

City Council of the City of New Castle
MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – June 18, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty
Councilperson Albert Vannucci

Also present: City Solicitor Daniel Losco, Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, Police Chief Kevin McDerby, William “Erv” Thatcher

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Approval of Minutes by Date:

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Vannucci to approve the minutes of May 14, May 20, and May 29, 2013. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Carlin presented. As of May 31, 2013: Total petty cash on hand, \$1,100; total cash in M&T accounts (checking and savings), \$273,413.97; total certificates of deposit, money market and government investment pool, \$1,421,922.57. Total cash on hand, \$1,695,336.54.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of Staff Reports:

President Barthel accepted the staff reports as presented.

Grant Review:

Councilperson Cochran reported on the status of grants: Grant income: Separation Day \$625.00; Trustees (ARRA Project) \$49,022.49; Community concerts \$1,575.70; FEMA \$26,944.16; Highway Safety \$2,316.92.

Communications:

Councilperson Petty reported that Dr. Joanne Viola and Mr. Jack Witzman joined her in representing the City at the Governor’s Council on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention meeting on Tuesday, 6/11/13, in Wilmington. The group recognizes municipalities for their efforts in promoting healthy lifestyles. Four levels of awards (gold, silver, bronze, honorable mention) were presented to various municipalities. The City of New Castle was recognized with a Bronze Award. Mrs. Petty accepted the award on behalf of the City. President Barthel recognized the efforts of Councilperson Petty, Dr. Viola and Mr. Witzman.

Business from the Floor:

No comments from the floor.

Business from the Mayor:

Mayor Reese attended a FEMA meeting this morning with Solicitor Losco and Building Inspector Jeff Bergstrom concerning revised flood plain maps. A letter he received from FEMA was given to Solicitor Losco. Significant outreach work will be done by the City of New Castle and others to help people living in flood plains to receive credits to receive lower premiums for flood insurance. A revision to the current City Zoning Code may be necessary. The Mayor received a letter from the Department of the Army concerning Washington Park that was given to Solicitor Losco.

Business from the Council President:

President Barthel said that Council will be going into executive session later tonight to discuss the potential hiring of a new City Administrator.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2013-15, in recognition of William “Erv” Thatcher on his retirement after 22 years of service with the City of New Castle Public Works Department:

A motion was made by Mr. Megginson and seconded by Mr. Vannucci. The resolution was read by President Barthel. Council unanimously approved the resolution. A copy of the resolution is recorded with the minutes for this meeting. (*Standing ovation.*)

Unfinished Business:

Separation Day Update:

Mayor Reese reported the event was very successful. Planning will begin soon on the 2014 event.

New Business:

Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution, to pay to DNREC the fifth quarterly installment of the principal and interest payment for the City’s ARRA projects, in the amount of \$49,022.49:

A motion was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Petty to approve a Bank Resolution to pay DNREC. President Barthel read the resolution and asked for comments. Hearing none, the motion was approved unanimously.

Comments from the Floor:

Earl Carpenter requested permission to publish noise ordinance guidelines concerning hours in *The New Castle Weekly*. Chief McDerby will provide the ordinance to Mr. Carpenter.

On behalf of the City police department, Chief McDerby publicly thanked Mr. Thatcher for his support and guidance over the years and personally thanked him for his friendship.

A resident of Washington Street complained about tractor trailer traffic on the street. He cited the noise that is created, speed of vehicles, and damage to infrastructure. There is a two-axle limit on Washington Street. Councilperson Megginson is working to organize a community meeting (possibly in July) with DelDOT, Representative J.J. Johnson and Senator Nicole Poore. Chief McDerby’s efforts to work with DelDOT for new signage closer to Federal School Lane

City Council of the City of New Castle

June 18, 2013

Page 3

on Route 9 for industrial sites to the south were not successful. To do enforcement a resolution must be passed by the City that matches a DelDOT resolution. DelDOT has not accepted the City's resolution to date.

The same resident expressed concern with a City tree in front of his home that has dead branches in it. He has reported the tree to John Lloyd of the Tree Commission.

Mr. Megginson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Vannucci seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Turner

Debbie Turner

Evening Stenographer