

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2005  
7:00 P.M.

Present:

Council President William Blest  
Councilman Donald Reese  
Councilwoman Churchill  
Councilwoman Teel Petty  
Council John DiMondi

Others Present:

Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
John Klingmeyer, Mayor

Council President Blest brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES TO DATE**

A Motion was presented by Councilwoman Churchill to accept the Minutes to Date. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Reese. Minutes to Date were accepted as presented.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin stated that there was a total of \$270.00 in the Petty Cash on Hand, \$261,039.60 total cash in the Wilmington Trust Accounts, a total of \$379,437.25 in the Certificates of Deposit and De. Government Investment Pool and \$640,476.85 Total Cash on Hand. A Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was brought by Councilman Reese. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

**APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Marian Delaney was unavailable to attend the Council Meeting and no further action was taken on the Director's Report. Councilman DiMondi stated that the Wilmington Trust Account was not used.

**APPROVAL OF CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT**

Chief McDerby was not able to make the meeting and no further action was taken on the Chief of Police's Report.

## **GRANT REVIEW**

Council reviewed the following grants:

**Tree Survey Grant**—The City has received \$20,000.00 from DNREC to conduct GPS on street and City park trees. There is approximately \$5,000.00 left from the grant and the left over money will be used to purchase GPS software.

**Western Gateway Grant**--Councilman DiMondi stated even though the City has an agreement with DelDot to fund up to \$140,000.00 for this project, the money is currently unavailable because that the state highway department has cut its budget by 30%.

**State of DE. Community Redevelopment Fund**—The City has requested reimbursement of project costs regarding this matter and Councilman DiMondi was unhappy that a project like the Western Gateway is on a state road and did not feel that the City should have to pay for projects that are on stated owned property. Council President Blest stated that he felt Council needed to schedule a meeting regarding the Gateway Project.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Blest received a report from Gary Watson of the New Castle Flower Beautification Committee regarding the last meeting.

Councilman DiMondi stated that Council approved a permit for the Kids' Fest requested by the Jaycees to be held in Battery Park.

Council President Blest received a letter from Donna Ramage of Del Tech confirming that nursing students from DelTech would be going throughout the City performing community assessments on August 29<sup>th</sup>, August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Adam Brams from the Police Department arrived and gave a synopsis of the Police Department activities for the previous month.

Council President Blest received a letter from Mary Ann D'Amato of the DE. Humane Society requesting to start a pilot program with the City for animal control, wellness of pets, rabies/vaccine shots and offered a spay/neuter day. The program would be designed specifically to the City's needs. It was agreed by Council that Ms. D'Amato should be contacted to meet with Council regarding this program. Councilperson Churchill volunteered to arrange a meeting.

Council President Blest received a letter from Barbara Temple, RN of Christiana Hospital to consider helping to establish a community health course.

Council President Blest received a letter from Tom Koch regarding the Planning Commission meeting of 7/5/05 re; 219 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Subdivision. Mr. Koch addressed some of the neighbors' concerns and some suggestions that Council might adopt when reviewing and voting

more upkeep and maintenance needs to be done.

Fred Welch commented on Battery Park also and stated that trash is a problem and benches are falling apart. Maintenance and upkeep are needed.

Ned Hutchinson questioned who owned the park. Council stated that the City owns the property but that the New Castle Trustees were responsible for maintaining the parkland. Questions and concerns regarding maintenance and upkeep for the park should be directed to the Trustees.

Councilwoman Petty stated that the Public Works Department is currently three employees short and when they become fully staffed the maintenance and upkeep will be much better.

Erv Thatcher of the Public Works Department addressed the above issues and stated all of the projects and work that the department does do.

State representative James Johnson spoke on the drainage issues in Buttonwood and stated that he, Margaret Rose Henry and Bill Bell have all appropriated money to address these concerns. Erv Thatcher stated that even though the money has been appropriated, the money has not come from Dover as of yet.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council President Blest brought up the topic of obtaining a new City Solicitor. Council voted, and it was decided that Gerald Kavanagh would become the new City Solicitor. (Blest, Reese, Churchill, yes, Petty and DiMondi, no vote).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2005-17–George E. O’Neal. Council presented and passed a Resolution noting George O’Neal’s 30 years of service to the City.

Bank Resolution–Council passed a Resolution to access the General Fund Checking Account in the amount of \$28,600.00 for payment to Hoobers, Inc. for a 430SSL Skid-Steer with 2005 Ambusher Engine.

Bank Resolution–Council passed a Resolution to access the General Fund Checking Account in the amount of \$49,424.00 for payment to Richards Paving, Inc. for the Ninth Street Improvements.

In response to filling vacancies on several committees, Council decided to keep the current architect who works closely with the HAC. As to other vacancies, Council tabled this matter until the Mayor has made his selections.

Sub-committee to work with Planning Commission–Council President Blest asked for a

Motion to name Tom Koch of ACCORD to the committee and each council member and the Mayor would get one appointment for this new committee. The committee would answer to Council and Council would present the committee's recommendation to the Planning Commission. The Motion was presented and seconded and passed.

Resolution 2005-18–Request Input on Future Development from New Castle Council. Councilman Reese brought a Motion to pass the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and was passed.

Resolution 2005-19–Evaluate the Preservation of the Remaining Open Space Held by “The Trust” Situated in the City of New Castle. Councilman Reese brought a Motion to pass the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Churchill and was passed. (Councilwoman Petty–a no vote).

A family member of a former New Castle resident who was a New Castle Police Officer and is now deceased requested that Station Park located in “Shawtown” be named in honor of his father. Councilwoman Churchill offered that perhaps benches with name plaques would be more appropriate as to not offend other deceased residents who have done so much for the City. A motion to rename Station Park did not receive a second.

A Motion was presented that the City retains Belfint Lyons & Shuman to perform the City's audits. Councilman DiMondi brought the Motion and it was seconded by Councilman Reese and was passed.

Eugene Petty stated that a family in Buttonwood gave property they owned in Buttonwood to the Buttonwood Civic Association in lieu of back taxes. Mr. Petty was under the impression that the City now had ownership of the property and asked how that happened and requested that ownership of the property be returned to the Buttonwood Civic Association. Council stated that they would research the matter.

Council President Blest requested that the meeting be adjourned and Council to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill F. DiAngelo,  
City Clerk