

City of New Castle Delaware
City Council Special Meeting – Mid-Year Budget Review
Meeting to be held electronically via Zoom video and audio conferencing
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
6:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: William Barthel, City Administrator
Mayor Michael J. Quaranta
Kathy Walls, Finance Coordinator
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Jeff Bergstrom, City Building Inspector
Diane Delgado, Finance Clerk
Brian Whitaker, City Clerk

Council President Ratchford called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. and introduced the Council and attendees.

Old Business

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2020-23; A Resolution to Request that the \$5,000 Funding Commitment for Separation Day from the Trustees of the New Castle Common be allocated to the Purchase of Trash Cans for Delaware Street.

A Motion on Resolution 2020-23 was made by Councilperson Platt and seconded by Councilperson Smith.

Council President Ratchford read the Resolution.

After discussion, it was agreed to postpone a vote on the Resolution until the mid-year budget discussion.

New Business

Discussion Regarding Floating Dock

Council President Ratchford gave an overview of the City's waterfront efforts relative to the Pier and Dobbinsville. Goodwill Fire Company has requested that their rescue boat be docked at the floating dock during the warmer months; however the current design is not optimum for their purposes. Next steps that require input from Council include (1) applying for a permit and (2) reviewing the design concept and deciding if the Goodwill Fire Company request should be incorporated into the design.

After discussion it was agreed that the issue will be studied further and discussed at a later date.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2020-27; A Resolution Adopting The New Castle County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update as Approved By FEMA.

Mr. Bergstrom explained the purpose of the Resolution, noting the City is required to adopt the All Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update in order for the City to draw on federal disaster aid.

A Motion on Resolution 2020-27 was made by Councilperson Smith and seconded by Council President Ratchford.

Council President Ratchford read the Resolution.

On vote, the Motion was passed with a vote of four in favor and one abstain (Councilperson Platt).

Mid-Year Budget Discussion and Possible Action.

City Administrator Barthel stated that revenues have been very encouraging and explained all Budget line items to which the City suggests additional funding be added.

During discussion Council President Ratchford suggested that a representative from the Tree Advisory Commission be invited to attend the November Council meeting to update Council on their activities.

Amended Revenues Over Projections	\$431,000
Amended Expenditures	<u>377,800</u>
Balance	\$ 53,200

During a discussion of non-profits it was agreed that a letter from City Council will be sent to all non-profits requesting they resubmit their grants for review at the November Council meeting.

Wayfinding/Signage

Councilperson Smith noted that NCCP paid for a new wayfinding plan using the new branding system that has been completed. He is also working with the Trustees to create new parking signs for the parking lot. The Trustees have agreed to purchase new signage for the Bike Station. Councilperson Smith is also working with Hooptydo on new signage for the center of town at a cost of \$1,000. Councilperson Smith will send draft designs to Council Members for consideration. Councilperson Leary noted that the new parking lot is looking good.

Newsletter

During discussion of funding printing of the Crier, City Administrator Barthel stated the City is printing the Newsletters in-house and no funding was added to the Budget for printing expenses.

Feasibility Study

City Administrator Barthel stated that he and Ms. Patone can give Council some rough projections, but opined that proceeding with next steps with the vendor will provide better

information relative to the economies the City and MSC can share. Council President Ratchford stated that if Council agrees to budget \$15,000 for next steps, it would not obligate the City. She added that making a capital expenditure will require a Referendum. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Barthel and Ms. Patone will submit a rough projection to Council for review.

Resolution 2020-23

Council President Ratchford stated that there is a Motion and a Second on Resolution 2020-23.

Councilperson Platt made a Motion to amend the Resolution to remove NCCP from the Resolution. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Leary.

After discussion, it was agreed to amend the Motion by striking the first and second Whereas Clause and rewording the fifth Whereas Clause.

The amended Motion reads: A Motion to amend the Resolution by striking the first Whereas Clause, striking the second Whereas Clause and modifying the fifth Whereas Clause to read: Whereas, if the Trustees were to approve a re-allocation of the \$5,000 in Separation Day funding, the City would have funds available for additional trash cans for Delaware Street and vicinity.

Council President Ratchford called for a vote on the Motion put out by Councilperson Platt and seconded by Councilperson Leary to amend Resolution 2020-23 with these modifications. On vote, the Motion was unanimously approved.

Council President Ratchford called for a vote on Resolution 2020-23 as amended. On vote the Motion was approved and the Resolution passed unanimously.

The City Administrator will forward Resolution 2020-23 as amended to the Trust.

There being no further business to discuss, Council President Ratchford called for a Motion to adjourn. Councilperson Leary made a Motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilperson Smith. On vote the Motion was unanimously approved and the meeting ended at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer

Next Regular Meeting Date: November 10, 2020