



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

April 22, 2025
6:30 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM WEBINAR MEETING &
LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 N. FRENCH STREET, WILMINGTON, DE 19801**

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Williams-Johns at 06:30 PM.

A moment of silence was recognized; members of Council performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street (virtual), David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Members Absent: Dee Durham

B. Approval of Minutes

-A motion was made by Councilman Smiley and seconded by Councilman Tackett to approve the minutes from the April 8th Council Meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Announcements

-Councilman Caneco announced that he has a presentation today and will move to go out of order, moving R25-071 from Item J to Item G to vote on the Resolution.

D. Introduction of Ordinances

°25-043: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$70,786.42 IN ACTUAL PROGRAM INCOME TO THE INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT EMPOWERMENT AREA (IDEA) HOMEBUYER/HOMEOWNER REHAB GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street

°25-044: AMEND THE FY2025 CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$16,820,000 IN FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CHRISTINA RIVER FORCE MAIN CAPITAL PROJECT

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Carter

°25-045: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 40 ("UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE" OR "UDC"), ARTICLE 14 ("IMPACT FEES"), REGARDING IMPACT FEES

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Carter, Mr. Tackett

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier, Mr. Toole

°25-046: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 7 ("PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE"), ARTICLE 2 ("REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES FOR VACANT PREMISES")

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

°25-047: TO AMEND *NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE* CHAPTER 14 ("FINANCE AND TAXATION"), ARTICLE 6 ("EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION") REGARDING PARTIAL COUNTY PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

E. Reports from Select and Special Committees

-Community Services Committee - Meeting was held on April 22nd, 2025 and discussed several Resolutions as well as had a presentation discussing libraries.

-Finance Committee - Meeting was held on April 22nd, 2025 at 4:00 pm and approved 3 grants and one travel voucher.

F. Consent Calendar

-There was a motion by Councilman Cartier, seconded by Councilman Tackett to adopt the Consent Calendar. It was approved by voice vote.

R25-058: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL L. BUTLER TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

R25-059: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN COCHRAN TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE INSPECTION AND REVIEW

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R25-060: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH DAIGLE TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

R25-061: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF SUBIRA IBRAHIM TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins

R25-062: APPOINTING CARSON ZULLINGER TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R25-063: CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GWENDOLYN W. PIERCE TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

R25-064: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET ANN RYAN TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco

R25-065: CONSENTING TO THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RENEE SPRUIEL TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. George

R25-066: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JUDITH A. TAGGART TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. George

R25-067: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT A. WEBER, SR. TO THE FIRE AND AMBULANCE ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

Consent Note

Consent Calendar -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

G. Presentations

-There is one presentation.

-Councilman Caneco moved to go out of order to consider Resolution 25-071, vote on it, and then do a presentation to present a copy to the recipient. It was approved by voice vote.

H. Consideration of Resolutions Removed from the Consent Calendar and Other Resolutions

R25-068: RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL EMPLOYEES ON APRIL 23, 2025 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Carter, Mr. Cartier, Ms. Durham, Ms. George, Mr. Hollins, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Street, Mr. Tackett, Mr. Toole, Ms. Williams-Johns

-Councilman Smiley moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett, that Resolution 25-068 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Smiley yielded to Councilwoman George, who explained the Resolution.

-Council comments by Councilwoman George, Pro Tem Hollins, Councilman Street, and Councilman Smiley.

-No Public comment.

Resolution 25-068 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

R25-069: APPROVAL OF REFEREES FOR PROPERTY REASSESSMENT APPEALS
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

-Councilman Smiley moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that Resolution 25-069 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Smiley explained as per title.

-No comment from Council.

-No Public comment.

