

**City of New Castle Delaware
Regular City Council Meeting
Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7 p.m.**

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

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

President Ratchford acknowledged Veteran's Day

Anyone who currently or previously served in the military was asked to stand to be acknowledged and thanked for their service.

Approval of Minutes by Date: 10/14/2014 Public Hearing; 10/14/2014 Regular Meeting; and 10/28/2014 Special Meeting.

Councilperson Petty motioned and Councilperson Megginson seconded approval of the minutes without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Councilperson Cochran motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted in the meeting binder and Councilperson Vannucci seconded. The Council unanimously accepted the report.

Business from the City Administrator

City Administrator Barthel reported that the City is going to place two signs – one across from the meadow and one on Route 273 to promote Small Business Saturday on November 29th. The cost is approximately \$200.

Approval of Staff Reports

Chief Tjaden reported as follows:

- Amazon employee was arrested for making a bomb threat. The building was searched and nothing was found.
- A mother was arrested for assaulting her child at Dollar General.

- Two suspects were arrested at Airport Plaza for trying to scam a woman to get her son out of jail.
- The Halloween Parade and Hay Rides were well received and went well.
- The Police Department will purchase a single purpose dog for drug enforcement. Police officers have met the dog and found it to be friendly. It is expected to work well in schools.
- A man from Philadelphia was arrested at Airport Plaza, about one hour prior to the meeting, for possession and distribution of heroin.

Councilperson Megginson motioned and Councilperson Petty seconded approval of the staff reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Review

Councilperson Cochran reported on grant receipts for the month of October.

Council Communications

Councilperson Megginson reported that the City has received complaints about political signs not being removed at Basin Road and Route 273. Complaints continue to be received about the construction signs, but Mumford & Miller is still using the signs as they work through the punch list corrections and repairs. Most of the punch list items are focused on handicap ramp placement and grading. One street sign is missing but will be installed.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese presented a Proclamation celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Lois Rice Walley and Ernest S. Walley, Jr.

The Mayor read a Proclamation declaring the month of November as “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month” in the city of New Castle. Accepting on behalf of Delaware Affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network were members Dave Annal and Lauren Stotz.

Mayor Reese read a Proclamation declaring November 29th to be “Small Business Saturday” in the City of New Castle.

Old Business

None

New Business

Comments from the Floor

Keith Adams of 110 Delaware Street distributed copies of the Conservation Easements related to his home’s interior and exterior for Council’s review and understanding of his obligations to the preservation of his house. Mr. Adams asked Council to review the new sign limiting commercial traffic on Dalby Alley. He is concerned about the lack of aesthetic appeal of the sign including its placement and design. He is also concerned about the curb repairs. Mr. Adams specifically brought the 1st stanza on Page 2 to Council’s attention.

President Ratchford responded that Council has been trying to address the difficult situation of truck traffic and parking on Dalby Alley and have passed ordinances.

City Administrator Barthel responded that the City is currently completing a review of the condition of the curbs throughout the City. Plans are underway to make repairs to the curbs and repave streets in the spring. The City must adhere to ADA standards.

Council Cochran has looked at the situation and will have to look again because he doesn't find an alternate location.

President Ratchford offered to meet Mr. Adams at his home to review the situation.

Mr. Horace Beale of 26 The Strand supported Mr. Adams position with the reading of a section of page 3 of the Conservation Easement.

Lois Walley of Washington Park reported that the post-construction street signs for 13th Street do not include the designation "West". Mr. Barthel reported that DelDOT has been advised.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Cochran, seconded by Councilperson Megginson and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:32 pm.

City Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel
Clerk of the City of New Castle