

**City of New Castle Delaware  
Special Council Meeting at Town Hall  
201 Delaware Street, New Castle  
Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to order:** 6:30 pm

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Megginson  
Councilperson Cochran  
Council President Ratchford  
Councilperson Petty  
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

Donald Reese, Mayor  
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor  
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official & Fire Marshall  
William Barthel, City Administrator

**Traffic concerns and options concerning Dalby Alley:**

The Planning Commission recommendation is to replace a concave mirror and restrict truck traffic on Dalby Alley.

President Ratchford asked for comments from Jeff Bergstrom. He agrees with the recommendations of the Planning Commission but suggested consideration be given to having a traffic engineer study the best placement of the mirror.

Councilperson Cochran asked Mr. Bergstrom if he had any concerns about the recommendation for a concrete pole and additional curbing. Mr. Bergstrom's only caution was to be sure the curbing meets ADA standards with ramps.

Councilperson Cochran suggested that the city look for a grant that might cover the cost. He stated that there is currently a metal bollard and the recommendation is to add a concrete bollard.

Mr. Bergstrom doesn't believe that the city installed the original mirror. President Ratchford indicated that the mirror helps cars entering and exiting Dalby Alley. Mr. Bergstrom recommended that the mirror be installed across the street.

Fed-Ex and other delivery services use Dalby Alley as a parking area to stage deliveries throughout the area.

Councilperson Petty agrees with restricting truck traffic and improvements to the curbing. She asked about price. Mr. Bergstrom believes the cost of the mirror is not prohibitive as it is made of plastic.

City Administrator Barthel stated that the problem with mirror is the liability not the cost of purchase and installation.

Mr. Bergstrom advised council that an engineering firm is coming to New Castle next Tuesday for other business and this item could be added to their agenda.

Keith Adams of 110 Delaware Street thanked council for addressing this issue. He confirmed that Dalby Alley is used as a staging area for delivery trucks particularly at holiday times. Pedestrians crossing the alley at Delaware Street have had serious near misses. The problem needs to be addressed for the safety of the houses and pedestrians. Mr. Adams asked if the steel bollard is being replaced. He submitted a drawing with his suggestion for improved curbing.

David Atherton of 10 Dalby Alley stated the mirror fell down. He attempted to reinstall it but discovered that it couldn't be reinstalled. Without the mirror, there have been serious problems with pedestrians and bicyclists almost being hit at the intersection of Dalby Alley and Delaware Street. The mirror provided a 20-foot view of the sidewalk but doesn't show vehicle traffic on Delaware Street. In addition to the problem of not seeing pedestrians, there is a problem with cars not being visible due to large vehicles being parked on Delaware Street next to the alley. Anything larger than a pick-up truck cannot maneuver in the alley.

President Ratchford recommended reinstalling a mirror in the previous location and having the traffic engineer look at adding another mirror, starting the process to pass an ordinance to not allow truck traffic on Dalby Alley and consider curbing.

Mr. Atherton stated that the current speed limit is 25 MPH and recommended that it be restricted to 5 or 10 MPH.

President Ratchford recommended that the previous mirror be replaced immediately and that simultaneously a study be conducted of curbing, parking and traffic issues, and begin proceedings for an ordinance to restrict truck traffic and lower speed limits.

Mayor Reese stated there used to be curbing available at the Trolley Barn. City Administrator Barthel believes there is uncut granite but no cut curbing.

**The motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Petty, seconded by Councilperson Vannucci and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel  
Clerk of the City of New Castle