracks.

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of the City's request to the Trustees for funding for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

President Barthel said at the last meeting there was a presentation by Lt. Brams, and the Police are requested \$30,200 for a new vehicle; \$13,700 to upgrade the audiolog server and software (to do that new would be \$21,561); and \$28,600 to upgrade the new records management system. That totals \$72,500, or \$80,361 with the new server. Council also talked about funds for the next year's ARRA project payments. That would be \$196,090 for four quarterly payments. The Trustees also have been paying a truck payment on a garbage truck of \$30,000 a year and last year gave \$10,000 for green space. At the prior meeting Council had talked about seeking \$15,000. Councilperson Megginson brought up a request for a new dump truck for \$150,000.

President Barthel said Council has to have consideration for its own budget but also the Trustees' budget, and that they do not have an unending pool of funds. Also the City has uncertainty related to the City's dikes. The Trustees have indicated they would make available to City up to \$100,000 if needed in the form of a loan. He suggested requesting the ARRA project payments, the new police car, the truck payment and the tree/green space of \$15,000. That would total \$271,290. Last year the City received \$211,200 from the Trustees.

Councilperson Megginson said the City does need the new dump truck but it will try to make it through another year. He noted the Trustees this year did provided roughly \$6,000 for another piece of equipment Public Works needed.

The consensus of Council was to go forward with that request as outlined by President Barthel.

Mayor Reese asked if the police bike patrol is included.

Chief McDerby said the amount is \$10,800 but has never been part of the funding request. That comes through the Battery Park Commission.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2012-31 for a Minor Subdivision for two properties on Moore Avenue.

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to approve resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion.

Administrator Thomas said it is a request from the property owner, who would like to adjust the property lines on the two properties.

Solicitor Losco said he had reviewed it.

The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution to pay to DNREC the third quarterly installment of the principal and interest payment for the City's ARRA projects, in the amount of \$49,022.49.

A motion was made by Councilperson Cochran to approve resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2012-32, to Amend the City Administrator Employment Contract.

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to approve resolution. Councilperson Megginson seconded the motion.

Solicitor Losco said he reviewed the resolution and circulated the revised contract to Council and Administrator Thomas.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Comments from the floor.

Soma Padmalingam from 222 Chestnut Street asked whether the City Administrator's percentage pay is the same or different from the other City employees.

Solicitor Losco said that by this resolution it will be the same in terms of percentage increase.

Chief McDerby informed Council that Sgt. Jamie Rogers father had passed away.

Councilperson Gaworski commended Administrator Thomas for all the work she has done on Sandy and everything else, and also all the employees of the City. The City is shaping up and he is pleased.

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk