

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
407 Clinton Street - P.O. Box 4159
Delaware City, Delaware 19706
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**MINUTES
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
DELAWARE CITY FIRE COMPANY
815 FIFTH STREET**

MONTHLY MEETING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the June 15, 2020 meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

In addition to Mayor Johnson, Vice Mayor Malinowski, Council Members Titus, Renoll, Konkus and Buchheit were present. City Manager Baylor, Finance Manager Graham, Chief of Police Winch and City Secretary Loveland were also present.

City Solicitor Walton was not present.

ACTION UPON MINUTES

Council Member Konkus made the motion to accept the June 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Titus. A vote was taken, all members were in favor. Minutes were accepted as written.

POLICE REPORT

City Manager Baylor said there was no police report since the report was given at the June 1st meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

-Bluewater company has submitted documents to the Cities Engineer. Blue Water is planning to make a presentation to Mayor and Council in July.

-They have revised the use of force policy to stay consistent nationwide. No choke holds or Knees in that back area effective immediately. They will continue to update procedures to stay consistent nationwide.

-The City Manager has contacted an environmental company about the phragmites along the canal.

Council Member Buchheit asked if along the canal is City property. City Manager Baylor said it is shared between the City and the Army Corp. City Manager Baylor said that in the past the City had taken care of it. Council Member Buchheit said he always thought it was Marina property. City Manager Baylor said he would look into it.

Council Member Buchheit asked if the meeting that was held with the City Manager and the Refinery was recorded. City Manager Baylor said it was not. Council Member Buchheit asked if the City has asked them to remove the barbed wire. City Manager Baylor said yes they have, the Refinery said they will remove the barbed wire, but they will not be removing the fence.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no solicitors report for this meeting.

ACTION UPON FINANCE REPORT

Finance Manager Graham presented the financial report as of May 31, 2020 to Council.

(Full report is attached)

Council Member Buchheit made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit; the motion was seconded by Council Member Renoll. *The Finance report was accepted.*

Questions/Comments from Council

Council Member Konkus asked what the payoff for the bonds were. Finance Manager Graham said for the 1995 Bond, the payoff is approximately \$432,000 and the 2006 bond is approximately 120,000.

Councilmember Buchheit asked what the Miscellaneous expenditures are, listed under Mayors Ball Funds. Finance Manager Graham said those were for signage at the Community center and the Bridge Lights.

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Elections - Pamela Collacchi

Councilmember Buchheit made the motion seconded by Council Member Konkus, all were in favor, motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Lynn Dilliplane – Historic Preservation Commission

She wanted to let Council Know that the Gazebo for the park has been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Council Member Buchheit asked if there will be Two Gazebos. City Manager Baylor said for now he would like to repair the current gazebo, so no one is injured on it. There is not yet a timeline for when the new Gazebo will be installed.

OLD BUISNESS

There was no Old Business on the agenda

Council Member Buchheit asked Council to reconsider the motion that was made to sell the water system on the following grounds.

-He feels there was a lack of transparency for public comment as the meeting was not posted on the City's website within the proper time frame.

-He says there was a notice in the post office but next to it was the posting that stated all meetings were cancelled due to coronavirus.

- Town hall has been closed for several months preventing the public from being able to stop in and ask questions.

-Our Solicitor was not present at the last meeting, we had a fill in Solicitor and he would feel better with our own Solicitor being at the table.

-A member of the community was asked to serve on a Committee but was never contacted about it.

-We have had no recommendations from our Board of Health saying which water system is better.

-We don't really know the value of the water system but we do have a 3.5 million dollar offer, so he says it must be worth that much.

-Artesian has been maintaining our water system and we lost water Two times last year, costing Thousands of dollars in revenue to the Business Community and hardships for our Residents.

-The water pressure at some residences, one being the Owner of the Delaware City Bistro is horrible and she cannot get half of her appliances working.

-Lastly, our water system is showing a profit, so why are we in such a hurry to sell it.

Council did not take any action.

NEW BUISNESS

Discussion of the FY21 Budget Timeline

City Manager Baylor explained that the plan to have a budget workshop next week and the budget will be approved by June 29th.

