

**City of New Castle Delaware  
Regular City Council Meeting at Town Hall  
201 Delaware Street - New Castle  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

Councilperson Valarie W. Leary  
Councilperson Michael J.  
Quaranta  
Council President Linda  
Ratchford  
Councilperson Michael M. Platt  
Councilperson John A. Di Mondì

**Also present:**

William Barthel, City  
Administrator  
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
Jamie Rogers, Police Chief  
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor

- Minutes: April 20, 2017 - Special Meeting (Approved); April 27, 2017 - Special Meeting (Approved with amendments); and May 9, 2017 - Regular Meeting (Approved with Amendments); May 25, 2017 Special Meeting/Budget Workshop (Approved with Amendments)

- **Staff Reports**

**Approval of Treasurer's Report**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the City's accounts as of May 30, 2017. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$ 3,428,287.76.

**Report from the City Administrator & Staff**

Chief Jamie Rogers discussed staffing levels, the number of officers, and the possibility of receiving extra officers. Also discussed were concerns about traffic, speeding, and heroin overdoses. The police informed the council that there had been a few heroin-related deaths in the City.

Councilperson John Di Mondì stated that he approves of the report that the Police Chief had provided him with, regarding the police force and staffing levels. Councilperson Platt asked the Police Chief whether he is comfortable with the staffing levels; the Police Chief said that he is fine with them, and that there were some officers that took a vacation.

## **Council Communications**

Councilperson Michael J. Quaranta mentioned that the City would be publicizing a summer youth employment program for 16 to 18 year-olds. He also spoke about parking for the handicapped, and requested that people inform the City as to whether anyone had moved away who would have been assigned a handicapped parking spot. The Police chief was asked a question about the use of security cameras. Councilperson John Di Mondì stated that he does not have a problem with cameras on public property, but he stated that he does have a problem with cameras on private property because he does not want people's privacy to be invaded.

Councilperson Leary spoke about streetlights on Van Dyke, also mentioning that MSC would be performing a study. Councilperson Platt discussed emergency vehicles going down the street at 12th Street and Baldt Avenue, and made a comment about Van Dyke. Councilperson Platt shared his concern about energy vehicles not being able to go through the street because of parked cars, and expressed concern about another group home that was established in the housing department.

Dan Losco, City Solicitor, advised the Councilperson that there is no registry of the people who live at the group home. The City Solicitor stated that the only people who need to register in a community would be sex offenders. He stated that the people in the group home might have a diagnosis and be recovering from an addiction that they might fall into other protective categories, and that the City cannot violate their civil rights. Councilperson Platt brought up the fact that a street sign was missing in Van Dyke Village. Councilperson John Di Mondì voiced a complaint, and discussed an issue around six townhouses.

### **Business from the Mayor - None**

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

Council President Ratchford discussed parking near a stop sign, county-wide programs that could benefit the City, in such forms as grants for assistance, and a resiliency task force on flooding and emergency response systems; there will be a public meeting in September.

### **Business from the Floor**

Roger Clark: commented about handicapped parking.

Dorsey Fiske: commented from the floor about a possible illegal aspect of Ordinance 510. A Councilperson responded that they would have the City Solicitor comment on this.

Karen Whalen: brought up a concern about the process around Ordinance 510.

Marianne Caven: commented about parking and zoning. In response, Councilperson Quaranta discussed a parking count that had been done with the help of University of Delaware students regarding the number of available parking spaces around the Historic District.

Claire Kwasnieski: stated that the Council had never (in her memory) voted on the idea of additional parking. Council President Ratchford responded saying that a prior Council did pass a resolution on parking lots in five locations.

## **New Business**

### **Proclamation Honoring Longtime New Castle Residents**

The proclamation was in recognition of longtime New Castle residents Jimmy and Rose Gambacorta.

Council person John Di Mondì **made a motion** for the Proclamation to be read, and Councilperson Quaranta **seconded** the motion.

The Proclamation was read.

The Proclamation was **unanimously approved**.

### **Proclamation naming Tuesday, August 1, 2017 as "National Night Out" in the City of New Castle**

Councilperson Leary made a motion for the Proclamation to be read, and Councilperson Platt seconded the motion.

The Proclamation was read.

Councilperson Leary stated that there would be many different organizations at the event, including the fire company and the Lion's Club, and that the event will feature a DJ. The focus is on drug prevention, and there will be food, music and games.

The Proclamation was **unanimously approved**.

### **MS4 Presentation Update; Dave Athey; AECOM**

The PowerPoint presentation for this topic of discussion is attached to the minutes.

