

**City Council of the City of New Castle**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle**  
**Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to order: 7:00 pm**

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Megginson – present  
Council President Ratchford – present  
Councilperson Petty – absent  
Councilperson Di Mondì – present

Also present:

Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official  
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
Jamie Rogers, Police Chief  
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor  
William Barthel, City Administrator

**Approval of Minutes by Date:** Special Meetings on 1/19/16, 3/3/16, 4/6/16, 8/23/16, 3/31/17;  
Regular Meetings on 9/13/16, 2/14/17, 3/21/17 and **Approval to Accept Staff Reports** as  
submitted.

President Ratchford asked that the header for the minutes for March 31, 2017 be changed from  
“Regular Meeting to “Special Meeting”.

Councilperson Di Mondì motioned and Councilperson Megginson seconded approval of the  
Minutes as amended and Staff Reports as submitted. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report:**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the City’s accounts as of March 31,  
2017. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$3,727,657.74.

Councilperson Di Mondì motioned and Councilperson Megginson seconded approval of the  
Treasurer’s Report as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Police Chief Rogers review the March statistics for the police department and commented that  
patrols were directed to focus on the downtown area due to the influx of Pokémon players.

**Council Communications:**

None

**Business from the Mayor:**

None

**Business from the Council President:**

None

**Business from the Floor:**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-13** to approve the placement request of BLK Enterprises, LLC DBA Ice Cream Corral as a vendor operating within the City limits.

The **Motion** to consider Resolution No. 2017-13 was made by Councilperson Di Mondì and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Barry Kimmelman, owner of the Ice Cream Corral has a cart to sell pre-packed ice cream in town. He will continue to operate the store on Route 9.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked if he planned to vend from a specific location. Mr. Kimmelman said his first choice would be by the wharf, but he was told that Council will assign a location. Councilperson Di Mondì said he would approve the license if vending was limited to two locations. President Ratchford suggested locating at the sailing club and Councilperson Megginson agreed.

The resolution was amended to indicate the approved location is on West 3rd Street by the sailing club's facilities.

**Resolution No. 2017-13 passed as amended unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-14** to approve an encroachment located at 165 East Second Street.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2017-14 was made by Councilperson Di Mondì and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

President Ratchford asked City Building Official Bergstrom to describe the encroachment. Mr. Bergstrom described the encroachment as uncovered stairs that are fairly typical and consistent with the stairs on other homes in the area.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked for the distance from the bottom step to the curb and Mr. Bergstrom replied that it is more than five feet as required.

**Resolution No. 2017-14 passed unanimously.**

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-15** to approve the Mayor's Reappointment to the Planning Commission of Joseph DiAngelo.

The Motion to consider Resolution No. 2017-15 was made by Councilperson Megginson and there was no second.

Councilperson Di Mondì objected to considering the appointment because Mr. DiAngelo was not present at the meeting to answer questions from Council. President Ratchford stated that Mr. DiAngelo currently serves on the Planning Commission so this is a reappointment. Councilperson Di Mondì asked that the motion be tabled until Mr. DiAngelo comes to a City Council meeting to be interviewed. Councilperson Megginson agreed that candidates for appointment should appear before Council.

Councilperson Di Mondì **Motioned to Table Resolution 2017-15** and Councilperson Megginson seconded.

**The Motion to Table passed unanimously.**

### **Council Closing Remarks**

President Ratchford commented that this is the last meeting of this Council. The newly elected Council will be sworn in next week. The President expressed appreciation for the dedication of Councilpersons Megginson and Petty and stated that members of Council do a lot of work in addition to attending meetings. She has enjoyed working with them both.

### **Comments from the floor**

Paul Freebery of Baldt Avenue congratulated the newly elected Council Members who were in attendance. Mr. Freebery asked that Council consider a change to the City Charter to require that anyone running for office must resign from any current office.

While Baldt Avenue is currently under repair between 12th and Moore, Mr. Freebery requests that the backfilling of holes be added to the work. He would like neighborhoods to be notified in advance of planned construction dates for their streets.

During the 27 years Mr. Freebery has lived in New Castle, the police force has grown from six to twelve officers. He believes that 35% to 40% of their time is spent in the newly annexed areas. Mr. Freebery would like Council to de-annex these areas to allow the police time to focus on neighborhoods. He finds heroin packets and hypodermic needles on his street. In a five block stretch, there are four known dealers.

Bill Emory of Baldt Avenue supports Mr. Freebery's comments. The President walked Baldt Avenue and is familiar with the request. Baldt Avenue was previously on the list for repairs but was bumped and replaced by other streets. Traffic on the street has increased since the road block was installed on New Castle Avenue at 11th Street.

Police coverage is a serious issue due to annexations. It puts a strain on services to the citizens. He rarely sees a patrol car. There are major issues with the drug dealers and Mr. Emory demands that something be done about it. He is losing his desire to stay in New Castle.

President Ratchford offered to schedule a detailed police overview at a Council meeting in the near future.

Dorsey Fiske of East 3rd Street has heard that there are a number of properties on Clayton Street that are drug houses. She wonders why Council isn't telling the police to focus on it. Councilperson Di Mondri responded there are at least two OD's in Dobbinsville each week. He suggested that there may be a need for shared responsibility with the County or State Police. The drug dealing is right out in the open. He would like to bring the police back to town and stop protecting the flea market.

Terry Gormley of the New Castle Weekly asked if it is correct that Delaware uses a system of assigning emergency response to the closest police to the area of the call. Chief Rogers replied that it depends on the nature of the call. If it's shoplifting or something at that level, City of New Castle Police would not be called outside of their area. If it is a major crime, City of New Castle Police would respond if they are closest and would hold the scene until the police department assigned to cover the area arrives.

The **Motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Di Mondri and **passed unanimously**. Council adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wurtzel  
Clerk of the City of New Castle