

City of New Castle Delaware
City Council Special Meeting
1 Municipal Boulevard
Monday, August 21, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Roll Call

Present: Councilperson Joseph F. Day
Councilperson Suzanne M. Souder
Councilperson Nermin Zubaca
Councilperson Andrew Zeltt

Also present: William J. Barthel, City Administrator
Mayor Valarie W. Leary

Councilperson Souder called the August 21, 2023, special City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Council Discussion, Motion and Vote on Resolution 2023-25 – A Resolution to Potentially Approve the Mayor’s Re-Appointment of Cynthia Batty and Brie Rivera to the Planning Commission.

Brie Rivera – Planning Commission – Term Ending 08/21/2026

Cynthia Batty - Planning Commission – Term Ending 08/21/2026

A motion to read Resolution 2023-25 was made and seconded. Councilperson Souder read the Resolution.

Public Comment

Phil Gross – 1301 13th Street

Mr. Gross stated that all facts within the handout can be collaborated and are all factual. He stated that Brie Rivera did a wonderful job and that he supports her. He stated that Cynthia Batty did the opposite of the position relative to ethics and morals. He added that the former Mayor also had some issues with Ms. Batty being reappointed. He stated that individuals listed in the handout, including the developer of Lukens Drive, can speak to the fact that Ms. Batty spoke with them outside of what the Planning Commissioner’s parameters are by having conversations before the topic was brought up at the Planning Commission meeting. He stated that anything that is discussed with the Planning Commissioners is to be public and they were not public. Mr. Gross asserted that Ms. Batty utilized social media that violated the parameters of the Planning Commissioners. He added that she displayed conduct unbecoming of a Planning Commissioner. Mr. Gross stated that he vehemently opposed the appointment of Ms. Batty and expressed his hope that the Council would not rubber stamp her appointment.

Mayor Leary

Mayor Leary noted that Mr. Lovie's position expired in July and there are actually three open positions on the Planning Commission. Mayor Leary stated that Mses. Rivera and Batty have both spent much time, energy, effort and dedication to the Planning Commission, which is why she endorsed them for the open positions.

David Baldini – 419 South Street

Mr. Baldini stated that he supports Ms. Rivera, noting that he worked with her on the Planning Commission. He stated that he also supports Ms. Batty, noting that she has consistently asked for studies and data to support the decisions in order to give credibility to the actions that were passed.

A motion was made to amend Resolution 2023-25 as follows:

- 2nd WHEREAS Clause: Change “there is currently one expired position” to “there are currently three expired positions”;
- NOW THEREFORE Clause: Change “approves the reappointment of the following person” to “approves the reappointment of the following persons”

The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

The motion to approve Resolution 2023-25 as amended was unanimously carried.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer

Next Regular Meeting Date: September 12, 2023
Posted: 08/21/2023