

City Council of the City of New Castle
Regular City Council Meeting
Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Call to order: 7 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator
Donald Reese, Mayor
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Daniel Tjaden, Police Chief

President Ratchford noted two changes to the agenda:

1. There will be no reading of Ordinance 500 to revise and restate Chapter 74: The Tree Commission and Chapter 210: Street Trees, of the City Code. The ordinance will be on the February Council Agenda to allow more time for citizens to comment on the changes.

2. The discussion and vote on Resolution No. 2015-03 regarding the placement request of Bailey's Dawgs as a vendor operating within the City limits will be delayed due to the inability of the applicant to attend tonight's meeting.

Approval of Minutes by Date: 12/09/2014 Regular Meeting

Councilperson Cochran motioned and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the minutes without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts as of December 31, 2014. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$3,117,343.38.

Councilperson Megginson motioned to accept the report and Councilperson Cochran seconded. The council unanimously accepted the report.

Business from the City Administrator

The company contracted to conduct an inventory of the City's curbs that do not meet ADA specifications is 70% complete and will be done by the end of February.

At next month's Regular City Council meeting, the City Engineer will make a presentation of street work needed I preparation for next year's budget. Bid packages created based on the Engineer's report and will be distributed.

The City Auditor, Vince Barbone would like to present the 2012 and 2013 audit reports on January 27th.

Approval of Staff Reports

Chief Tjaden thanked everyone for their support of Blue Christmas. Another heroin arrest took 1,000 bags off the street. New Castle County Police Department is sharing analytical software called TAPS that reports the highest time periods and locations of crime to help the New Castle City Police determine the best time and place to have officers patrol.

Resident Ken Oppenheimer thanked the Chief and City police for being present at a memorial service for a long time citizen at the Banks Building.

President Ratchford thanked the police department for keeping us safe.

Councilperson Vannucci thanked the City Police and Fire Departments, St. Anthony's Club and St. Gabriel Lodge for their support of Blue Christmas.

Councilperson Megginson motioned to accept the staff reports and Councilperson Vannucci seconded. The council unanimously accepted the reports.

Grant Review

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

Council Communications

Councilperson Megginson reported continued complaints about construction signs on Washington Street and South Street. Mr. Barthel has discussed the problem with the State and learned that the signs remain due to the need to complete repairs.

Councilperson Megginson reported that DeIDOT has been advised of the lack of street signs at 12th and Washington.

Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)

None

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Reese read the thank you letter received from Arasapha Garden Club (attached) regarding assistance provided to make 90 holiday wreaths.

The Jaycees have started planning for 2015 Separation Day. The Mayor announced the committee meeting time and location and encouraged everyone to join.

Business from the Council President

President Ratchford thanked the community for their participation in the success of Spirit of Christmas.

Research has begun on Ft. Casimir. The Trustees have given permission for an archeological dig on their land. The City would like to allow permission for the dig to be expanded to include City land that is approximately 10 feet behind homes.

New Business

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2015-01, a Resolution formally adopting or maintaining adoption of jurisdiction of the National Incident Management System as the City's "All Hazards Incident Management System for FY2015."

Chief Tjaden explain that the system standardizes how they do things such as respond to disasters or storms and makes it easier to keep records to track expenses and recoup federal money. All Delaware police and fire departments are NIMS certified.

The Motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-01 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Cochran.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2015-01 passed unanimously.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2015-02 a Resolution to deem a certain portion of Williams Street, a distance of fifty feet (50') directly in front of the Bethany United Methodist Church, as a No Parking zone on Sunday's between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Councilperson Megginson reported that the City was approached by a Church Elder requesting a no parking zone be established on Sundays for the purpose of loading and unloading church members for services. Councilperson Megginson consulted with the Police Chief and recommends the City erect two signs to communicate No Parking between signs on Sundays during specific hours.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2015-02 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Cochran.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2015-02 passed unanimously.

Comments from the Floor

Ken Oppenheimer of East 5th Street asked City Council to consider changes to the Historic Area Committee (HAC.) Mr. Oppenheimer has attended two Historical Review Committee meetings and doesn't know how the content of the meetings are being communicated. He has

participated in the HAC process to request permits for work on his home and has seen lots of “stupid stuff”. Mr. Oppenheimer believes modern materials can be incorporated without disturbing the historical nature of the community. He recommends changes to the structure of HAC including staggered terms, term limits, and not allowing the consultant to vote. The Historical Society has an appointment to HAC but recommends that the appointee not be a voting member. Residents at the meetings have expressed willingness to embrace HAC’s process and decisions if intelligent common sense reforms are made.

President Ratchford explained that the Review Committee is charged with making recommendations including HAC structure to City Council for review and vote.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Cochran, seconded by Councilperson Megginson and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:28 pm.

City Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel
Clerk of the City of New Castle