

**City of New Castle Delaware
City Council Regular Meeting
201 Delaware Street, New Castle
Tuesday, June 11, 2019- 7:00 P. M.**

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Roll Call

Councilperson Suzanne M. Souder (Absent)
Councilperson Russell P. Smith
Council President Linda Ratchford
Councilperson Michael M. Platt
Councilperson Valarie W. Leary

Also present:

Mayor Michael Quaranta
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
William Barthel, City Administrator
Richard McCabe, Chief of Police
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
David Athey, City Engineer

Minutes

Regarding minutes of the May 2 special meeting, May 14 public hearing, May 14 regular meeting, May 15 budget workshop, and May 23 budget workshop, after a motion and second, the minutes were approved, as amended.

Treasurer's Report

The unaudited Treasurer's report was presented by the City Treasurer, as of May 31, 2019, \$2,955,406.79 in unrestricted finds, and \$2,462,670.77 in restricted funds, for a total of \$5,418,077.45 total cash in accounts.

Total long-term debt, inclusive of the amount due on the sweeper, the police vehicles and the public service vehicle is \$289,493.

Total indebtedness is \$2,500,438, which includes \$1,715,945 to be paid back by the Trust.

The city is on target, in terms of expenses and revenues.

After a motion and second, the unaudited Treasurer's report as of May 31, 2019, was approved unanimously.

Reports from the City Administrator and Staff

City Administrator William Barthel made a report on the two properties sold at the sheriff's sale. 704 Clark Street was sold for \$13,000 and 727 Clymer was sold for \$12,000.

The last property put out for sale two months ago should be coming to the city in July or near the end of July.

The Chief of Police made his report, including:

- Two seasonal officers were brought on, the previous week.
- With respect to some of the stats and highlights, the numbers are a little high this month as far as traffic arrests and criminal arrests, partly due to some highway safety grants.
- In response to a question from Councilperson Leary, Chief McCabe advised that the trespassing issue at the property on the 400 block of Delaware Street was addressed after the report.

Council Communications

Councilperson Leary reported that the Trust had concerns that the proper procedure wasn't followed, related to the request regarding the dog waste containers. The request will be reviewed by two committees.

Councilperson Leary also reported that A Day in Old New Castle went well.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Quaranta has scheduled a non-governmental public meeting for June 26, for all interested parties to discuss how best to coordinate community events and communications between organizations.

The Mayor and others will be attending a coffee meeting with tenants of Centerpoint Industrial Park on June 12.

The Mayor encourages everyone to participate in the Governor's recent litter-free initiative, announced in April.

The Mayor is in the process of gathering information and input related to encouraging home ownership in the community, and expects to have more information in July.

The Mayor reviewed guidelines related to the upcoming 2020 Census.

The Mayor recognized the passing of Donald Reese, and mentioned Mr. Reese's contributions to the community.

Business from the Council President

Council President Ratchford acknowledged and thanked all those involved in Separation Day.

City Clerk Brian Whitaker went to Birmingham, Alabama, to go to the Institute for International Municipal Clerks where he attended classes in ethics, government, self-care, leadership and public speaking. Mr. Whitaker was very proud to represent the City and wanted to thank the council secretary for sending a large box of information.

Business from the Floor

Roderick Gillespie provided a map that represents Delaware Street in 1682. He stated his objections to the proposed bump-outs on Delaware Street.

Mr. Gillespie stated his objection to the three-minute time limit per speaker during the Business from the Floor portion of Council meetings.

Old Business

After a motion and second, Council President read Resolution 2019-21, A Resolution Honoring the Life of Donald A. Reese (Council President Ratchford – posted 06/04/2019) into the record. The resolution was passed unanimously. Mr. Reese’s family was presented with the resolution, after several comments of gratitude and appreciation.

The City Engineer presented an update, including a slide presentation, on the Delaware Street project. The slide presentation was made available as a handout, including photos, timelines and other details about the project. A further update is expected to be provided at the September 10 meeting.

Councilperson Platt and the City Administrator provided background information related to a resident’s request for a reserved Handicapped Parking Space in a No Parking Zone on E. 12th Street (at the corner of E. 12th Street and Baldt Avenue). Further discussion will take place at the next Council meeting.

Council President Ratchford reviewed the process for requesting a handicapped parking space, as well as some details about the request that is being discussed at this and next month’s meetings.

New Business

After a motion and second, Council President Ratchford read Resolution 2019-22; Resolution to Request WILMAPCO Corridor Redesign Within City of New Castle (Council President Ratchford – posted 06/04/2019) into the record. After discussion, the resolution was passed unanimously.

The City Solicitor provided background and details related to the potential amendment to Zoning Code §230-21.1 E to Permit Fence “Structures” on Properties Formerly Zoned Industrial (I) and Service Commercial (SC), but now Zoned Downtown Gateway (DG) (Council President

Ratchford – posted 06/04/2019). Discussion followed about how these fence requests should be handled. The topic will be discussed further at later meetings.

After a motion and second, Council President Ratchford read Resolution 2019-23, A Resolution Endorsing Governor Carney’s Initiative to “Keep DE Litter Free” and to Join the Delaware Anti-Litter Alliance (Council President Ratchford – posted 06/04/2019) into the record. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Alice Jarvis suggested that in some cases where a fence is requested, a hedge be considered instead. Ms. Jarvis also requested that any impact of the street work on community events, such as parades, be considered, and included in future discussions.

Victor Bryson of 604 Clark Street requested that Council consider requiring that all committee members, as well as the City Administrator and City Solicitor, be citizens of the city of New Castle.

Karen Igou of 24 East 5th Street requested information on how she could have Glyphosate/Round Up banned in the city of New Castle. Ms. Igou will discuss this separately with Councilperson Leary.

Phil Gross of 301 Moore Avenue asked whether there will be costs to the city related to the passage of Resolution 2019-22. Council President Ratchford advised that the passage of the resolution does not include any approval of funding.

Mr. Gross of 301 Moore Avenue asked whether there are any additions in the project design that the City Engineer presented, beyond what Council has previously approved. The City Engineer advised that there are not, although there will be tweaks to the design. It was confirmed that the concept plan is available on the city’s website. Mr. Gross expressed concern about potential cost overruns related to the project.

Mr. Gross expressed his opinion that the Council should not vote on the proposed code of conduct at the next Council meeting.

Brad Simpler of Dobbinsville expressed concern about the safety of children crossing Highway 273 and Route 9, and requested that a higher priority be given to this issue.

Bennie Beale of 26 The Strand expressed concerns about privacy, related to the Mayor’s recent discussion about looking into funding to assist citizens in purchasing security cameras.

Bret Simpler expressed concern about potential health and safety issues at a property that the city will be taking possession of. The City Administrator advised that the city expects to take possession of the property next month, but they will go out to the property the following day, to take a look at Mr. Simpler’s concerns.

Rod Miller of 124 E. 3rd expressed concern about parking in residential areas.

Mr. Miller advised that he had found a website with further information about “anti-chop” ordinances, at ecode360.com.

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Whitaker Clerk of the City of New Castle

Next Regular Meeting Date: July 9, 2019