

**City Council of the City of New Castle**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Megginson - present  
Councilperson Vannucci - present  
Council President Ratchford - present  
Councilperson Petty - absent  
Councilperson Di Mondì - absent

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator  
Donald Reese, Mayor  
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
Daniel Tjaden, Police Chief  
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official & Fire Marshall

**Approval of Minutes by Date:** 6/5 Special Meeting and 8/11 Regular Meeting; and **Approval to Accept Staff Reports** as submitted.

Councilperson Vannucci **Motioned** and Councilperson Megginson seconded approval of the Minutes and Staff Reports without changes. The motion **passed unanimously**.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts as of August 31, 2015. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$4,968,286.46.

Councilperson Megginson **Motioned** and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion **passed unanimously**.

**Report from the City Administrator & Staff:**

Police Chief Tjaden reported:

- Recent arrests include several for marijuana and heroin. A second arrest was made at the same house in Washington Park for prostitution. City police stopped a car in Airport Plaza based on a State Police Warrant for theft.
- Chief is working with the City Solicitor to address repeated disorderly premise violations.
- City police officers responded to an emergency call for a heart attack in Battery Park and assisted with moving the person to be transported.
- Police Chiefs throughout the state are working together to select a single police body camera and to develop a camera policy. The biggest obstacle to implementation is the storage of massive amounts of data.
- The New Castle Police have a drone and the Chief is developing a policy.
- Crimes involving guns are up 63% in New Castle County.

- City police coverage is two officers per day shift and three overnight.

President Ratchford encouraged everyone to report any problems to the police.

Building Official Jeff Bergstrom reported:

- Work on the dykes is wrapping up and getting ready for annual inspection.
- The paving project in Washington Park is underway and will be done in about one month.

City Administrator Barthel reported:

- To date, the Riverfest Ride & Festival has raised \$13,000 for the curbs. Sally Denton and Gail Seitz were thanked for their efforts.
- New Castle County operated a summer camp for kids in Battery Park. They report the camp was successful and have already asked to continue the camp in 2016.

### **Council Communications:**

Councilperson Megginson reported:

Met with the City Administrator, DelDOT, New Castle County and MSC regarding resurfacing Route 9 through Dobbinsville. MSC needs replace a 100 year old water line and the County wants to work on sewer line. The work is hold while waiting for MSC to schedule work which will be based on the availability of funding.

### **Business from the Mayor:**

Mayor Reese reported:

- Looking forward September 27<sup>th</sup> to the arrival of the Fireball Run. The event is a rally and scavenger hunt that has been going on for nine years. Related to the event, they bring attention to missing children and found 44. William Penn High School culinary program will cater 150 lunches for the participants.
- Keith Adams was nominated by the Mayor to server on the Tree Commission. Mr. Adams was also recommended by two current members of the tree commission.

### **Business from the Council President:**

President Ratchford reported:

- Dedication of the Historic Market for Mt. Salem Methodist Church is this Saturday and will be followed by a reception at the Goodwill Fire Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Trustees and MSC have expressed interest in cost sharing the printing and distribution of the City's monthly newsletter included with MSC bills.

### **Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only):**

None

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2015-39**, a Resolution recognizing Deborah A. Pullan for 25 Years of Dedicated Service to the City of New Castle.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2015-39 was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

**Resolution No. 2015-39 passed unanimously.**

Councilperson Vannucci said that it was an honor to work with Ms. Pullan and thanked her for all the hard work.

Councilperson Megginson thanked Ms. Pullan for all the help provided in the last six years.

## **New Business**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2015-40**, A Resolution approving a nomination to the Tree Advisory Commission: Mayor's Recommendation - Keith Adams.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2015-40 was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

**Resolution No. 2015-40 passed unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2015-41**; A Resolution approving a Minor Subdivision for properties located at 2, 4 and 8 Meehan Avenue.

Building Office Bergstrom advised that the purpose of the Resolution is to correct an error. A minor subdivision was approved a few years ago. After adding some fill, the owners went to the Army Corps of Engineers to be removed from the flood plain and the drawings submitted have incorrect lot lines. This resolution and the new drawings correct the lot lines.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2015-41 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Vannucci.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

**Resolution No. 2015-41 passed unanimously.**

## **Comments from the Floor**

Judi Baldini of South Street asked for follow up on the gates at the railroad tracks.

Councilperson Megginson reported that the gates are finished at Washington Street, but he hasn't received an update regarding Delaware Street.

President Ratchford added that the Delaware Street crossing is on the list to receive gates but the dates for installation is unknown.

The **Motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Vannucci and **passed unanimously**. Council adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel  
Clerk of the City of New Castle