

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

CITY OF DELAWARE CITY

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**CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

The Honorable Mayor Green called to order the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council at 6:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Green led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were The Honorable Mayor Green, Council Members Konkus, Titus, Johnson, Malinowski and Buchheit. City Manager Cathcart, City Treasurer Hartman, City Secretary Gwynn, and Police Chief Baylor were also in attendance. Mayor Green recognized State Representative Longhurst and State Senator Poore who were also present.

ACTION UPON THE TREASURER'S REPORT

City Treasurer Hartman presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2015. *Council Member Buchheit made a motion to approve the February 2015 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Council Member Malinowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.*

ACTION UPON THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

February 23, 2015

Council Member Buchheit made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2015, regular Mayor and Council meeting. Council Member Titus seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

March 4, 2015

City Secretary Gwynn informed the Mayor and Council of corrections requested by the City Solicitor. The corrections were as follows: Page 5 – Council Questions by Council Member Titus – Add the word “likely” to the sentence, making the statement “didn’t see provisions for vehicles likely leaking oil and/or antifreeze...”; Page 7 and Page 8 – Reasons for Council Member Konkus’ vote – add the phrase, “She incorporated the Planning Commission’s Findings of Fact as part of her vote.”

Council Member Titus made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Council Member Malinowski seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Baylor reported the statistics for the month of February. Chief Baylor also reported that there were two deaths which appeared to be suspicious, but were later ruled by the Medical Examiner’s Office as being due to natural causes. He said there were 29 traffic violations, but stated that everyone was not cited as some were caused by weather and plowing issues. There were five thefts and five assaults. The Chief reported 14 incidents of open door/ window. These were mostly observed in the mobile home park, in trailers that were not occupied.

Chief Baylor said there was an incident during the afternoon of the M & C meeting, when several reports came into the police station about two cars chasing each other through Harbor Estates. This turned out to be a case of road rage that started on Route 13 and ended up in Delaware City. He said the police have a lead on one of the drivers.

The Chief reported that tractor trailers being parked in town is an ongoing problem. The police have been posting stickers on the vehicles’ windows to make the owners/drivers aware of the fact that they are not permitted to park in town. He added that he will be meeting with City Manager Cathcart, regarding how to address these vehicles being parked on private property within the City.

Council Member Buchheit said that recently a house in Townsend was shut down for being a nuisance property, due the drug and crime issues. He asked about the process to have a property shut down as a nuisance, as there are a couple trailers in the mobile home park that could qualify, due to repeated drug offences and crime. The Chief said there is a new system that will track the history of a

specific address. Going forward the police would be able to identify the number of calls for service at a specific address and what the calls were for. The police could then determine if a particular premise is a nuisance and deal with it accordingly. City Manager Cathcart said they are also reviewing an ordinance that would give the police department and the City more leverage to close down these nuisance properties.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no City Solicitor's Report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's Report as there were only three days between the last meeting and the City Manager's vacation.

APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable Mayor Green recommended Debra Sellers to fill an uncompleted term on the Historic Preservation Commission. *Council Member Konkus made a motion to approve the appointment of Debra Sellers to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill an uncompleted term. Council Member Titus seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.*

The Honorable Mayor Green recommended Toby Williams to fill an uncompleted term on the Planning Commission. *Council Member Malinowski made a motion to accept the appointment of Toby Williams to the Planning Commission to fill an uncompleted term. Council Member Buchheit seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.*

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Delaware City Library – Librarian Josias Bartram gave a written report to the Mayor and Council, which included graphs showing the improvements in circulation, with a 47% increase in February 2015. He reported that the career fair would be rescheduled due to a staff member injury. He highlighted the upcoming programs for the children.

Mr. Bartram thanked David Orr for establishing the Linda Orr Memorial Fund, which had received \$1500 in donations to date. The funds given in Linda's memory will be used for renovations of the room for the children and teens. He also thanked the Delaware City Refinery, Nooter Construction and the Delaware City Community Park District for their generous support, along with all of the individuals who helped make the annual appeal a resounding success.

Delaware City Day Committee – Council Member Johnson said the new website is up and running. He said a letter asking for volunteers was sent to the Delaware Volunteer Firemen Association. He stressed that the committee will need more volunteers.

