

**City of New Castle Delaware**  
**Regular City Council Meeting at Town Hall**  
**201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** 7: 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:

Mayor Michael Quaranta  
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer  
William Barthel, City Administrator  
Richard McCabe, Chief of Police  
Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official and Fire Marshal

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

No items.

The Mayor read a proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Recognizing Sally Monigle for Her Many Contributions to the Historic Preservation of the City of New Castle. (Mayor Quaranta – posted 02/04/2020.) Council voted unanimously in support of the proclamation.

Pam Patone, General Manager of the Municipal Services Commission, provided an update on the Delaware Street aerial to underground utility project, reporting that since the December 2019 letter to Mayor Quaranta from MSC regarding underground utilities, MSC has met with city staff, Delmarva Gas, Verizon, Comcast, Henkels & McCoy and Cirillo Brothers to discuss the feasibility of this project. Meetings also took place with citizens who would be affected by the project on Delaware Street. The project was approved on January 16, 2020, to move forward, at an estimated cost of \$760,000. The scope will be Delaware Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the wharf, including Dalby Alley. Creation of a timeline for the project is in process.

The City Administrator advised that October 31, 2020 is the current projected completion date of the project. Mid-November would then be the timeline for completing removal of the poles.

There was further discussion about details of the project, including the importance of minimizing impact on the historical streetscape.

Victor Bryson asked whether there would be any cost to homeowners for the project. Ms. Patone advised that costs of improvements are included in the rates.

The Mayor requested that Ms. Patone elaborate on her response, who then reviewed the process by which contracts are negotiated by MSC.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The unaudited Treasurer's report was presented by the City Treasurer, as of January 31, 2020:

The unaudited Treasurer's report was presented by Janet Carlin, City Treasurer; as of January 31, 2020, \$4,014,923.94 was reported in unrestricted finds, and \$2,605,372.61 in restricted funds, for a total of cash in accounts of \$6,620,295. 55.

The city is on schedule with the budgeting process.

After a motion and second, the unaudited Treasurer's report as of January 31, 2020 was approved unanimously.

### **Reports from the City Administrator and Staff**

The City Administrator reported on a communication received from DelDOT, regarding the railroad crossing project, and the result of their study on a potential traffic light at 9<sup>th</sup> Street. DelDOT stated that the signal was needed for safety reasons, and asked whether the city supports their decision. The City Administrator will schedule DelDOT to come to a future Council meeting, in order to provide additional information.

The City Administrator also reported that in light of the recent rains, the storm water improvements appear to be handling the situation better than before. Work that DelDOT has recently completed related to this has improved the situation. Areas that need to be cleaned up further, related to this concern, will be looked into, as well as whose responsibility that will be.

The Police Chief reported that Attack Addiction's 5k run will take place on Saturday, 3/7/2020. Details will be provided on the department's Facebook page.

The Police Chief also elaborated on complaints and arrests included in the report that was provided to Council. When asked about potential "porch pirate" issues, the Chief advised that video is helpful, as well as communicating to shippers where they want items delivered.

The Chief also reported that drivers traversing high water where prohibited are eligible for a ticket, and sometimes arrest.

### **Council Communications**

No items.

### **Business from the Mayor**

The Mayor welcomed a new company to the city, Just Food For Dogs.

The first Arts Council event will be Opera Delaware, on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, which will also include stand-up comedy.

The Mayor commented that directional signage on the bike trail is too small for riders to read as they go past, and made suggestions for improvements.

On Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Mayor attended the Goodwill Fire Company banquet.

There was some additional discussion about Just Food For Dogs, as well as additional discussion related to bike trail signage.

**Business from the Council President**

No items.

**Public Comments**

Victor Bryson requested that issues on the road through Dobbinsville be addressed.

Phil Gross requested that issues with the bulkhead in the area of Battery Park be addressed.

Roderick Gillespie requested that Council pressure the Trustees to suspend efforts to build the proposed parking lot at West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Karen Whalen asked whether the 3rd Street parking lot site was reviewed by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

After a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brian Whitaker Clerk of the City of New Castle**

Next Regular Meeting Date: March 10, 2020

Posted: 02/04/2020