

City of New Castle Delaware
City Council Budget Workshop at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Wednesday, June 19, 2019– 6:00 p.m.

Call to order: 6:00 pm

Roll Call

Councilperson Suzanne Souder
Councilperson Russell Smith
Council President Linda Ratchford
Councilperson Michael Platt
Councilperson Valarie Leary

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator
Kathy Walls, Finance Director
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer

City Administrator Barthel advised that city staff had made the adjustments to the proposed budget, as per items discussed at the 6/13/2019 budget workshop. Documents are prepared, in the event that Council decides to vote on a budget resolution.

Councilperson Leary commented on **fiscal year 2019** revenue currently being greater than expenses by approximately \$250,000. City Treasurer Janet Carlin listed some expenses that will still be paid before the end of fiscal year 2019, including an upcoming payroll and various invoices.

There was discussion of how invoices can come in and be paid up to 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, and still be included in the final audit of that year's budget.

Council President Ratchford reiterated that at the 6/13/2019 budget workshop, it was decided to base the proposed 2020 budget revenue on current tax rates, as opposed to projecting a tax increase.

It was moved and seconded to consider Resolution 2019-24, to Set **Fiscal Year 2020 Tax Rate** and **Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020 City Budget and Grant Budget**. (Council President Ratchford – posted 06/10/2019.) Council President Ratchford read the resolution into the record.

Councilperson Leary expressed her hope that committees would be created before this meeting is adjourned, to review possible revenue increases in the future.

There was discussion about how the Fire Department will be funded in the future.

Councilperson Smith expressed that he would like a mechanism to be set up in this meeting, to look at city fees.

Council President Ratchford advised the city staff is currently reviewing the fee structure, and will be reporting to Council at a future meeting. She encouraged Council members to also do some of their own research on the topic.

City staff will provide a report of current city fees, to all Council members.

There was discussion on the topic of potential future tax increases, as far as the process and timing, as well as future expenses that are anticipated, that will need to be considered for the fiscal year 2021 budget.

City Administrator Barthel discussed the financial assistance that the Trust has provided over the years and expressed gratitude for that relationship. There was general discussion on the importance of the Trust to the city.

There was discussion on the importance of keeping residents informed about Council topics, such as financial matters.

Resolution 2019-24 was passed by a vote of four votes for, and one abstention. **Councilperson Leary abstained.**

City Administrator Barthel advised that he has upcoming meetings planned, to discuss the wharf project, and will keep Council informed.

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned. Council adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Whitaker Clerk of the City of New Castle

Next Regular Meeting Date: July 9, 2019

Posted 5/31/2019; Updated 6/10/2019