

**Mayor and City Council of New Castle  
City Council Meeting**

**New Castle Town Hall - Delaware Street - New Castle  
Tuesday, December 13, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.**

Roll Call

Present:

Council President Blest  
Councilman Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Petty  
Councilman DiMondi

Others present: Mayor Klingmeyer, Treasurer Janet Carlin, Marian C. Delaney, Finance/HR Manager, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, David Athey of URS and Tony DiTomasso and Kevin Broadhurst of Comcast

Council President Blest convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and led those assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes to Date**

Councilman DiMondi moved to accept the Minutes of the November Council meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Councilman Reese. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Janet Carlin stated that the Total Petty Cash on Hand was \$290.00, Total Monthly Deposits were \$205,847.46, and Total Cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts was \$421,101.39, Total Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool was \$1,331,244.44 and the Total Cash on Hand was \$1,752,345.83. Councilman Reese moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. It was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval by Date of Director's Report**

**Finance/HR Report**

Marian C. Delaney stated that the revenues collected for FY Year 2006 was \$3,265,220.00 (71.5%) and Expenditures for FY Year 2006 was \$1,931,100.00 (42.3%). Marian also stated that the first draft of the City calendar was received and hoped to have the calendars mailed out by December 30, 2005. The T1 lines to be replaced from Chestnut St. to Delaware St. has been temporarily postponed as the fiber was not delivered to Tri-M as expected. The project will resume next week.

**Chief of Police Report**

Chief McDerby stated that the police department has received an automatic finger printing system. The department also held its 2<sup>nd</sup> public meeting. The department received a call in Buttonwood of pit bull dogs running loose. Officer Finch was attacked by the dog and had to shoot the dog. The owner was cited for having the dog at large/running loose. Councilwoman Churchill moved to accept the Chief's Report as submitted. It was seconded by Councilman Reese. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Grant Review**

Councilman DiMondi spoke of the following grants that have been applied for:

1. C3 US Smokeless Tobacco Company—An application has been submitted by the Public Safety Department requesting a Polaris Ranger 6 x 6 Utility Vehicle. The application was in response to the U.S. Smokeless Company's 2006 application for their Polaris Ranger Donation Program.
2. C6 State of Delaware Department of Public Safety—An application has been submitted by the Public Safety Department requesting funds in the amount of \$7,326.40 from the Emergency Illegal Drug Enforcement Program.
3. B4 Delaware Emergency Management Agency— The City has requested reimbursement of \$5,000.00 under the Homeland Security Grant Program for the previous purchase of a Ricoh 240 wide format plotter/copier/scanner.
4. A1 Save America's Treasures—A meeting will be held on 12/13/06 at the Public Safety Community Room with DelDot to discuss a request for \$300,000.00 grant for the restoration of the Bellanca hanger.

Councilman DiMondi spoke on the following grants that Mayor & Council has received:

1. B2 DelDot Agreement #06-P-PROG-70—The City has been approved to receive funding from DelDot's Annual Capital Improvement Program for \$54,148.00 for specified paving projects. The City is currently awaiting receipt of the check.
2. C5 State Aid to Local Law Enforcement—An application has been submitted for \$11,331.13 for the purchase of equipment in the amount of \$4,445.00 to cover 180 hours of overtime for special investigations and drug enforcement.
3. Delaware Emergency Management Agency—The City's application for a grant in the amount of \$23,750.00 from the 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program has been approved for the purchase of laptops.
4. Delaware Emergency Management Agency—The application of the New Castle Citizen Corps Council, sponsored by the Public Safety Department, has been reviewed and approved for State Homeland Security Grant Program in the amount

of \$15,000.00.

5. Fiscal Year 2006 Law Enforcement Technology & Education Fund–The Public Safety Department has requested a \$4,800.00 reimbursement for line costs for the mobile data terminals.
6. State of Delaware Department of Justice–The application of the Special Law Enforcement Assistance Funds to purchase 8 digital cameras and related equipment has been approved. The City received the check in the amount of \$9,439.20 and the equipment was purchased from Taylor Supply Co.
7. State of Delaware Department of Transportation–The City has received \$79,688.47 (reimbursement for expended funds) from the Department of Transportation as reimbursement for money expended for the paving of 9<sup>th</sup> St. from Gray St. to Washington St.
8. Tree Survey–The City was approved for \$20,000.00 from DNREC to conduct GPS of street and City park trees. The GPS and software cost is approximately \$6,323.87 and the funds are being administered by URS, the City’s engineering firm. To date, the work has been completed and there is approximately \$5,000.00 of the grant remaining.
9. State of Delaware Department of Transportation–DE. Department of Transportation has agreed to transfer \$28,000.00 to the City for the Buttonwood Drainage Project. The City will reimburse the New Castle County Conservation District up to \$28,000.00 for work performed on this project. The New Castle County Conservation District has also obtained \$11,000.00 from New Castle County Special Services to help with the project. Once the drawing and plans are completed, the Conservation District will advertise for bids and the project should begin in late 2005 or early 2006. To date, \$3,903.58 has been reimbursed.
10. State of Delaware Community Redevelopment Fund–The City has expended \$15,374.16 on the Western Gateway Landscape Enhancement Project and has received \$6,149.66

### **Communications**

None.

