

City of New Castle Delaware
City Council Public Hearing
1 Municipal Boulevard
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
6:45 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:45PM

Roll Call

Present: Council President Suzanne M. Souder
Councilperson Nermin Zubaca
Councilperson Andrew Zeltt

Absent: Councilperson Joseph F. Day, III

Also present: William J. Barthel, City Administrator
Max Walton, Esquire, City Solicitor
Mayor Valarie Leary
Janet E. Carlin, City Treasurer
Jeffrey A. Bergstrom, City Building Official
Chief of Police Richard P. McCabe

Councilperson Souder called the October 10, 2023, City Council Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 542 – An Ordinance to Amend Chapter A236 Affirmative Action – A236-1 Intent and A236-3 Promotion of equal opportunity programs to eliminate discrimination.

Councilperson Zeltt introduced Ordinance 542 and gave an overview of the Ordinance. Councilperson Souder opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Rod Miller – West 3rd Street

Mr. Miller spoke in opposition of the proposed Ordinance, noting that there are laws already in place. Councilperson Zeltt explained that the Ordinance updates the City Code, noting that much of the language comes directly from the State of Delaware’s Code. Mr. Miller stated his concerns, opining that people have the right to identify as anything they want; but that the proposed Ordinance is attempting to “codified mental illness” and “demanding that people accept as reality something that is obviously false”. He added that approving the Ordinance may open the City to litigation.

Phil Gross – 1301 13th Street

Mr. Gross asked if there was an issue that came up that warranted such a drastic change which could put the citizens in a financial situation. Mr. Zeltt explained that the proposed Ordinance

would bring the City Code up-to-date with the current environment within the City and that it matches the State of Delaware.

David Baldini – 419 South Street

Mr. Baldini spoke in favor of the proposed Ordinance. In response to questions from Mr. Baldini, Councilperson Zeltt stated that the Code is being updated to comply with the State of Delaware. Councilperson Zeltt added that he assumed it would also bring the City into alignment with Federal Statutes and that Federal funding could cease if the City did not comply with Federal Statutes. Mr. Baldini stated that it behooves the City to be compliant to protect the City.

There being no further public comment, Councilperson Souder called a recess to the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The public hearing reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the Public Hearing was made, seconded and unanimously carried, and the hearing ended at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer

Next Regular Meeting Date: November 7, 2023
Posted: 10/03/2023