

City Council of the City of New Castle
Public Hearing
Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Thursday, October 29, 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 - present
Councilperson Di Mondì - present

Also present:

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

Public Hearing concerning Ordinance 503; an Ordinance to revise and restate Chapter 172 of the New Castle Code, regarding the restriction of trailer parking.

City Solicitor Losco explained that Ordinance 503 addresses trailers and recreational vehicles in residential districts. The weight and size restrictions are changed to include trailers. Temporary parking is reduced from 14 to 7 days.

City Administrator Barthel stated that safety is the main concern. The City has no knowledge of what is stored in trailers. If the trailer has to be moved, it has to be towed. The situation of needing to move a trailer for emergency response has occurred and the need to tow the trailer caused a delay in the response.

President Ratchford clarified that an Ordinance addressing trailer and recreational vehicle parking already exists. The changes are just fine tuning to provide clarification.

Larry Koppenhaver of East 3rd Street has two recreational vehicles in parking lot behind the six unit condo building. Due to the legal language, he can't understand the distinction between private property and public roadways. Mr. Koppenhaver wrote a letter to City Council which was relayed to the City Solicitor for response. Solicitor Losco stated that the Ordinance does not impact his private property. The restrictions only apply to public and private roads. There is currently an Ordinance that restricts recreational vehicles by size and weight. Mr. Koppenhaver's travel experience throughout the country has found that 72 hours is typically permitted on the street and permits can be applied longer periods of time. The Solicitor said the previous and current Ordinance do not address the timing of permits.

Councilperson Vannucci stated that the current Ordinance was passed in the 90s to restrict the parking of trailers and boats in the streets.

Councilperson Di Mondì believes that banning trailers all together is not workable due to the need for contractors to use them for materials for work on resident's homes. Councilperson Di Mondì recommended using a building permit as a condition and/or banning overnight parking.

Solicitor Losco stated that the Ordinance only prohibits trailers that are not motorized and have to be towed. It does not impact trailers attached to a cab or pickup truck.

The City Solicitor recommended adding "for more than 24 consecutive hours" to Section 1. C. to read, "No person shall park any trailer on any public roadway, dedicated private roadway, front yard areas, or lawn areas of apartment buildings or complexes in a residential district for more than 24 consecutive hours."

Mr. Koppenhaver suggested that the topic be "workshopped" due to there being so many aspects and variables.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Vannucci, seconded by Councilperson Megginson and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel
Clerk of the City of New Castle