

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Special Council Budget Workshop Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Wednesday – June 22, 2011 – 5 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

Also present: Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Finance Director Marian Delaney, Police Chief Kevin McDerby

Continue Budget Review

Planning Commission Chair David Bird presented a revised budget request for the Planning Commission. He noted overall the new budget request is \$10,000 less than the original request. One item of note is that the funding has been reduced for the Planning Commission to obtain a concept plan relative to the riverfront. For that item the request is now \$6,000. Also for that line item for Planning Studies, an additional \$4,000 request is made to do planning studies for various neighborhoods throughout the City. The end result is that the total Planning Commission request for the coming budget year is \$20,500, an increase of \$2,500 from the current budget.

The Council scrutinized a number of line items in the budget. They concluded that the original amounts they had projected for the revenue line items were reasonable so there were no changes that should be made. The City is anticipating receiving more than \$132,000 less in revenues in the coming budget year, compared with what had been budgeted to be received in the current budget.

The Council members agreed to the following changes in expense items in the budget:

- Eliminate \$18,000 budget to purchase a police vehicle;
- Reduce from \$10,000 to \$5,000 the amount budgeted for storm drain repairs;
- Eliminate \$3,000 budgeted to rent a tub grinder for the Public Services Department;
- The amounts for heat for the Administration and Police buildings were reduced slightly.

Further, Finance Director Delaney corrected two line items for Public Services, lowering the amounts for overall salaries and health benefits for that department to more closely match the projected expenses.

On some of the special requests from various groups, the Council decided on the following:

- Provide \$3,500 to the Beautification Committee to purchase plant materials;
- Provide \$5,000 from the City budget, added to \$5,000 from the Trustees (provided to the City) for \$10,000 total for the Tree Commission to operate with;
- Provide \$7,500 to the New Castle Senior Center for their operating costs to provide services to senior citizens
- Provide \$1,400 in the Mayor's budget for purchasing new City pins
- Provide \$12,000 to the Library for the purchase of materials.

Council President Barthel reported he attempted to contact the County Council President to discuss the County's funding of the Library and also the policies which prohibit libraries from charging patrons for any services (i.e., issuance of a library card, using a meeting room in the library, etc.). He spoke to the President's aid, who said he would pass along the information and a response would be provided in the near future.

With all of the changes incorporated into the new draft budget, there remained a gap with expenses exceeding revenues by \$62,569. The Council members concurred that to avoid having to raise taxes, the difference could be covered by adding a revenue line item to apply unexpended fund balance to the budget, in the amount of \$62,569.

It was noted that further proofing of the draft budget would occur the following day, to ensure accuracy of all items, and that a budget resolution would be prepared for the Council to consider at their meeting scheduled for the following day at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathryn C. Thomas
New Castle City Administrator