David Athey, City Engineer, gave a PowerPoint presentation about illicit discharges and connections to the municipal storm sewer system.

The presentation dealt with an MS4 update: specifically, the sweeper, and the need for an ordinance.

Councilperson John Di Mondì had expressed concerns about the civil rights of homeowners and the impact that Ordinance 509 would have on them. The other council members had a discussion with Councilperson Di Mondì about the concern that he brought to light. Councilperson Quaranta and the City Solicitor discussed the legality of the Ordinance as regards Section 10-B. **First Reading of Ordinance 509**, an Ordinance to establish a new Chapter 208 in the Code of the City of New Castle related to illicit discharges and connections to the municipal storm sewer system.

Council person John Di Mondì made a motion for the ordinance to be read, and Councilperson Quaranta seconded the motion.

The Ordinance was read and entered into the record.

Councilperson Leary made a **motion** to consider **Ordinance 509**; Councilperson Michael J. Quaranta **seconded** the motion.

It was mentioned that a public hearing would be scheduled regarding this ordinance.

First Reading of Ordinance 510, an Ordinance allowing public parking lot use by special exception in residential districts, the Downtown Gateway District, the Historic Residence District and the Historic Commercial District.

There was a discussion of concerns related to the ordinance, involving the City Solicitor and Council members.

It was mentioned that there will be more discussion of the ordinance, and an open public comment process.

Councilperson Quaranta made a motion to consider reading Ordinance 510; Council President Ratchford seconded the motion.

The Ordinance was read and entered into the record.

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-18**, a Resolution approving the Mayor's Appointment to the Planning Commission of **Brenda Antonio**

Councilperson Platt made a **motion** to table **Resolution 2017-18**, Councilperson John Di Mondì **seconded** the motion.

The motion was tabled.

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2017-19**, a Resolution approving a minor subdivision for a property located at 475 West 7th Street.

Councilperson Quaranta made a **motion** to pass **Resolution 2017-19**; Councilperson Leary seconded the motion.

It was explained that the purpose of this resolution is to separate wetlands from dryer sections of land, and to provide an easement to DelDOT.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

**Resolution No. 2017-19 passed, 4 to 1.**

**The Motion passed, with the Council votes recorded as follows:**

Councilperson Valarie Leary - Yes  
Council person Michael J. Quaranta - Yes  
Council President Linda Ratchford - Yes

Council person Michael M. Platt - Yes  
Councilperson John A. Di Mondì - No

**Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2017-20**, a Resolution declaring a certain City-owned property located at 513 West 9th Street as surplus, and directing that it be marketed for sale.

Councilperson Di Mondì made a **motion** to consider **Resolution 2017-20**; Councilperson Leary seconded the motion.

The City Administrator spoke about the property. The matter was discussed between the City Administrator and others present, who had questions about such matters as the time frame entailed.

Councilperson Quaranta requested an amendment: to authorize the City Solicitor to enter into discussion with the purchaser, to effectuate as timely a disposition of the property as possible. A motion was made to approve the resolution, but remove the last paragraph. The amended resolution passed unanimously.

Councilperson Michael J. Quaranta made a motion to approve the Resolution and delete the last paragraph that started with "be it resolved"; Councilperson Platt seconded the motion.

Discussion of the City Charter, Scope and Process for future Changes  
The discussion was tabled [or the next meeting.

**Comments were solicited from the floor:**

Janet Wurtzel: asked a question about one of the ordinances discussed, and brought up the matter of parking lots.

Presiding Bishop Dr. G E Gordon SR.: stated that he met with Mr. Barthel and Chief Rogers to discuss how he could help out with substance abuse issues and other social ailments to help the citizens of the City of New Castle. He cited the parts of the City that he was informed had the most complications in this respect. He stated that he helps people find work and mentor them as well. He stated that he is a drug and alcohol counselor, and that he was once an addict and had been incarcerated. The Bishop would like for the City Council to arrange a picnic for the community - he will have a bus waiting for individuals who are seeking substance abuse counseling. He requested the City provide a building where he could conduct activities that would help the City.

Robert Thomas: had a short discussion about people's ability to fish at the pier. He made a comment about mapping, and historic districts of the City.

Paula B. Stockton: made a comment about sidewalks and runoff.

Phillip Gross: made a comment about City parking.

Rod Miller: commented on illegal left turns off 7th St., asking whether there would be a way to help deter people from making left turns. A Councilperson responded saying that periodic crackdowns might be effective.

Council person Platt made **motion** to adjourn the meeting; Councilperson Leary **seconded** the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Brian G. Whitaker**  
**City Clerk of New Castle, Delaware**