



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

February 24, 2026
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, Dee Durham, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street (virtual), Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Members absent: David Tackett

B. Approval of Minutes

-Motion by Councilman Smiley, seconded by President Williams-Johns, to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026 Council Meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Announcements

-Councilman Carter announced that Substitute No. 2 to Ordinance 25-101 would remain tabled.

D. Introduction of Ordinances

°26-017: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 40 ("UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE"), ARTICLE 6 ("SIGN REGULATIONS) REGARDING ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Tackett

°26-018: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 40 ("UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE"), ARTICLE 31 ("PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATION"), SECTION 40.31.340 ("NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS") REGARDING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

°26-019: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$150,200 OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF VICTIMS OF CRIME THROUGH THE STATE OF DELAWARE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL TO THE PROJECT REACH GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

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

°26-020: TO REVISE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 6 ("BUILDING CODE") REGARDING ARTICLE 3 ("ADMINISTRATION") AND SCHEDULE OF PERMIT AND REVIEW FEES, AND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 16 ("FIRE PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ASSISTANCE FUND") ARTICLE 4 ("VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE ASSISTANCE FUND")

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

°26-021: AMENDING THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 14 ("FINANCE AND TAXATION"), ARTICLE 6 ("EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION") TO EXTEND REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES ELIGIBLE FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS OR DEATH GRATUITY BENEFITS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

°26-022: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND CLASSIFIED SERVICE 40-HOUR WORKWEEK EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL 81, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, AFFILIATE LOCAL 1607, ELIMINATE THE CLASS SPECIFICATION OF OPERATIONS SERVICES MANAGER AND ADOPT THE CLASS SPECIFICATION OF CHIEF OF SEWER MAINTENANCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF SEWER OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

E. Consent Calendar

R26-030: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF DR. JENNA DIELEUTERIO TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R26-031: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KAY FITZGERALD TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. George

R26-032: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KERWIN GAINES, MBA TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco

Co-sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

R26-033: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JOHN GRIESHABER TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF LICENSE INSPECTION AND REVIEW

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R26-034: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JARRET "POSI" HARRIS TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Sheldon

R26-035: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW KELLY TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Kilpatrick

R26-036: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KENNETH R. WOODS TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins

R26-037: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAMES "RAY" RHODES TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole

Co-sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

R26-038: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF NURELDEEN STOREY TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins

R26-039: APPOINTING DAVID PERRINO TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R26-040: CONSENTING TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN EVANS TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

Consent Note

- President Williams-Johns requested that the Clerk of Council read the items on the consent calendar.
- Councilman Street commented on the Police Accountability Board.
- Councilman Smiley had a procedural question on the consent calendar.
- Councilman Hollins responded to Councilman Smiley's procedural question.

Consent Calendar -- Adopted

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

No: Jea Street

Absent: David Tackett

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

R26-041: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BRANDYWINE RED CLAY ALLIANCE TO ASSIST IN THE PURCHASE OF A LAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ±139 ACRES IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

- Councilwoman Durham moved, seconded by Councilman Caneco, that Resolution 26-041 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilwoman Durham noted that Kendall Sommers from the Department of Public Works gave a presentation on the resolution in today's Finance Committee Meeting and explained the resolution.
- Councilman Carter thanked the Department of Public Works, the Open Space Council, and Councilwoman Durham for their work on the resolution and commented on the resolution.
- Councilman Hollins inquired if Councilwoman Durham is a member of the Open Space Advisory Board. Councilwoman Durham stated that she is not.
- Councilman Street commented on the resolution and noted that he would not support the resolution.
- Councilman Caneco noted that everything was publicly noticed, and he thanked Councilwoman Durham for bringing the resolution forward.
- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-041-- Adopted

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

No: Jea Street

Absent: David Tackett

R26-042: TO TERMINATE THE DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF SUMMIT BRIDGE ROAD TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 23-028.00-243 AND 23-028.00-244; [APPLICATION NO. 2025-0659-D](#); COUNCIL DISTRICT 6
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

- Councilman Carter moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that Resolution 26-042 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilman Carter noted that this was discussed at last week's Land Use Committee Meeting. He explained the resolution.
- There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public.

