

**City Council of the City of New Castle  
Special Meeting  
Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle  
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to order:** 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Megginson – arrived at 6:43 PM  
Councilperson Vannucci - present  
Council President Ratchford - present  
Councilperson Petty – present  
Councilperson DiMondi - present

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator  
Donald Reese, Mayor  
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
Dave Athey, City Engineer

**New Business**

**Presentation by Dave Athey from AECOM concerning the Surface Water Matching Grant.**

Mr. Athey, City Engineer, made a presentation regarding the Surface Water Matching Grant received from DNREC. He began by focusing on the situation on and under Delaware Street. He displayed pictures and described the road surface, lack of handicap ramps and the length of the crosswalks as well as the need to identify the precise locations of underground utilities.

Mr. Athey recommends starting from the bottom and working upwards starting with the underground utility work. His recommendations include managing runoff through more innovative methods rather than the current aging inlets and pipes. He would like to consider islands, bump-outs, and circles that would benefit vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. The total package of recommendations reinforces Delaware Street as a focal point of the City and would help build the case for New Castle to be designated as a Downtown Development District. The timeline to complete the plan and complete the work is eight months.

The DNREC Grant is \$20,000 and requires a \$20,000 match from the City.

The scope of work for the grant will include locating the underground utilities, investigating the condition of the sanitary and storm drains and pipes, evaluating the soils, assessing the drainage, and considering alternative storm water management systems. The information will be used to develop concept-level plans and a design report.

Councilperson DiMondi inquired if the new National Park has been approached to provide the matching funds. President Ratchford stated that the National Park is trying to obtain funding for its own start-up. The President is aware of other grants that may provide additional funds.

The President reminded Mr. Athey that the priority on Delaware Street is compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines. Mr. Athey replied that Delaware Street has been surveyed from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the River for access and the ramps are prioritized.

President Ratchford asked about plans for the longest crosswalk at Town Hall. Mr. Athey stated that the ramps will be added but crosswalks would go in last as an overlay to the new paving.

Councilperson Vannucci asked about handicap accessible spaces in relation to handicap ramps. Mr. Athey stated that determining the best location for the handicap spaces is part of the process.

The President asked about the timing to accept the grant because the City won't be able to formally accept until after the budget process is completed. Mr. Athey believes that DNREC will not have a problem with holding the funds until June. Mr. Barthel talked to DNREC today to explain that the City must complete the budget process before accepting the grant.

Mayor Reese reminded the City Engineer that the end of the long crosswalk is a creative parking place for trucks delivering to two restaurants. He remembered that the last time that Delaware Street was dug up cobblestones and other old objects were found. Mr. Athey hadn't thought of delivery trucks and appreciates the Mayor's comment because the truck deliveries must be considered.

Mayor Reese asked about making the crosswalks more visible by being a different color than the street asphalt. Mr. Athey stated that it is easy to create different colors and that textures and raised elevations can be used to highlight the crosswalks.

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2015-21** concerning the Resident Entry Permit Process for event parking in City.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2015-21 was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded by Councilperson Petty.

Gail Seitz of the Parking Subcommittee of the Planning Commission stated that Resident Entry Permits were issued to residents for Separation Day 2014. The permit does not guarantee parking but admits residents of the Historic District. The subcommittee recommends again issued parking permits for Separation Day 2015 and to expand their use to cover any days that streets are closed for other events. The program was well received by residents and was very helpful to police and traffic control. This year, the subcommittee is requesting funding for a Hang Tag for residents of the Historic District. Two Hang Tags

will be issued per household. The program will be administered by the City. The cost is \$110 for 600. Need to have communications.

Councilperson Vannucci stated that Hang Tags are preferable due to being more visible. Last year, the City handed out 487 permits.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2015-21 passed unanimously.

Councilperson DiMondi read the following statement:

“I hope this resolution authorizing resident parking access for residents is an embryo for a permanent solution to alleviate resident parking issues in downtown.

I believe issuing resident parking stickers in conjunction with property tax bills can coincide with metered parking for non-residents in our business, commercial and recreational areas in our downtown. This use of central billing meter dispensers installed for convenient access, utilizing credit or debit cards, no cash would go a long way to regulate parking, gain revenue especially from non-residents utilizing our park system. This method is used worldwide and locally in almost every city. We may be a historic town but on this matter I believe it's time to move into the present for our resident's sake.”

**The motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining regarding the AFSCME Contract and potential litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel  
Clerk of the City of New Castle