

Resolution No. 2015-04

Approving/Not Approving the Construction of a New Pier for the City of New Castle

Whereas, with the 2011-2012 fiscal budget, the City Council authorized a request by the Planning Commission to move ahead with a waterfront concept plan, as required by the 2009 Comprehensive Plan, and

Whereas, on January 5, 2012, the City held a public meeting for the presentation of the “Concept Plan”, and to take public comment on a proposed pier as part of a waterfront concept plan, and

Whereas, the City Council committed to publicly sharing pertinent information concerning the study throughout the process of considering the proposed pier, by having public meetings, and taking public comment at those meetings, and

Whereas, the City Council has held no fewer than 7 public meetings to advise City residents of the status of the project, provide details as to the possible locations and aesthetics of the proposed pier, and its economic impact, including future anticipated maintenance expenses. These public meeting dates include: January 5, 2012, January 10, 2012, May 14, 2013, January 30, 2014, April 8, 2014, August 19, 2014 and January 15, 2015. In addition, the City Planning Commission discussed this topic at several meetings and DNREC held a public hearing in New Castle as part of the permitting process, and

Whereas, in its 2012–2013 fiscal budget, the State funded \$125,000 for the purposes of developing plans and securing required governmental permits for a new pier, and

Whereas, on December 11, 2012, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the City announced that it received the \$125,000 grant from the State, to fund the study and the permitting process, and

Whereas, on January 30, 2014, the City Council held a public meeting to consider the proposed location of the pier should one be ultimately approved, and determined that the most favorable location would be at the end of Delaware St., and

Whereas, at various meetings throughout the process, the City Council confirmed, and emphasized, that no City funds would be used for the purpose of building a pier, and that all funds must be provided by outside sources, and

Whereas, the City secured \$800,000 in grant funding from the State in its 2014–2015 budget, for the purpose of constructing the new pier should City Council ultimately determine that the proposed pier is in the best interests of the residents of New Castle, and

Whereas, the City is working with DEMA and FEMA to obtain approximately \$145,000 in additional funds to rebuild the pier destroyed by Super Storm Sandy, at the new location, and

Whereas, details associated with the construction, location, appearance, materials to be utilized for the proposed pier have been determined following public notice and comment; and

Whereas, public questions and comments concerning the proposed pier have been heard, considered and addressed by City Council and its paid consultants throughout the foregoing process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby **approves / does not approve**, the construction of the proposed pier at the end of Delaware Street in accordance with the plans and specifications developed by the City’s engineering consultants, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the proposed pier project is approved via this Resolution, it shall be on the condition that no City funds will be utilized to pay for such construction, and only outside funding sources, including state, federal and private funds and grants, will be utilized.

PASSED this 15th day of January, 2015.

Linda Ratchford, City Council President

John W. Cochran, Councilperson

Teel Petty, Councilperson

Theodore H. Megginson, Councilperson

Albert J. Vannucci, Jr., Councilperson

Attest:

Janet E. Wurtzel, City Clerk