### **Business from the Floor**

Resident Karen Heyman asked if it was appropriate for the City solicitor to serve on City Committees due to a possible conflict of interest. Mayor Klingmeyer stated that state law requires the City Solicitor to sit on the Board of Adjustments.

Resident Joseph DiAngelo asked about #2 on Council’s agenda, a request from David Sills for a

Plus Program waiver to start work on the Charter School. Council President Blest stated that this item was being tabled and, therefore, discussion on this item should also be tabled.

### **Business from the Mayor**

None.

### **Business from Council President**

Council President Blest stated that someone in attendance at the last Council meeting felt that Mr. Ciro Moran was not treated fairly at the last meeting. Council President Blest stated that he, along with Chief McDerby, Mayor Klingmeyer and Jeff Bergstrom met with Mr. Moran to address his concerns and felt that the City was helping Mr. Moran with his complaints.

### **Unfinished Business**

Council President Blest stated that Mr. Glenn Steckmann, whom the City offered the City Administrator position to, informed Council that he is declining their offer. Council discussed how to best handle this situation and Councilwoman Churchill made a Motion that Council re-advertise the position of City Administrator. Councilwoman Petty seconded the Motion. Motion passed 4-1 with Mr. DiMondi voting no.

### **New Business**

5. Discussion and Acceptance of Comcast Agreement. Mr. Tony DiTomasso of Comcast gave a short speech regarding the Comcast Agreement. A Motion was made to pass Resolution 2005-30. Councilwoman Churchill seconded the Motion and the Resolution was passed.

1. Discussion and approval to solicit bids for recording microphone system for Town Hall. Council felt that the City needs to update their technology and a short discussion ensued. Councilman Reese made a Motion that the City solicit bids for the new system. Councilwoman Churchill seconded the Motion and it was passed unanimously.

2. A Request from David Sills for a Plus Program waiver to start work on the Charter School. This item was tabled.

3. Appointment of Alvin Hopkins to the Housing Board of Appeals. Council President Blest stated that the ordinance states that the Chairman of the Appeals Board must be a certified engineer. Mr. Hopkins is a certified engineer and was willing to be named to the Board. Councilman Reese made a Motion that Mr. Hopkins be named to the Board of Appeals. Councilwoman Churchill seconded the Motion and it was passed unanimously.

4. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 430 adopting changes to Off Street Parking. Council President Blest read the Ordinance into the record.

6. Motion to create a special City Committee to be known as "The Land Use Sub-Committee".

Councilman Reese made a Motion to accept. Councilman DiMondi seconded the Motion as it was passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Motion to send Parkway Gravel application for rezoning parcel #021-016.00-003 to the Planning Commission for their recommendation. Councilman Reese made a Motion to accept. Councilwoman Churchill seconded the Motion as it was passed unanimously.

8. Approval to hire a temporary Public Works Department employee to the full time position of Laborer 1A. Currently the department has 2 part time employees and Councilwoman Petty requested that one be hired to the full time position. Councilman DiMondi stated that there can only be one full time employee or two part time employees, therefore, if one of the employees is promoted to full time, the part time employee would have to be let go. Councilwoman Petty agreed to that condition. A vote was taken on the matter. (Reese, Churchill, Petty, DiMondi–yes. Blest–no.) Marian C. Delaney suggested to Council that the temporary worker could be made permanent as of January 1, 2006 with the 2nd temporary worker staying on to assist the Public Works department thru the holiday season. Council accepted the suggestion.

9. Appointment of members to the City Land Use Subcommittee. The following residents were named to the City Land Use Subcommittee: Thomas Koch as Chairperson, Thomas Whitehead, John Houben, Fred Fitzgerald, David Bird and Melissa Pavone as Vice Chair. Councilman Reese made a motion to accept the above named residents to the City Land Use Subcommittee. Councilwoman Churchill seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

10. Discussion on winterizing the Banks Building. Councilwoman Churchill stated that the Trustees will pay for the heat, fix the doors and windows and that the N.C. Jaycees contributed \$500.00 towards the heating expenses.

11. Discussion to accept revised street repairs list. Since there is not enough money to repair Center Point, Council was asked to revise the list of streets in the City to be repaired. Councilwoman Petty requested that Council members submit their lists to her within the next few days.

### **Comments from the Floor**

Tom Whitehead had comments regarding the Board of Adjustments and that there are guidelines that the Board must follow.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk