

Resolution No. 2018-04

A Resolution Requesting the Delaware General Assembly to Approve Certain City Charter Amendments Proposed by the New Castle City Council

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that the Charter for the Mayor and Council of New Castle, adopted by the General Assembly in 2012 is in need of updating to address matters that have detracted from City Council's ability to efficiently administer City business or that were not previously contemplated; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, over a period of months, has conducted a series of public meetings, all duly noticed in accordance with the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, 29 Del. C. Chapter 100, to discuss limited scope amendments to the City Charter and to solicit public input thereon; and

WHEREAS, noteworthy changes proposed for the City Charter include:

- Changing the offices of City Clerk and City Treasurer to appointive offices rather than elective offices, consistent with many other Delaware municipalities and supported by lack of citizen interest as evidenced by very few contested elections for these positions in the past twenty years;
- Requiring a super majority of Council to remove an appointed City Clerk or City Treasurer to help assure their independence and insulate them from removal on purely political grounds;
- Authorizing the creation of other appointive offices by ordinance or resolution;
- Adoption of a "resign to run" provision whereby elected City officials desiring to run for a different City office must resign their current position;
- Adopting an oath of office which elected officials must take prior to assuming their respective offices;
- Adopting a self-operative means of declaring a particular Councilperson's or the Mayor's office vacant due to the failure to attend three (3) or more consecutive regular monthly meetings of Council, or more than one-third of Council's regular monthly meetings in any consecutive twelve (12) month period;
- Requiring special elections to fill vacancies in elective positions if the next scheduled general election in the City is more than six (6) months away, rather than having Council fill the vacancy by appointment without a special election; and
- Removing the ability of a Councilperson to participate in Council meetings via teleconference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby approves that the attached proposal for changes to the New Castle City Charter shall be forwarded to the Delaware General Assembly, requesting that State elected representatives approve the proposed changes in their entirety.

Passed this 13th day of February 2018.

Linda Ratchford, City Council President

Jimmy Gambacorta, Mayor

John A. DiMondi, Councilperson

Valarie W. Leary, Councilperson

Michael M. Platt, Councilperson

Michael J. Quaranta, Councilperson

Attest:

Brian G. Whitaker, City Clerk