

Resolution 2022-04

A Resolution Establishing a Temporary Task Force of Citizens to Research Existing Information Concerning the Impact of Sea Level Rise on the City of New Castle, and to Prepare Remediation Recommendations.

WHEREAS, Delaware lies within a sea level rise “hotspot” where sea levels could rise higher and faster than elsewhere due to a combination of rising seas and sinking land (source: DNREC, Delaware Geological Survey and US Geological Survey); and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Comprehensive Plan for the City of New Castle has among its goals (G12-3) “Prioritize and Implement the Recommendations of the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan” and (G12-4) “Plan for the Protection of the Historic District and Other Flood Prone Areas”; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Comprehensive Plan also includes among its strategies:

(G12-2(a)) “Complete analysis of flooding in all neighborhoods where flooding is a regular problem;” and

(G12-3) “Amend City Code by making adjustments to include sea level rise adaptation strategies, remove any barriers that would prohibit additional flood protection, minimize future hazards and protect environmental features on individual parcels. Research and propose potential building code areas to update, such as: additional flood hazard resistant construction methods, minimizing impervious areas, and minimizing contributing storm water runoff to flood water receiving areas.”;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council that a temporary Task Force be established for the purpose of researching available information concerning the impact of sea level rise on the City of New Castle and making recommendations to the City Council toward the furtherance of these goals and strategies. The Task force shall review and build upon previous studies on this issue including those by the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan of 2018, DNREC, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the New Castle Conservation District, and others as the Task Force identifies as relevant and useful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the structure and goals of this Task Force shall be as follows:

- 1) The Task Force shall be composed of no fewer than 5 and no more than 9 residents of the City of New Castle to be appointed by the City Council.
- 2) In making such appointments, the Council shall strive to include at least one representative from those areas of the City of New Castle which are particularly prone to regular flooding. It

would be preferable that the Task Force also include representatives (1 each) from the Goodwill Fire Co. and the Trustees of the New Castle Common.

3) The Task Force shall select a chairperson and a secretary from among its members and may establish rules of procedure for the conduct of such meetings. In accordance with State of Delaware Freedom of Information Act laws, all meetings of the Task Force shall be open to the public, minutes of all meetings shall be maintained and made publicly available, and the dates and agendas for Task Force meetings will be published in advance of said meetings.

4) The following named individuals shall serve as the initial members of the Task Force:

Michael Marinelli

Timothy Moore (Goodwill Fire Co. representative)

Alice Riehl

Gail Seitz

Thomas Wilson (Trustees of New Castle Common representative)

Mary Letitia (“Tish”) Gallagher

Richard Pennell

Additional appointments may be made by resolution of City Council.

5) The City Engineer, City Planner, City Solicitor, and City Building Official will serve as advisers to the Task Force on an “as requested” basis, and they shall do so unless otherwise determined by City Council. The Task Force may also solicit information and advice from third parties, whether from governmental sources, academia or otherwise, who can assist it in its work. By this Resolution the Council approves a budget not to exceed \$5000 for the purpose of engaging third parties. Should the Task Force find the need for additional funding, it shall make a request to City Council. The City Administrator shall be advised of any third parties engaged by the Task Force to facilitate the billing and payment for their services.

6) The goals of this Task Force shall be:

1. To review available information on the impact of sea level rise on the City of New Castle and possible actions for its remediation.
2. To prepare a prioritized list of actions the Task Force recommends that the City take for the remediation of sea level rise.
3. To obtain and submit cost estimates for each of the recommended actions.
4. To identify potential funding sources (such as DEMA, FEMA, and others) for these costs and what portion of the costs they are likely to cover.

5. To prepare a list of resources for property owners who wish to take action to protect their property beyond that which the City may undertake.
6. The Task Force shall exist as a public body for a period ending April 30, 2023, unless otherwise extended by City Council. A final written report of the findings and recommendations of the Task Force shall be submitted to City Council on or before the date the Task Force expires. Task Force shall further submit an interim written report to the City Council 6 months after its members are appointed and as otherwise requested by City Council.

PASSED this 8th day of March, 2022.

Michael M. Platt, City Council President

Joseph F. Day, III, Councilperson

Valerie W. Leary, Councilperson

Russell P. Smith, Councilperson

Suzanne M. Souder, Councilperson

Attest

Kathleen M. Walls, City Clerk