

**City of New Castle Delaware
Special Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 8:30 a.m.**

Call to order: 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Vannucci
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Di Mondì

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator
Donald Reese, Mayor

Council President Linda Ratchford opened the Special meeting concerning **Resolution 2015-34**, to approve Fireball Run event scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2015. She stated Fireball Run is a History Trivia Pursuit, and has the ability to showcase New Castle and its history. She asked the Mayor and City Administrator to update Council on research they have been doing regarding this event.

Mayor Reese said he looked at videos of the program; it is not a race per say, it is not cars racing through town. The vehicles are monitored by a GPS system that keeps them within certain limits. They are interested finding out about history and in raising money for their charities. They raise money for lost and missing children; to date they have recovered 44 children in 10 years. Mayor Reese said they choose destinations based on economic factors, quality of life, and historic uniqueness as well as points of interest. They send the teams out on a scavenger hunt looking for historic items, and learning about the history of the cities they visit at the same time.

The contestants include celebrities, this year they have four astronauts from various countries. Viewership is increasing and they expect 1.7 million hits this year, and New Castle will get that exposure. Each town can sell advertising space on the cars. They have asked the City to provide lunch for the contestants that would be 150 box lunches. The Mayor said is thinking that several area restaurants could contribute parts of the lunch.

The Mayor said he had spoken to two the Mayors, in Connecticut and Allegany County, NY; he also talked to the Allegany County director of tourism. They were all enthusiastic; no one had anything negative to say about the experience. The Mayor said we have done our research, we know it's reputable, and it will be good for New Castle, stating that he endorsed participating in the program.

President Ratchford wanted to know if the producers had any suggestions for gearing up for the event.

City Administrator William Barthel said it's really a matter of how big or how small you want to make the event. In some places they have had lots of town's people and it was a pretty large event. Mr. Barthel said he had the Police Chief reach out to some the towns that have participated in these events. The Chief reported back to Mr. Barthel that he had talked to Waterbury, Connecticut. They said that overall it was a good event, no negative comments from anyone.

The producers are predicting between one and three hours in town, they will be able to give a more exact time frame if Council decides to go ahead with participating.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked where the group would eat lunch; Mr. Barthel said that we would provide 150 box lunches for the production crew and the contestants. The location would probably be right around here, or out on the Green. Mr. Di Mondì suggested putting up a tent in Battery Park.

Councilperson Vannucci suggested talking to local restaurants for prices for box lunches.

Mr. Barthel said they will let us know how much time they have to eat while they are in town. We have a number of options, one of the other towns he talked to said to follow their model, let them tell you how to do it, they will tell you what they need.

The Mayor said in this race there are two types of towns, one is a destination town, where they would spend the night, and the other is a pass through. We will be a pass through town, a stop for lunch, and the scavenger hunt.

President Ratchford stated that it makes sense to let them tell us what they need. She said it would be the cost of a regular event plus the cost of the lunches, stating it would be a small investment for great exposure for the City. It should be a fun event for our City, and we can work with the businesses and the National Park.

President Ratchford asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2015-34. The motion was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Vannucci.

Council President read Resolution 2015-34

Resolution 2015-34 passed unanimously.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Vannucci and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Burgmuller
Council Secretary