



CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
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**CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
October 2, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Honorable Mayor Green called to order the special meeting and public hearing of the Mayor and Council at 6:00 pm. Present were: Council Member Konkus, Council Member Titus, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Malinowski, Council Member Buchheit, City Manager Cathcart, City Secretary Gwynn and Police Chief Baylor.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Green apologized to the Council for not being clear when he reached out to them for direction about the appointments. He apologized and said the burden rests on his shoulders. He said he will not let that happen again.

APPOINTMENT TO THE FORT DUPONT REDEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mayor Green read a letter from Herb Netsch, in which he resigned from the Fort DuPont Advisory Board contingent upon his appointment to the Fort DuPont Board of Directors. The Mayor read Mr. Netsch's resume. The Mayor asked for a motion. *Council Member Buchheit made a motion to appoint Herb Netsch to the Fort DuPont Board of Directors. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the Council Members voting as follows: Konkus – nay, Titus – nay, Johnson – aye, Malinowski – aye, and Buchheit – aye. Motion*

carried. Council Member Titus asked to make a comment, saying that while she liked Mr. Netsch, she was looking for someone with different qualifications for this position, as it would be a multi-billion dollar project.

DISCUSSION OF DELAWARE CITY DAY AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE FIREWORKS

Mayor Green opened the floor to public comments. He asked the public to stay focused on the direction of the discussion. He asked the residents, who wished to speak to come to the podium, state their name and address and give opinion/suggestions. He said everyone would listen and he would take copious notes, but no decision would be reached this evening.

Mike McMichael, 129 Washington Street, said he has lived in Delaware City for 29 years. He said he is in favor of the parade and children's events in the park, but the fireworks are a Zoo. He said after the event, he constantly policed his block and found dirty diapers in his yard, beer bottles, other alcoholic beverage containers as well as drug paraphernalia. He said these people have no respect for the community or people's property. He said he would like to see the money spent on programs for the kids to do something positive for them rather than spending it on the fireworks. Mr. McMichael said for safety purposes, we don't need the fireworks. He reported incidents that were reported the fire company. He said this year and in past years there have been incidents. He said they had to get Port Penn and Odessa fire companies to assist.

Natalie Green, 202 Seventh Street, said Delaware City Day is a family tradition to the people who have lived here for years. In the 1980's and 1990's, there were larger issues than there are now. Ms. Green said the incident that occurred at Front and Clinton Streets could have happened before or after Delaware City Day. It had nothing to do with Delaware City Day, the bars or the restaurants. It had nothing to do with drinking. She said she knows who the kids were who beat up the boy and they were teenage kids and not drinking. They had not been in a bar. On Delaware City Day, many families watch the parade, go home for a barbeque and then the whole family goes downtown to watch the fireworks. When you have a large crowd, bad things will happen. Delaware City Day is a long-standing, full-day tradition.

Andrea Nolan, 215 Bayard Street, said she has been coming to Delaware City Day since her children were little. She said she hates to see the fireworks go away, but an alternative would be to do the fireworks on the Fourth of July, like everyone else does. Delaware City Day could still have a parade, the vendors, music and games for kids in the park.

Mike Hendry, 400 Clinton Street, said he would like to acknowledge that the initiatives that have been taken have improved things in the last couple years. He

said he doesn't understand why the City spends so much money and volunteer time to throw a party for the rest of the State. He said he would like to see the time and money spent on something done by the town and for the town. He said he doesn't understand why the City has to have the biggest and best fireworks. He wondered why they can't just be good. Mr. Hendry said teenagers stand up respectfully every day in school to pledge allegiance to the flag. He wondered what we are teaching our children when we don't celebrate the Fourth of July. We should celebrate our Freedom and move the fireworks to the Fourth of July. Have the fireworks be just for the town and keep it local.

Kelly McVey, 308 Jefferson Street, said Delaware City Day is a tradition. She said trash and parking are problems. They are always problems when you have that many people together. She suggested having trash receptacles in areas of town other than the business district. Ms. McVey said the incident that occurred involved residents, so it could not be blamed on outsiders. She said not everyone has the respect we would like, but Delaware City Day has always been Delaware City Day. She said whether it is held on the Fourth of July, or the middle of July, it has always been the parade, listening to music in the park, going home for barbeque and returning downtown for the fireworks. She agreed that parking is a problem, but once the fireworks are over, the people get in their cars and leave town. She said Delaware City Day is a tradition.

Natalie Green, 202 Seventh Street, said many residents go to a military celebration for the Fourth of July and celebrate with the people who gave her freedom.

Mayor Green said copious note were taken, will be studied and discussed probably by a task force and Council. He asked if there was anyone else who wanted to say anything.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

Council Member Titus said she would like to go back to the issue of the board. She said she would like to make a motion to rescind... Mayor Green said that was out of order and that part of the meeting had already been concluded. He said it could be put on the agenda for the next Mayor and Council meeting.

Jean Bonner, 203 Clinton Street, said she would like to make a comment about the appointment to the Fort DuPont Board of Directors. She said she would like to ask a question about procedures. Mayor Green said she could address it at the next Mayor and Council meeting, during Citizens' Comments. Councilman Buchheit questioned why Ms. Bonner could not make a comment on the appointment. The response was that there was no provision for public comment on the agenda that was publically posted in advance of the special meeting. Discussion followed. Council Members Konkus and Titus asked to have the

appointment to the Fort DuPont Board of Directors on the agenda for the next Mayor and Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Malinowski made a motion to adjourn the Mayor and Council Meeting. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn K. Gwynn
City Secretary