



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

August 2010

City Council Adopts 2010-11 Budget

At a special City Council meeting on June 22, Council members approved a Resolution adopting a balanced Budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year, totaling \$5,107,339. The Resolution included no tax increase, with the rate the same as the previous budget year at \$1.20 per \$100 of assessed value.

In putting the budget together, the City faced many fiscal challenges, which most people will not find surprising. Just like other governments, businesses, families and individuals, the City is struggling financially with rising costs for everyday operating supplies, labor and benefits. These factors, compounded with a significant decline in some revenues, made the task of creating a sound City budget for the coming fiscal year an even greater challenge than normal.

Wages and benefits for the City's labor force comprises the majority of expenses. This is true for most local governments, whose main purpose is to provide services to customers, who of course are mainly residents and taxpayers.

Another common factor among most local governments is that the main source of

revenue is the local property tax. Of the \$5.1 million City budget, \$2.9 million is expected to be collected through City property taxes.

"The Resolution included no tax increase, with the same rate as the previous year."

At the final budget meeting, several items were proposed to be cut or reduced. Council members reached a consensus on many items, which resulted in an overall reduction in the budget of more than \$100,000.

Some items cut were discretionary and Council members agreed that with current economic conditions, it made sense to employ cuts for a number of non-essential items.

Other expense lines were reduced after an analysis of spending history was performed. Some of these items included office supplies, uniform maintenance, motor fuel, range supplies, software purchases, operating supplies, small tools, equipment repairs and maintenance and truck/vehicle repair and maintenance. The final cost-cutting item was a proposal from Finance Director Delaney to reduce \$600 in various items in the Finance budget.

To balance the overall City budget and reach the Council's goal of no tax increase, \$111,000 was applied to the new budget from unexpended funds the City had saved from previous budget years.

The City received assistance from the Trustees of the New Castle Common in purchasing a new police vehicle, a new trash truck and continued funding for items of general benefit, such as partial funding of the seasonal Police bicycle patrol.

Significant financial aid toward the City's overall general fund was provided by the Municipal Services Commission by a contribution of \$450,000.

The City is grateful for the help of these community partners, which yields a positive result for property owners that the City budget is reduced due to their generous contributions.

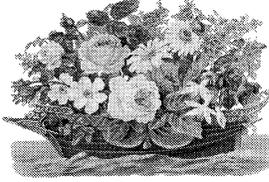
The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Aug. 10 at
Town Hall

New Castle - The First Capital City!

August happenings...

Historic New Castle's Secret Gardens

Self-guided tours of private gardens on Aug. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29



Tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Purchase Tickets for \$5 per day per person at Lauren Lynch at 5 Shaw Alley

All proceeds benefit the New Castle Beautification Committee.

Concerts rescheduled

Due to unfavorable weather conditions, two performances for the Lions Club Summer Concerts have been rescheduled:

- August 11: Swing City
- August 18: First State Symphonic Band (marches, patriotic & show tunes)

Please Note:

- **No Concert August 4**
- Start time is 6:45 p.m.

Concerts are in Battery Park

New Castle Antiques Show

Sunday, August 29
More than 100 dealers in Battery Park. \$7 Admission.
Sponsored by the New Castle Visitor's Bureau.
Call 703-779-2800



Recycling update

Residents can still order recycle carts, free of charge, by calling 322-9801.

About 250 recycle carts were ordered from the mailing urging participation. The 35-gallon carts have been delivered.

The City is waiting for delivery of the 65-gallon carts from the manufacturer. As soon as the City receives them, they will be distributed to those with pending requests.

Metal cans can be recycled (they were mistakenly left off the list). Also, leave caps on plastic bottles — they now can be recycled, too!

Census work continues

The next phase of the Census is called Quality Assurance and will include:

- verifying collected information by checking field work quality during non-response follow up or NRFU);
- telephone calls to select households to verify submitted information, confirming the count for a residence and to eliminate undercount or overcount;
- vacant residence verification — a stop back to confirm that a location noted as vacant during NRFU was indeed vacant on April 1st.

This phase of follow up will impact hard-to-count communities. Anyone who completed a Census Questionnaire by picking up a form at a Be-Counted location, or those residents who completed a Questionnaire via phone, *will be called or visited* to confirm people are counted in the correct location.

The goal is *to count everyone one time and to count everyone at the correct location.*

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of the City of New Castle by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes. This includes working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org. Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

This month's highlights and general reminders...

New Castle City Code Chapter 94 requires:

Domestic animal waste must be cleaned up and properly disposed of immediately. This is required for both public and private property.

Chapter 204 requires:

1. Trash containers are not to be placed for pick up prior to 6 p.m. the day before the scheduled pick up.
2. All garbage should be sealed in plastic bags and must be placed in solid (metal or plastic) containers not to exceed 35 gallons/50 pounds.
3. Special pick ups, i.e. appliances, bedding, excess trash, etc., must be arranged and paid for prior to pick up. Pick up is only on regularly scheduled trash days. Placement times are the same as for regular trash.
4. Large appliances (not bedding) may be placed for pick up for as long as 24 hours.