

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

Mayor

John P. Buchheit, III

Vice Mayor

Paul H. Johnson, Sr.

Councilmembers

Betty Barrett

Michael J. Doebley

Ronald R. Graham, II

Jennifer M. Sullivan

THE CITY OF DELAWARE CITY

407 Clinton Street – P.O. Box 4159

Delaware City, Delaware 19706

Phone: 302-834-4573 Fax: 302-832-5545

City Manager

Richard C. Cathcart

Chief of Police

Daniel A. Tjaden

Interim City Solicitor

Max B. Walton

City Treasurer

Dawn K. Gwynn

City Secretary

Michelle A. Hartman

**CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
REGULAR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

The Honorable Mayor Buchheit called to order the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council at 7:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Barrett, Johnson, Sullivan, and Doebley. Also present were City Manager Cathcart, City Treasurer Gwynn and City Secretary Hartman.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Mayor Buchheit led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for Ron Meadowcroft.

ACTION UPON THE TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Gwynn has the July and August Treasurers Report. Discussion followed. Also City Treasure Gwynn needs completed W4's from Mayor and Council. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the July Treasurers Report subject to audit. Councilmember Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the August Treasurers Report subject to audit. Councilmember Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried

ACTION UPON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilmember Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2011 Mayor and Council meeting. Councilmember Doebley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Tjaden reported the statistics for the period from 9/19/2011 to 10/16/2011. He also reported the following.

- Met with Ed Poling who chairs the Delaware City Community Court to discuss plans and implementation of the program.
- Met with Senator Coons staff to discuss the loss of the COPS Grant to Delaware City and how to further fund the position.
- Met with several residents of the Mobile Home Park in reference to starting a community watch.

- Met with City Manager Cathcart and Delaware City Mobile Home Park Management to talk about high number of criminal complaints in the community. Chief Tjaden will not be reporting the number of times they respond to the community. They have also offered the management to meet monthly with the community watch before Mayor and Council meetings to discuss any issues they are having.
- Working with Elsmere Police Department on the Domestic Violence Grant.
- Arrested three probationers for violations related to drug sales in the community.
- Met with Mr. Hart regarding his donation of a 1972 Plymouth, to be used by the city in parades and other events. The car will be marked to resemble one of the first Delaware City Police cars.
- Delaware City Police cars and motorcycles were marked Friday, October 14, 2011.
- We will be losing seasonal officers soon Chief Tjaden would like to keep them on longer as they are making a good number of arrests.

Discussion followed.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

City Solicitor was not in attendance.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Applied for reimbursement of expenses incurred during Hurricane Irene. We will receive a 75% reimbursement which equates to approximately \$36,000 of the \$49,000 expenses.
- Street and Curb repairs are near complete with the recent completion of curb repairs on Clinton Street.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant of \$465,000:
 - Solar Project is near completion. Energy Office is coordinating a press event with the Governor's office.
 - HVAC project will start this week.
 - Electrical and Lighting will start November 1, 2011.
- City Secretary Hartman and I met with Marcia Fox concerning the phragmites and identified critical areas that needed addressing.
- Attended an all day workshop on Storm Water Education and Public Outreach as related to federal storm water discharge permit.
- Met with Max Walton concerning the following issues:
 - Delinquent accounts in the area of taxes and water, approx. \$60,000.
 - Delaware City Trailer Park rights of evictions for crimes and frequent police contacts.
 - Dr. Burdick another judgment.
 - Alderman's court – two types one like Newark has full court, criminal, traffic and civil the other traffic only such as Newport.
- Met with Henry Nickel to review existing Insurance Coverage. Meeting with Theresa DeSanto, Delaware League of Local Governments Insurance program on Wednesday. Looking for cost saving opportunities.
- Met with the Library Board today to discuss responsibilities of the library under the new Librarian relating to the Senior Center and After School Program. Also, discussed maintenance issues and the non-existence of a formal lease.
- Held a meeting with Terry Rock and Kenna Green of the Delaware City Mobile Home Community with Chief Tjaden in attendance. We discussed the increase of police presence in the trailer park and our more pro- active approach to patrols in the community. We also made suggestions as to the owners taking a more active role in

evicting individuals causing problems under the current provisions of the leases. Made suggestions on community clean-up. The owners agreed to the following events:

- October 22nd Community Clean-up weekend.
 - October 29th Community Power Wash weekend.
 - November 5th Street Sweeper cleaning all the streets.
 - Established and organized two community service events.
 - October 29th Household Hazardous Waste Collection
 - October 29th Prescription drug and over the counter drug turn in.Both events are from 8 AM to Noon at the Fire Company parking lot.
 - Brought Michelle Hartman on full time.
 - Attended various evening meetings including: Main Street, Historical Preservation Commission, Community Court Session and Delaware City Day Committee.
 - First 100 Days Top Ten Goals and Objectives Review.
- Discussion followed.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Appointment to PC – Councilmember Johnson made a motion to accept Germaine Smith-Lewis's appointment to the PC. Councilmember Doebley seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Bill Miller – 146 Warfel Drive – Started the Delaware City Community Court this Wednesday. We are the pilot program for the state. If anyone has any questions please see Mr. Miller.

Mike Hendry – 400 Clinton Street – Sent Mayor and Council an email about the DART bus stop proposed just east of Town Hall. He is concerned about loitering, trash and traffic safety. He would like to suggest the stop be relocated outside of the residential areas.