Mayor Johnson suggested some dates to set the Workshop. Council decided on Wednesday the 24th at 6:00pm at Town Hall.

City Manager Baylor suggested having a second date scheduled and posted in the event its needed for Thursday the 25th.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Renoll

None

Council Member Konkus-

-Asked if we could waive our Ordinance to allow banners in the Business District to help the businesses struggling from the Coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Johnson said it should be done by resolution at the next meeting.

-She also wanted to thank the police department and let them know they are appreciated.

Council Member Titus

Thanked Cutting Edge and the City Manager for how nice the flower beds in the park look.

Vice Mayor Malinowski

None

Council Member Buchheit

-The city is looking great. The park is getting used more than ever. Take Out has been doing great and he feels the city is doing a great job.

-The Delaware City Hotel is slated for a New Years Eve Opening and both the Hotel and Restaurant are Handicap accessible

-There is a new Hair Salon coming to the old Boyer and Crunchy building.

Mayor Paul Johnson

-Delaware City Day is still on track to take place. They are moving forward with that process.

-He doesn't think we will be able to pull off a Mayor's Ball this year.

-The Current Gazebo is being repaired. He has asked the City Manager to get quotes.

-The Election is on for June 30th at the Community Center.

-June 30th the Fire Company will be hosting a Blood Drive

-The Mayor & City Manager are meeting with a company that writes Grants for Municipalities in hopes to possibly use them for the City.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Unnamed Resident- Pointed out that parking downtown on the weekends is very difficult. She suggested putting a Bike Rack on Washington Street to encourage bikers to park back there.

Sandy Malinowski – Recognized Jim Grant and Don Hutchinson for their efforts to pay their respects on Memorial Day at the Local Cemeteries and at Veterans Point. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony was Cancelled.

Owner, The Salt Box- Thanked everyone for their support. He said he was pleasantly surprised when he came to Delaware City by the positivity and support they have received from the community.

Tim Dilliplane-118 Clinton Street- The refinery had a large Flare and he would like us to look into fine money. City Manager Baylor said there is none, it was a planned burn.

Lynn Dilliplane- 118 Clinton Street- Let everyone know about a New Veterans Cemetery that's been discovered on Route 71.

Erica Lindsey 905A Fifth Street- She explained to everyone that at the February meeting she read lines from the Original HB310 but she was informed after the meeting by Solicitor Walton that that line did not make it into the bill, it was removed the month before. She also stated she attended the Planning Commission Meeting on March second where Bluewater Development Presented. She said it was revealed in the meeting that New Castle County and PLUS review require 100 foot buffers between wetlands and development, Delaware City does not. Blue water expressed that if they had to follow that rule they would not be able to develop the campground. The buffers are meant to safeguard our wetlands and flooding and she says this development will compromise our aquifers. She also asked Bluewater questions regarding Day Passes. She asked if they will be made available to Delaware City Residents, and she says they responded that they do offer that at their other parks. She asked if there will be restrictions due to holidays and weekends and she says they responded yes. She asked if the cost would be comparable to their Maui Jacks Locations and she says they responded yes. She feels there will be a ton of restrictions with passes and the prices will be high. She informed everyone that the planning commission voted yes and the next step is for it to come before council. She said she started a Change.Org campaign that got 1000 signatures in 10 days so she reached out to multiple decision makers but did not get a response. She also said she has brought up multiple times the reserved parking signs at Ft. DuPont. She says it's been 5 months and the signs are still there. She feels its Elitist behavior.

Discussion Followed among Citizens.

Mayor Johnson explained that this was a State Project. The State was going to develop that land regardless. Everything that has been done there has gone through the Planning Commission.

City Manager Baylor said that in fairness the project is not approved yet. It's still going through the process and the next step is to come before Council. He said to give council the chance to ask these questions before making is seem as if it's been a done deal. He also said this has been open and will remain open.

Councilmember Konkus said the upcoming meeting will be the first meeting where Council will see this project.

Mayor Johnson announced that George Palmer resigned from the Historic Preservation Commission. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson asked for a Motion to adjourn. Council Member Konkus made the motion, Council Member Titus seconded the motion, and all were in favor. *Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Britney Loveland
City Secretary*