

## **Resolution 2023-32**

**A Resolution Converting the Temporary Task Force of Citizens to Research Existing Information Concerning the Impact of Sea Level Rise on the City of New Castle to a Standing Flood Resiliency Committee.**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution 2022-04 adopted unanimously on March 8, 2022, the City Council established a temporary task force concerning the impact of sea level rise on the City of New Castle; and

**WHEREAS**, this task force has completed the goals established for it by Resolution 2022-04 including learning about the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program to mitigate flooding then applying for and gaining acceptance by this program; and

**WHEREAS**, the NRCS program will continue for approximately 3-7 years including an engineering study and construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the NRCS administrator in Delaware expressed a desire for the task force to continue to serve as a liaison between the NRCS and the City of New Castle for the duration of this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Sea Level Rise Task Force wishes to broaden the scope of its activities to evaluate flooding issues in the City of New Castle caused by things other than the rising level of the Delaware River (non-riverine flooding); and

**WHEREAS**, the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan of 2018 included the following recommendation:

*CE1. Transition Flood Preparedness Task Force into standing committee with long-term role in advising City on future actions and further engaging residents and businesses.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the City Council that the temporary Task Force be converted to a Standing Committee to be known as the Flood Resiliency Committee for the purpose of serving as a liaison with the NRCS for the duration of their project in the City of New Castle and beginning the study of non-riverine flooding in the City and researching possible solutions to this and potential funding sources. The Committee will build on the work of the Task Force and 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 Committee identifies as relevant and useful; and

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

1) The Committee shall be composed of no fewer than 5 and no more than 9 residents (except as provided in #3 below) of the City of New Castle to be appointed by the City Council.

2) The current members of the former Task Force shall continue to serve on the Standing Committee with the following staggered expiration dates of their terms. Current members are eligible for reappointment at the expiration of their terms. Upon expiration of these staggered terms, members of the committee shall be appointed for 3-year terms.

Frederick Gallagher (Trustees of New Castle Common Representative) Term Expires 6/30/25

Mary Letitia (“Tish”) Gallagher Term Expires 6/30/24

Michael Marinelli Term Expires 12/31/23

Timothy Moore (Goodwill Fire Co. representative) Term Expires 6/30/24

Richard Pennell Term Expires 12/31/23

Alice Riehl Term Expires 6/30/25

Gail Seitz Term Expires 12/31/24

Sandra Taylor Term Expires 12/31/24

Additional appointments may be made by resolution of City Council.

3) In making such appointments, the Council shall strive to include residents from throughout the City of New Castle. 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. The representative of Good Will Fire Co. need not be a resident of the City of New Castle.

4) The Committee shall select a chairperson from among its members and may establish rules of procedure for the conduct of such meetings. The chair shall be selected each October for a term of 1 year. No one shall serve as chair for more than 2 consecutive years. In accordance with the State of Delaware Freedom of Information Act, all meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public, minutes of all meetings shall be maintained and made publicly available, and the dates and agendas for Committee meetings will be published 7 days in advance of said meetings. The Committee shall meet at least once per quarter on a date of its choosing and more frequently as needed.

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 Committee 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 duration of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Thereafter, the City shall include a line-item for this committee in its annual budget. Should the Committee find the need for additional funding, it shall make a request to the City Council. The City Administrator shall be advised of any third parties engaged by the Committee to facilitate the billing and payment for their services.

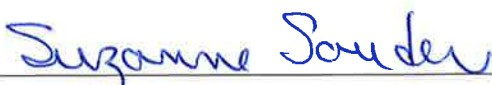
6) The goals of this Committee shall be:

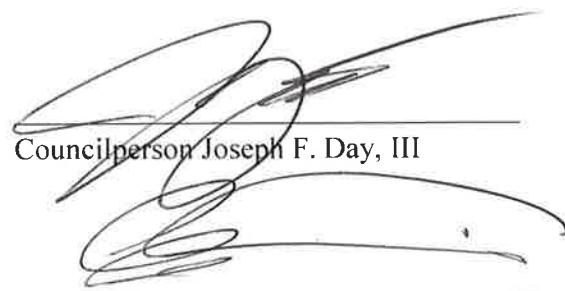
1. To serve as a liaison between the NRCS and the City of New Castle.
2. To assist in arranging such public meetings as the NRCS contractors shall require for the duration of the project.
3. To keep the City Council and residents of the City of New Castle informed of the status of the work of the NRCS.
4. To review non-riverine flooding within the City of New Castle including review of prior studies of these problems.
5. To investigate and consider possible solutions to identified non-riverine flooding problems.
6. To work with agencies of the State of Delaware such as but not limited to DNREC and DELDOT regarding resolution of flooding problems in the City of New Castle.
7. To make recommendations to the City Council regarding actions required to mitigate non-riverine flooding problems.
8. To identify potential funding sources (such as DEMA, FEMA, and others) for the cost of increasing resiliency to flooding and what portion of the costs they are likely to cover.


**PASSED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

VACANT  
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City Council President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilperson Andrew Zeltt

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilperson Suzanne M. Souder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilperson Joseph F. Day, III

  
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Councilperson Nermin Zubaca

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Courtney Taylor", is written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk Courtney Taylor