Albert Schrack – Lot 66 DCMHP – Working on the DCMHP Community Watch and Homeowners Association. Storm drain is still an issue the berm needs to be address to the Army Corps Engineers by the city. The drain needs cleaned out, grate needs moved or replaced. Discussion followed.

Jerry Wood – 116 Clover Circle – Questioned where the funding for an Alderman's Court would come from. City Manager Cathcart responded this would only be a part time position, perhaps one day per week. The fines, court costs, etc. would pay for the court. Discussion followed.

Tim Dilliplane – 118 Clinton Street – The last two lights on the Promenade are still not complete. Discussion followed.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Main Street – Dale Slotter – Planters are on display in Battery Park and ready for adoption. Fee is \$300 for the first year and \$100 a year for maintenance they are customizable with your name/logo. Reminder this is tax deductible contribution. They will be interviewing the consultant for the rebranding of Delaware City this Friday. Also there will be a Heron Habit restoration project behind Kathy's. Dale anticipates

completion by February. He would like invite anyone interested to attend the Main Street Meetings held the third Thursday of the month at Crabby Dick. Discussion followed.

Delaware City Day Committee – Dick Cathcart – Held his first meeting as Chair last Thursday. They are looking for volunteers to join the committee. The meetings are held the second Thursday of the month in Town Hall at 6:00PM. Discussion followed.

Charter Committee – Paul Johnson – Charter Committee met tonight, they are half way thru with changed. Their goal is to be complete by the end of the year to get to the legislature early 2012. They hope to have the new Charter in place before the next Municipal Election Period. Paul would like to add to next months Mayor and Council a Public Hearing to go over the first half of the changes to give the residents a chance to look at what they've done so far.

Delaware City Fire Company – Wally Poppe – This Saturday is the Annual Open House from 10AM-2PM and on Sunday is Basket Bingo. This coming year will be their 125th Anniversary year. The committee will be planning celebrations, memorial services, open houses and events throughout town. They are looking for ways to raise funds to offset the costs.

OLD BUSINESS

City Manager Cathcart presented Resolution 00-0919-01 Amended – Relating to the 2011 Forest Canopy Density Goal with revised percentages. Councilmember Sullivan made a motion to adopt Resolution 11-0919-01. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of FY12 2nd Quarter Supplemental Tax – Per the Charter this must be approved by Mayor and Council on a quarterly basis. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the FY12 2nd Quarter Supplemental Tax. Councilmember Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

Solar Energy Phase II Presentation – AERCA Advisors, Brian Yerger gave a presentation on Solar Power Purchase Agreement. He explained the differences between Balance Sheet (cash and/or debt), Lease (on balance sheet liability) and Power Purchase Agreement (off balance sheet liability) and the benefits and draw backs of each. Discussion followed. City Manager Cathcart would like to stress to council the timeline on this and request he be able to move forward. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to allow City Manager Cathcart to be able to move forward with the Solar Energy Phase II project. Councilmember Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

DART Service Update & Additional Bus Stop – Semia Hackett – She is happy to report the surveys have come back and Delaware City has an average of 68 riders per day. The trash receptacles were approved in the grant and with Councils approval they will be installed with the agreement that the city is responsible for trash disposal. The proposed location of the additional stop would be on Clinton Street in front of Town Hall. Discussion followed. Councilmember Doebley mentioned the code violations by the bus service relating to the length of the buses and some of the stops. Mayor Buchheit would like feedback from the residents on Clinton Street that would be directly impacted by the

proposed stop location. Semia stated she could send out a survey utilizing grant funds for such information. Discussion followed. It was decided by council to wait for the survey information to base a decision possibly at the November Mayor and Council meeting. Mayor Buchheit stated there is a "Dinner on DART" planned by Main Street for November 1, 2011 at 6:15PM. City Manager Cathcart suggested a Task Force to research the issues with the Delaware City Code Violations. Those volunteered – Mike Hendry, Albert Schrack, Mike Doebley and Jen Sullivan.

Recycling Collection – City Manager Cathcart – The new recycling process is underway and improving. However it has posed an issue for the contractor adding to the collection time and volume of recycling which has increased their cost. City Manager Cathcart has looked into other cities and municipalities we are the only one that has weekly recycling pick up. City Manager Cathcart anticipates coming back to the November meeting with the suggestion to go to a bi-weekly pick up and hold a public forum giving the public an opportunity to have input on the proposal. Discussion followed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Manager Cathcart will start "Coffee & Dessert with the City Manager" in November the third Wednesday of the month from 6PM to 7PM.

Mayor Buchheit met with Main Street and City Manager about the marketing of the Sterling Building. They will be hosting an Open House on October 29, 2011 from 2-4PM.

Mayor Buchheit requested a roll call those present were Councilmember Barrett, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Sullivan, and Councilmember Doebley, absent was Councilmember Graham.

Vice Mayor Johnson and his wife are expecting their second child in April, 2012.

City Manager Cathcart presented a report on the legal expenses for the first quarter vs. the budget. Discussion followed.

City Manager Cathcart mentioned the flag pole in Battery Park being stuck at full mast. He wanted to thank Wally Poppe and Delaware City Fire Company for making arrangements for Christiana Fire Company to come out and use their ladder to take down the flag in order to repair the broken rope. City Manager Cathcart suggests sending a donation to Christiana Fire Company for their assistance. Councilmember Doebley made a motion for the City to make a \$100 donation to the Christiana Fire Company. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Doebley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hartman
City Secretary