

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

Mayor

John P. Buchheit, III

Vice Mayor

Paul H. Johnson, Sr.

Council Members

Betty Barrett

Michael J. Doebley

Ronald R. Graham, II

Jennifer M. Sullivan

THE CITY OF DELAWARE CITY

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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
SPECIAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Mayor Buchheit called to order the special meeting of the Mayor and Council at 6:30PM. Present were Council Member's Barrett, Graham, Johnson, Sullivan and Doebley. Also present were City Manager Cathcart and City Clerk/Treasurer Gwynn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Mayor Buchheit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE POLICE CONSULTANT

City Manager Cathcart gave an update to the people in attendance that may not have been at the January Council meeting. He stated in no way is the purpose of bringing in the consultant to eliminate the Police Department or Chief Tjaden. The purpose for him recommending the consultant was based on a discussion at the December meeting about hiring more police officers. At that time he told Council that he would investigate it and look at statistics and data in order to justify hiring another officer. City Manager Cathcart not being of law enforcement background feels this was a good time to bring in the consultant to evaluate the police department. City Manager Cathcart read the consultants scope of work and the purpose of the evaluation. As requested City Manager Cathcart has provided Council with five professional references and how his services have benefited them. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ray Fruytier – 909 Fifth Street – He has all confidence in City Manager Cathcart and Chief Tjaden. Getting a consultant is a good idea and he doesn't understand why anyone would object if we have the funds from the cell tower.

Rita Marocco – 133 Adams Street – She is familiar with the use of consultants especially in determining grants, now you have to have objective data. She fully supports the

consultant. What is disturbing is council voted on this and now say they didn't have enough information to vote. She is still unclear how a quorum could have been held outside public view to turn this around and call a special meeting.

Kerry Rhoads – 124 Clinton Street – Totally supports this; we need a police force in town. He thinks if we have the consultant come it will better our chances when we try to obtain new grants.

Paul Parets – 300 Bayard Street – Thinks prior to getting a consultant we should consider why we are here tonight, obviously there is doubt. Personally he feels \$2,500 could be better spent. He doesn't feel the Police Department needs evaluated.

Tim Konkus – 302 Canal Street – He feels \$2,500 is not a lot of money to spend on a consultant if it will help Chief Tjaden who is already overworked. When the scope of work is written he would like it to be in a positive light in order to create an effective police force here within our means. Rather than using the word evaluation he suggests using assessment.

John Martin – 212 Washington Street – He believes \$2,500 could be better spent on the needs of the citizens. He encourages council to have the current city staff investigate as much data as allows before spending the money.

Sandy Malinowski – 304 Bayard Street – Is wondering why at this at this particular time we need to hire a consultant. If there is a problem that the citizens are unaware of she feels the citizens should be made aware.

Albert Schrack – Lot 66 DCMHP – Agrees to not spend the money because the City Manager stated we do not have to follow any of the recommendations the consultant gives. However we all know and agree that we need another full time officer. Shouldn't the contract be put out for bid rather than a direct contract?

Ray Fruytier – 909 Fifth Street – People act as if \$2,500 is \$25,000. If that is the issue he will pay the \$2,500 fee.

Mike Hendry – 400 Clinton Street – Fully supports this mainly because his expertise is in technology and there is a lot of new technology out there. That's where he feels the consultant can help us. It's great that we have new computers but how do we use and analyze the data. He doesn't feel \$2,500 is a lot for the information we could possibly get out of it.

Tim Dilliplane – 118 Clinton Street – His expertise is in management, teaching managers. One thing a consultant will do is save us a lot of time. We can find our short comings but it will take a long time. This man being an expert will find them quickly. There is the time constraint to consider getting someone in the academy.

Rita Marocco – 133 Adams Street – Back to her concern that council voted on this and from what she's hearing they did so out of ignorance. To have four people, which is a quorum sign this letter means there was a meeting without the public. That is against the law and wants that investigated.

Pat Webb – 115 5th Street – Totally supports spending \$2,500. She is a business owner and spends money every year on consultants to find new ways to spend less and make more money. It's a small investment to make things better for our community.

MOTION FOR THE POLICE CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Council Member Graham made a motion to not hire the consultant for the police department. Council Member Doebley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A roll call vote was taken, Council Member Barrett – aye, Graham – aye, Johnson – nay, Sullivan – nay, Doebley – aye, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Beth Konkus – 302 Canal Street – She is disappointed with the motion. There are enough residents willing to contribute and donate the \$2,500 to get the consultant.

Sandy Malinowski – 304 Bayard Street – She has lived on Bayard for 30 years and they have been promising a street for years. She would like to see a street not a lane where two cars can pass, not filled with holes first. She feels there are more important issues.

Dale Slotter – 210 Clinton Street – He thoroughly supports the consultant and feels if the \$2,500 is the main issue then he would strongly suggest someone on council make a motion to say they will approve the consultant if it is privately funded by donation from the citizens.

Paul Parets – 300 Bayard Street – He commends council for thinking about this. Where there is doubt deal with it first. The city needs to do an assessment on the own before bringing someone in to do a larger assessment.

Janet Austin – 310 Bayard Street – She hopes this does not sway the fact that we do need additional officers.

Rita Marocco – 133 Adams Street – In response to the use of private funds towards a public endeavor, there has never been a problem getting donations. There are a large amount of people here that feel it's a good idea and are willing to contribute. It says a lot about what council thinks of their constituents if they turn it down. Council owes the public an explanation how this was voted on at the last meeting and four people signed a letter to address it again.

Lisa Webster – 100 Clinton Street, Apt. 5 – She has been a resident in town for one year. Her concern is there has been a procedural error and shame on you. You had the right with Roberts Rule of Order and/or Parliamentary Procedure. What should have happened as the last meeting was have a committee formed to decide whether the consultant was necessary. The question has never been do we need another officer.

Doris Grant – 133 Washington Street – She wants to say as a professional human resources worker that benchmarking positions when you do not know what they are is a no brainer. Consultants are very important, when going for grants it carries more weight coming from an outside source.

Beth Konkus – 302 Canal Street – City Manager Cathcart was hired to run this town. It's terrible how people are acting towards his recommendations.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Sullivan made a motion to move ahead with the consultant based upon the fact it is strictly funded by constituents or a fundraiser. The motion was found out of order, motion removed from the table.

Council Member Sullivan made a motion to withdraw the prior motion presented by Council Member Graham. The motion was not seconded. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Barrett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle A. Hartman
City Secretary