

**City of New Castle Delaware**  
**City Council Special Meeting at Town Hall**  
**201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Thursday, January 30, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order: 6:00 PM**

**Roll Call**

Councilperson Suzanne M. Souder  
Councilperson Russell P. Smith  
Council President Linda Ratchford  
Councilperson Michael M. Platt  
Councilperson Valarie W. Leary

Also present:

Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
William Barthel, City Administrator  
Kathy Walls, City Finance Coordinator

**Minutes**

After a motion and second, the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular City Council meeting were approved unanimously.

**Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only)**

Judy Baldini requested details about the traffic light poles to be discussed under Old Business.

Dave Baldini spoke in favor of **Resolution 2020-05**.

Roderick Gillespie spoke regarding his understanding of the reason for Resolution 2020-06.

Bennie Beale commented about the Third Street parking lot.

The Mayor read a Proclamation Recognizing Wallace L. Cannon III for more than 65 years of Service with Good Will Fire Company. (Mayor Quaranta – posted 1/21/2020.)

The Mayor read a Proclamation Recognizing Lois Casson for 60 Years of Service with Good Will Ladies Auxiliary. (Mayor Quaranta – posted 1/21/2020.)

The Mayor read a Proclamation Honoring the Life of William “Erve” Thatcher, Jr. (Mayor Quaranta – posted 1/21/2020.)

## **Old Business**

After a motion and second, the Council President read Resolution 2020-04, a Resolution to Determine the Style and Potential Upgrades to the Standard Traffic Light Polls to be Installed by DelDOT, at Delaware and 6th Streets (Council President Ratchford – posted 1/21/2020) into the record.

The City Administrator provided some background information behind Resolution 2020-04. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to choose option three, the ornamental poles without the ornamental pole bases, at an added cost of \$16,958. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution 2020-04**, with option number three chosen, was passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

After a motion and second, the Council President read Resolution 2020-05, a Resolution to Commit \$15,000 for each of the next Two (2) Fiscal Years for a WILMAPCO Transportation Plan Update (revised) (Council President Ratchford– posted 1/21/2020) into the record.

The Council President provided some background information behind Resolution 2020-05. After discussion, Resolution 2020-05 was passed unanimously.

After a motion and second, the Council President read Resolution 2020-06, a Resolution to Clarify and Amend Historic Area Commission Guidelines Streetscape Section to Address Paving Materials for Multi-Use Trails and Commercial/ Institutional/ Public Parking Lots (Council President Ratchford and Councilperson Smith – Posted 1/23/2020) into the record.

The Council President provided some background information behind Resolution 2020-06.

Councilperson Smith requested that Council consider allowing asphalt to be used on parking lots and multi-use trails.

After discussion, Resolution 2020-06 was passed by a vote of four to one (Councilperson Souder voting no).

After a motion and second, a break before the second portion of the meeting was approved unanimously.

## **(Break)**

The City Administrator provided a brief mid-year budget review, including the following items:

- Barring any unforeseen significant expenditures, income for the current fiscal year is expected to exceed projections, and the city is expected to remain within projected expenses.
- The city is currently financially “healthy, not wealthy.”

- In the 2013 fiscal year, the budget for Administration (HR, finance, and public works) was \$1,445,220. The same budget for the current fiscal year is \$1,320,470.
- In the 2013 fiscal year, the Public Safety budget was \$1,614,832. The same budget for the current fiscal year is \$1,749,056.

In preparation for the upcoming budget process, Council and city staff discussed various potential infrastructure projects that might be considered for the future. The City Administrator provided an overview of state funding potential to assist with infrastructure projects. The possibility of a tax increase was also discussed, as well as other possible funding sources, such as fees and fee increase. It was noted that traffic changes will impact the city, as well. The potential impact of fee increases on non-profits was mentioned.

Potential modernization related to electronic communications between the city and citizens was discussed, as well as marketing and promotion of the city and events.

Other items brought up to be considered in the upcoming budget process included grants, Christmas/holiday expenses, the Banks building (landscaping), wayfinding signage.

A dedicated budget meeting will be scheduled for February, to discuss these items in more detail.

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 7: 59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Whitaker, Clerk of the City of New Castle

Next Regular Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Posted: 1/21/2020

**Final: 1/23/2020**