

**City Council of the City of New Castle
Public Hearing at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street - New Castle
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.**

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

1. Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 493, amending Article I of Chapter 90 of the New Castle City Code to establish a licensing process to permit the use and possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages on public property. (Council President Ratchford – posted: 2/12/14)

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci
Council President Ratchford

Also present:

City Solicitor City Solicitor
City Administrator William J. Barthel

Public Hearing called to order at 6:00 pm for Ordinance 493

The reason for this meeting is to Amend Ordinance 493, Article 1, of Chapter 90 of the Code for the City of New Castle regarding alcoholic beverages.

President Ratchford stated that she would open the floor for comments

Councilperson Megginson stated that he felt this was a good ordinance, but would like to see the ordinance tabled until March.

Mr. Cochran asked if the hearing was posted correctly.

President Ratchford and Mr. Barthel stated that yes, it was posted properly. The meeting was posted in front of the City Administration building and also posted on the City web site.

Councilperson Cochran stated that for the first reading we had a full house.

Councilperson Petty asked if there any reason that we can't wait until March.

Councilperson Cochran felt it would be very tight for Separation to apply.

Mr. Barthel stated that it would be 94 days until Separation Day.

Council President Ratchford felt this would be cutting very close to the deadline.

Councilperson Vannucci stated that this is a good ordinance and it will pass with no problem.

Council President Ratchford asked if there were any other concerns.

Council Person Megginson said people think we are trying to jam something through. I think this is a good ordinance. For over 20 years the City has been breaking the law.

President Ratchford stated that the ordinance has been very tightly written. It has been reviewed by the City Solicitor Daniel Losco

Councilperson Cochran stated that no one had come back for the second reading. People have opportunity and they don't come to the meetings.

Councilperson Megginson said it should have been put on the March agenda. This is a very good ordinance.

Mr. Barthel reiterated that if Council waited until March it would be 94 days.

President Ratchford felt this would make it very tight for Separation day; I am concerned that the paper work could not be in on time.

City Solicitor Daniel Losco suggested allowing Separation Day to submit the application now. He recommended not approving the application until a later date. This was just a suggestion.

Councilperson Vannucci stated that he was not concerned about Ordinance. The Ordinance will pass.

President Ratchford said we will wait until 6:30 p.m. It could be that people are okay with the ordinance. President Ratchford asked if anyone had any other comments. Councilperson Vannucci requested taking a vote.

President Ratchford suggested waiting to see if anyone else attended the hearing as Council could not vote until 6:30 p.m. at the Special meeting. President Ratchford asked if there were any concerns on the ordinance as written.

Daniel Losco City Solicitor stated the City could amend the ordinance to 75 days and this was just a suggestion.

President Ratchford stated there was a lot of information that needs to be provided.

Mr. Vannucci felt the City always has plenty of police protection for safety purposes.

President Ratchford stated she would rather not make an adjustment for changing the 90 days and that more than half of the cities allow this kind of event.

President Ratchford asked for a motion to end the Public Hearing.

Councilperson Megginson motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Councilperson Petty seconded the motion. Public Hearing was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,
Sally Denton