

New Castle City Council
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – January 8, 2013 – 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, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Lt. Adam Brams, City Solicitor Daniel Losco, Building Official Jeff Bergstrom

City Council Recognition of those involved with management of the Hurricane Sandy disaster.

President Barthel said City Council wanted to start the New Year by recognizing all the groups that assisted the City with Hurricane Sandy. The people involved performed incredibly and that is something that needs to be recognized, not just by the Council and the Mayor but, by all the residents of the community. He said he regrets that all the residents of the community could not be present during the emergency management meetings on the Friday and Sunday before the storm. City Council was able to witness professionalism, confidence and the desire to do whatever was necessary to keep the City as safe as possible. He said it does his heart good that, knowing the City will face such situations again, the City has a dedicated group of people who put the City before themselves and will be there when the community needs them. The groups being recognized are MSC, Good Will Fire Co., the Trustees of the New Castle Common, the Volunteers In Police Services (VIPS), the Police Department and the Public Works Department. He also gave special recognition to Administrator Thomas for her work related to the storm before, during and after.

Councilperson Petty said the groups did an awesome job and the City really appreciates it. Councilperson Cochran said it shows that when there is an emergency the City and organizations can get together and work things out. Everybody did a great job.

Councilperson Megginson said that through the whole storm everyone did their job and did it well—even above their job. Sometimes the citizens of New Castle take these people for granted, but they all know they did a great job.

President Barthel read the plaques and presented, along with Mayor Reese, the plaques to the groups.

Approval of Minutes by Date

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to approve the minutes of November 27, December 4 and December 11, 2012. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin presented the report. As of December 31, 2012: Total cash in accounts was petty cash on hand, \$1,100; total monthly deposits, \$104,443.92; total cash on hand in the M&T accounts, \$547,630.47; total certificates of deposit, money market and Delaware Government Investment Pool was \$2,623,710.20. Total cash on hand, \$3,171,340.67.

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 her written reports details the dike work and the new flood the City had on December 21. The City continues to work on many of the related items. She brought the residents' attention to two special meetings next week, one for the Planning Commission on Monday and the City Council on Tuesday. Both relate to the State's request to subdivide the property around the Sheriff's House. The New Castle City Election takes place, according to the Charter, on Saturday, April 13. It is at the New Castle Senior Center. Anyone interested in voting by absentee ballot should contact the City. The City has packets available for anyone interested in running for any of the elected offices.

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: Highway Safety, \$2,119.78; Police Stimulus Grant, \$7,517; and Pension Supplement, \$36,855.22.

Business from the Floor

No comments from the floor.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese said there is an event for the community to honor former State Sen. Dori Connor on Friday at the New Castle Library. He said she worked for everyone in the community and will be missed. Mayor Reese said on January 12, 2013, at the Courthouse there were two meetings related to the planned National Park. He said the Jaycees are going to take over running the Separation Day parade.

Presentation by Jim Travers relative to a Band Shell

Mr. Travers said he found a used band shell in New Jersey. He would like to have the City of New Castle think of buying it, or specifically the Community Concerts of New Castle buying it. Mr. Barthel has mentioned the City keeping the current band shell as a back-up. He said he is on track for having concerts next year, and some money has flowed in. The next priority is to have some events or an event—a town fair with music, entertainment and vendors with the money

going back to the City to refurbish the walkway and maintain it. The third project relates to the Charles Parks statue. It is in need of some work. The fourth item is the band shell.

Councilperson Cochran asked about the cost of the band shell.

Mr. Travers said the price of it new is \$14,000; the used one is \$5,000. It has been used a half-dozen times.

President Barthel asked about the funds for the walkway.

Mr. Travers said any event would state that a certain percentage—well over 60 percent or 70 percent—of the gate receipts would go into the City coffers to pay to get the walkway back in shape.

City Administrator Thomas said a fundraiser is a great idea. The logistics of organizing it would need to be coordinated. She said many of the people who use it are not City residents and they likely would be interested in participating in the fundraising. She said the first place to start would be at the Battery Park Commission. The Trustees would have final say.

Councilperson Megginson asked what the construction of the band shell is.

Mr. Travers said it is vinyl. It plugs in and blows up in 10 minutes. It fits in the back of a pickup truck. It weighs 45 to 55 pounds. It can be put up the day of the event.

Unfinished Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-1 concerning a Change Order for the Paving Contract for items related to the Dobbinsville Alleys: added excavation, material costs and fill; and added concrete work and paving material costs for 13th Street.

Councilperson Petty made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion.

Councilperson Megginson said when the City got out to Dobbinsville and started to excavate the alleys it was uncertain what was underneath. The crews found some soft spots. He and Building Official Bergstrom concurred with the foreman that it would have to be dug out and put in grade B aggregate. Then they went over with fabric. It took an additional amount of blacktop. There was a similar problem on West Ninth Street. When the City puts the bid out, the City Engineer makes estimates. He thinks the City will need to do some things on Cherry and 14th streets. There are two projects so far not completed.

Councilperson Petty asked if the alleys in Dobbinsville are being kept the same width or being widened.

Councilperson Megginson said the City has gone to the original size of the alleys. The banks had caved in and narrowed. It makes it easier and safer for the trucks to get down.

President Barthel asked if with the overages and projected overages the City still is in good shape as far as the reserve street funds.

Administrator Thomas said there was a good amount of money to start in the funds, and there is still money there. Money comes in in two phases during the year.

Building Official Bergstrom said one thing needed, not in the original contract, is Cherry Street needs to be resurfaced. There are so many cuts, it has to be milled and overlaid.

Councilperson Megginson said the problem with some of the side streets is when they were put in there was no base put in. The blacktop was put in right over the clay. Cherry Street is in bad shape. He hopes it can be done before winter sets in.

The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-2 to Appoint an Absentee Ballot Clerk to perform duties related to the 2013 City Election, as detailed in the New Castle City Code.

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

Administrator Thomas said Kathleen Walls is very meticulous and will do a very good job.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-3 to Appoint Members to the New Castle City Board of Elections, as detailed in the New Castle City Charter.

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

President Barthel appointed Pat Salter-Flynn; Councilperson Cochran appointed Fayette Waterloo; Councilperson Gaworski appointed Marianne Caven; Councilperson Megginson appointed Richard Pennell; and Councilperson Petty appointed Barbara Winkler. Each is appointed to four-year terms.

President Barthel said Shannon Nelson's appointment set to expire March 31, 2013, was revoked solely because the new City Charter provides for a Board of Elections with two fewer members.

The City thanked Ms. Nelson, and also Grace Elaine Hayford for their service on the Board of Elections.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution, to pay to Watchguard Digital In Car Video for new video recording equipment for police vehicles, in the amount of \$40,950, of which \$35,140 shall be reimbursed by a grant from the Office of Highway Safety and the remaining \$5,810 shall be covered from the Police Department Budget.

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

4. Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Resolution to appoint Pam Patone, Secretary of the Municipal Services Commission, to the Tree Commission, to fulfill the unexpired term of Francis Patterson, term ending April 30, 2013.

Administrator Thomas said Chip Patterson has retired and the request came from Mr. Patterson.

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

Administrator Thomas said Mr. Patterson has done an excellent job and served as chairman of the Tree Commission for a long time.

5. Comments from the floor.

There were no comments from the floor.

A motion was made by Councilperson Petty to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilperson Gaworski seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson
New Castle City Clerk