Main Street Delaware City – Liz Gordon reported that she has been working as hard as she can, setting up new computers, with an activity calendar and necessary forms. She said Main Street has been having meetings, with the next meeting being held March 24, 2015. They have formed a search committee to look for a new project manager who will make Main Street a powerful force for Delaware City. Ms. Gordon said she recently met with some key players working on the trail and the Fort DuPont project. She said Main Street welcomes volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Preston Carden's Rezoning Request at 119 Fifth Street
City Manager Cathcart said this item has been removed from the agenda.

NPDES Annual Report Approval

City Manager Cathcart said this is the annual report that has to do with discharge. *Council Member Buchheit made a motion to approve the report. Council Member Konkus seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Buchheit said this was his last Mayor and Council meeting as an elected official. He reported that 15 people attended the server training. He added that there would be no additional server training in Delaware City, but interested parties could contact the Alcohol Beverage Commission regarding training.

Council Member Buchheit questioned water turn-offs and recommended that residential water turn offs only be done on Monday. This would allow residents to pay to have their water turned back on before the weekend.

He said he was very proud of the accomplishments that occurred during the last four years. He said when he was first elected Mayor there was no full-time City Manager, the City Solicitor quit and the acting City Manager/City Clerk resigned. He said so much has been accomplished by a great team, including the sale of Sterling's, the solar field, etc. He said the City is in a better financial position than

ever because of the super team, consisting of a great Council and great City Manager. He said the City will continue to be strong. He thanked his partner Dale Slotter for all his support and assistance. He thanked the citizens for letting him serve as Mayor and Council Member.

Council Member Malinowski – No Report

Council Member Johnson – No Report

Council Member Konkus commended Librarian Josias Bartram for a job well done and thanked him for his report. She also thanked Council Member Buchheit for all that he has done for the City.

Council Member Titus said she did not have a report. She also thanked Mr. Bartram and Council Member Buchheit.

Mayor Green said the Delaware Mayors' Charity Ball was a success. He thanked former Mayor Buchheit, founder of the event. He said the ball is such a popular event in the State of Delaware and has raised so much money for the children of Delaware City. He also thanked the committee members and Representative Longhurst for their assistance. He read a note of thanks he received from DNREC Secretary Smalls.

Mayor Green listed the meetings he attended during the month. He said he also attended the ceremony to re-certify Police Chief Baylor. He congratulated Chief Baylor for persevering to complete the training that took 600 hours.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ray Fruytier, 909 Fifth Street, asked the Mayor and Council to look at the lighting that glares outside the building, and the vehicles that are parked on the lot at PSC Electric located on the Jefferson Street paper street. He said the lighting is so bright that it bothers the neighbors. He added that when one drives into town, this facility looks like a junk yard. He said the City need to take back its property. Mr. Fruytier said it will only get worse if the City sells or leases the paper street to that company.

Kelly McVey, 308 Jefferson Street, had a question about nuisance properties. She wanted to know if it would be based on police calls and/or neighbors' complaints. City Manager Cathcart said it would be based on both. He said it would be very clearly defined in the ordinance. Ms. McVey thanked Mr. Bartram for doing a fine job with kids.

Representative Valerie Longhurst, commended Council Member John Buchheit for serving Delaware City. She said she knows the commitment it takes to serve the public. She said she is grateful that he served as a Council Member and as

Mayor. Representative Longhurst said John Buchheit goes above and beyond for the citizens. She said he moved Delaware City in the right direction. She added that the people of Delaware City know that when he gets involved in a project, he makes it happen.

Helene Malgiero, 311 Monroe Street, said she is grateful the situation with her son is continuing and that it hasn't been forgotten. Ms. Malgiero, on behalf of the owner of the liquor store and Sunset Market, asked about the status of the 20 minute parking signs on Clinton Street. Ms Malgiero thanked Council Member Buchheit for his commitment to serving Delaware City. She said she is proud to say she lives in Delaware City because of the changes he made. She also thanked Council Member Buchheit for staying on top of things going on in her family.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn the Mayor and Council Meeting. Council Member Buchheit seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn K. Gwynn
City Secretary