

**Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 27, 2005 at 6 pm**  
**Town Hall**

Members Present: William G. Blest, Council President  
Donald A. Reese  
John A. DiMondi  
Teel Petty

Member Absent: Janet I. Churchill

Also Present: John F. Klingmeyer, Mayor  
Staff Present: Marian C. Delaney, Finance/HR Manager

Mr. Blest informed that a motion to move to Public Session had been made by Mr. DiMondi, seconded and approved. The purpose of the Executive Session was to interview candidates for the position of City Clerk. We are now in a position to appoint someone. The position will be offered to Jill DiAngelo. Ms. Delaney advised Council to appoint Mrs. DiAngelo by resolution. Mr. Blest said Council would work on that after tonight's meeting.

Mr. Blest asked for Council's approval to move ahead on the agenda to the agreement between the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation and the City of New Castle to correct drainage improvements in front of Carrie Downie School. There are four contracts and unless we make a change we do not pay anything. Mr. Blest read aloud the letter Ms. Delaney directed to the Mayor. Mr. Blest feels this is a clear-cut issue and that the Mayor is required to sign the contract as our head of city government. Mr. DiMondi said that if any changes are affected by us we would be responsible for the extras and that he does not foresee any extras. Originally we were supposed to provide police for diversion of traffic, but this says the contractor will do everything. A motion was made by Mr. Reese to approve the contract and for the Mayor to sign the agreement with the State Department of Transportation for drainage improvements at Carrie Downie School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Petty and approved unanimously.

Approval of State of Delaware Department of Labor Summer Youth Program – Mr. Blest informed we have approved this program in years past. It doesn't cost the City any money. The DOL supplies the City with two young people for the program. There may be a small amount of "up front" money at the beginning according to Mr. DiMondi. However, we need these programs and he is comfortable with the small expenditure this program will generate. Council agreed. Discussion about the two young people the DOL provides then took place. Council would like to see two local people selected for the program. It was noted that the people selected are from a pool of low-income children. Ms. Delaney advised Council that they could create their own pool or use the DOL pool.

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Transportation has been an issue in the past with children from the Wilmington area. A motion was made to accept the Summer Youth Program. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Budget Workshops for 2005/06 – Mr. DiMondi provided highlights. We are going to be short this year, as we all know. I am working on getting us a line of credit and the terms they want. Once I have that information I will bring it to Council's attention for review. We will be fine once we get this line of credit. Parameters must be put in place stating it will be paid every October 31<sup>st</sup>. That is at the end of our tax season when we have a surplus. We have to have an ordinance about that. It is very important that discipline remain with that line of credit. It would be an emergency fund. Our tax base will be pledged to have at the height of our receipts. I should know something the end of this week or next week. It is easier to do this now than to wait until when we do need the funds. Ms. Petty asked if Mr. DiMondi is writing a procedure to be used. He informed he would write a procedure and that it will contain the contract language of the line of credit. The banks he is dealing with are Citizens Bank and Wilmington Trust where the City does all of its banking now. He felt that if they don't give us \$250,000 on the conditions mentioned, we should look somewhere else. Ms. Petty asked if citizens have to vote on this or does Council have the authority to decide. Mr. Blest informed that the City Solicitor informed Council that if it is a line of credit we do not need a referendum. It is something the Council can approve. The Mayor agreed. Mr. DiMondi said if anyone had any ideas about how you want it structured to let him know. Mr. Blest reported he and Mr. DiMondi met earlier tonight with the Trustees. Mr. DiMondi reported they informed the Trustees that we are spending \$200,000 more than we are taking in and suggested they take over the police station lease and forgive it and to continue paying us \$100,000. He informed them we are going to straighten our act up and stop spending money that isn't in the budget. They provided the Trustees with information to support what they were talking about. We are going to have to increase the tax base; we have to act responsibly. We have a responsibility to provide a quality of life for our citizens and unless we do it responsibly there won't be a town here to watch after them. The Trustees won't be the only ones to take a hit, the tax payers have to take a hit also. It has to be fair.

Delaware Solid Waste Authority Program – Mr. DiMondi reported that the DSWA wants to test 500 households and will supply containers for pick up of recyclables once per week that will cost us \$1,0000. It will work well with once-per-week garbage. Mr. DiMondi is willing to go to twice a week during the summer. This is a three-month trial program. If we are interested in the program, they will provide us with more information. It would be up to us whether we want to renew the program. Based on mileage figures and cost per mile on garbage trucks provided by Jim Weldin, we are talking about \$60,000-\$75,000 savings by going to eight months, once per week pick up. In the

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summer we would go to twice per week pick-up. Mr. DiMondi said if we don't cut anything we would need a 33% increase to pay for the deficit this year and make it through next year and he will not vote for anything that doesn't keep us out of trouble next year. He will not increase taxes 33% when he knows there are items that can be cut. A question was asked about what we can get out of Municipal Services. We currently receive free electric for our buildings plus \$400,000 per year. They need to keep a certain amount of reserves also. If we take money from Municipal Services we are keeping our electric rates artificially high. They have to make a certain amount on their electric to stay alive. We can raise taxes or raise electric. Ms. Petty asked what we are getting from warehouses and office buildings in industrial parks like Twin Spans. Mr. Blest informed that 65% of our tax base is commercial. Houses don't pay anything compared to businesses. If you look at police reports for an industrial park they don't get their trash picked up and they buy electric, which is money going into Municipal Services. If you want to increase your tax base you go commercial; residential breaks even. In past years we made a lot of money on property transfers. Mr. DiMondi said we need to explore street assessments for industrial parks. We will have to address infrastructure. We have accepted Lukens Drive and Centerpoint.

*Discussion took place about tax parcels and trash pick-up.*

Police Contract – Mr. Blest suggested having an attorney deal with contracts. The Mayor said we had an attorney who was a former State Trooper represent our interests in the past and it worked very well for us. Mr. DiMondi wants to first see what we can afford. Public safety will not be in jeopardy. Mr. Blest is in favor of using the same person we used before, Wendy Ross. The FOP negotiates for the policemen. Mr. Reese reported he would address a letter to the police to ask them for their proposal. Council agreed to Mr. Reese writing this letter. He will attend the next Police Commission Meeting on 5/3/05 at 9:30 a.m. and invited other Council members to join him.

Ferry Cut-Off Concept Plans -- Mr. Reese informed of a meeting at St. Peters on 5/9/05 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to review WILMAPCO plans and maps on the Ferry Cut-Off Plan.

Adjournment – Mr. DiMondi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Reese seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Deborah Turner  
Stenographer