Resolution 25-069 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns
Absent: Dee Durham

R25-070: URGING THE DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AUTHORIZE NEW CASTLE COUNTY TO LEVY A LOCAL TAX ON RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco, Ms. Kilpatrick

- Councilman Caneco moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that Resolution 25-070 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Caneco explained the resolution.
- Council comments from Councilwoman Kilpatrick, Pro Tems Hollins, Councilman Carter, Councilman Caneco, Councilman Street, Councilman Sheldon, and Council President Williams-Johns.
- Public comment by Dora Williams, Jennifer Stark, Matthew Curse, and Tracey Southerland.

Resolution 25-070 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole
No: Jea Street, Monique Williams-Johns
Absent: Dee Durham

I. Consideration of Ordinances

°25-035: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$39,201.00 IN PROGRAM INCOME TO THE SENIOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM GRANT TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street

- Councilman Street moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-035 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Street explains per title.
- No comment from Council.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-035 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns
Absent: Dee Durham

°25-036: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$216,910.42 IN PROGRAM INCOME TO THE DOWN PAYMENT REVOLVING LOANS (DPS) GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street

- Councilman Street moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-036 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Street explains per title.
- No comment from Council.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-036 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns
Absent: Dee Durham

°25-037: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$11,181.00 IN PROGRAM INCOME TO THE ABSALOM JONES SENIOR CENTER RECREATION GRANT TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Ms. Williams-Johns

- Councilman Street moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-037 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councillman Street explains per title.
- No comment from Council.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-037 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

°25-038: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$70,780.00 FROM THE DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS FUND GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street

- Councilman Street moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-038 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Street explains per title.
- No comment from Council.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-038 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

°25-039: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$41,706.96 IN EMERGENCY ILLEGAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT (EIDE) FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE EIDE FY2025 GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

- Councilman Caneco moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-039 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Caneco explains per title.
- Council comments by Councilman Street.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-039 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

°25-040: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$77,170.44 IN STATE AID TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (SALLE) FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE STATE AID TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (SALLE) – FY2025 GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

- Councilman Caneco moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-040 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Caneco explains per title.
- No Council comment.
- No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-040 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

°25-041: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$125,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO THE KNOLLWOOD PARK COURT IMPROVEMENTS GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Carter

Co-Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

-Councilman Sheldon moved, seconded by Councilman Carter that Ordinance 25-041 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Sheldon explains per title.

-Council comments from Councilman Cartier, Councilman Street, and Council President Williams-Johns.

-No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-041 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

°25-042: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR CLASSIFIED SERVICE PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL 81, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, AFFILIATE LOCAL 3109 FOR THE CLASS SPECIFICATION OF PLANNER I FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE, DIVISION OF PLANNING

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-Council President Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett that Ordinance 25-042 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Council President Williams-Johns explains the ordinance.

-No comment from Council.

-No Public comment.

Ordinance 25-042 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

J. Time Sensitive Congratulatory/Honorary Resolutions

R25-071: HONORING CIRO POPPITI III ON HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE WITH THE DELAWARE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND TO CITIZENS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Co-Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Sheldon

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Carter, Mr. Cartier, Ms. Durham, Ms. George, Mr. Hollins, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Street, Mr. Tackett, Mr. Toole, Ms. Williams-Johns

-Councilman Caneco moved to have Resolution 25-071 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration and adoption. It was approved by voice vote.

-Council comments from Pro Tem Hollins, Councilman Toole, and Councilman Tackett.

-A motion was made by Councilman Cartier to go back to order, seconded by Councilman Smiley. It was approved by voice vote.

Resolution 25-071 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

R25-072: RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY 2025

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

Co-sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

-Council President Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Councilman Tackett, that Resolution 25-072 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Council President Williams-Johns explained the resolution.

-Comments from Councilmembers Cartier, Tackett, and Toole were shared discussing how they would like to be added as co-sponsors.

-No Public comment.

Resolution 25-072 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Dee Durham

K. Introduction/Consideration of Emergency Ordinances

-No Emergency Ordinances.

L. Public Comment/Other

-Council Comments from Councilman Sheldon and Councilman Tackett.

-Public Comments from Donna Bennis and Dora Williams.

M. Motion to Adjourn

-Councilman Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tackett and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.