Resolution 26-042 -- Adopted

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

Not Voting: Jea Street

Absent: David Tackett

G. Time Sensitive Congratulatory/Honorary Resolutions

R26-043: HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER DELAWARE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. VIOLA

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Tackett

Co-Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Ms. Durham, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Hollins, Mr. Carter, Ms. George, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Street, Mr. Caneco, Ms. Williams-Johns

- President Williams-Johns yielded to Councilwoman Kilpatrick.
- Councilwoman Kilpatrick moved, seconded by Councilwoman George, that Resolution 26-043 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Councilwoman Kilpatrick and President Williams-Johns commented on the resolution.
- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-043 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

- President Williams-Johns moved to go out of order to consider Resolution No. 26-045. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kilpatrick and approved by voice vote.

R26-044: A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES H. SILLS, JR. DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

- President Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that Resolution 26-044 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- President Williams-Johns, Councilman Street, Councilman Hollins.
- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-044 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

R26-045: RECOGNIZING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED® SIGMA ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

- President Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Councilman Toole, that Resolution 26-045 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- President Williams-Johns and Councilman Hollins commented on the resolution.
- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-045 -- Adopted

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

-After the resolution was adopted by Council, President Williams-Johns presented the resolution to Sigma Zeta Omega and the Omega Zeta Chapter.

-Councilman Cartier moved to return to regular order of business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Caneco and approved by voice vote.

R26-046: RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF HOCKESSIN COLORED SCHOOL #107

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-President Williams-Johns moved to have Resolution 26-046 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-President Williams-John, Councilwoman Kilpatrick, Councilman Street commented on the resolution.

-Sonny Knott commented on the resolution. After his comments, President Williams-Johns and Councilwoman Kilpatrick presented Mr. Knott's with a copy of the resolution.

Resolution 26-046 -- Adopted

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

R26-047: HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED – ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-President Williams-Johns moved to have Resolution 26-047 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-President Williams-Johns commented on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-047 -- Adopted

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

-President Williams-Johns presented Resolution 26-047 to the Zeta Omega Chapter.

H. Presentations

I. Consideration of Ordinances

°26-008: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$40,994.64 IN EMERGENCY ILLEGAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT (EIDE) FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE EIDE FY2026 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 Councilwoman George, that °26-008 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Caneco commented on the ordinance.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public

Ordinance 26-008 -- Adopted

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

°26-009: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND ADOPT THE CLASS SPECIFICATION OF COUNTY ASSESSOR

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF FINANCE

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-President Williams-Johns moved to have °26-009 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-President Williams-Johns stated that this was discussed earlier in the Executive Committee.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-009 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

°26-011: AMEND THE FY2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED POSITION COUNT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF FINANCE BY FIVE POSITIONS FOR THE ASSESSMENT DIVISION

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

-Councilman Smiley moved, seconded by None, that °26-0211 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Smiley stated per title.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-011-- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

°26-012: AMEND THE FY2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET: TRANSFER FUNDING FROM THE GRANTS AND FIXED CHARGES BUDGET LINE ITEM OF COUNTY COUNCIL TO THE CONTRACTUAL SERVICES BUDGET LINE ITEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF FLEET AND FACILITIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR AUDIO/VIDEO IMPROVEMENTS AT APPOQUINIMINK LIBRARY

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

-Councilman Carter moved, seconded by Councilman Caneco, that °26-012 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Carter commented on the ordinance.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-012 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

°26-013: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDS OF \$219,504.00 FROM THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY PASSED THROUGH THE DELAWARE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO THE REBLAZE RENEWAL 2026 (SLCGP) GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

-Councilman Smiley moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that °26-013 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Smiley stated per title.

-There were no comments or questions from members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-013 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

°26-014: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDS OF \$225,569.00 FROM THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY PASSED THROUGH THE DELAWARE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO THE NETSKOPE RENEWAL 2026 (SLCGP) GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

-Councilman Smiley moved, seconded by Councilman Cartier, that °26-014 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Smiley stated per title.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-014 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

°26-016: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$14,424.55 IN PROGRAM INCOME AND \$396.35 IN INTEREST 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 Hollins moved, seconded by Councilwoman George, that °26-016 be read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Councilman Hollins stated per title.

-There were no questions or comments from members of Council or the public

Ordinance 26-016 -- Adopted

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

Absent: David Tackett

SUBSTITUTE NO. 2 TO °25-101: (STATUS: TABLED) TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 40 ("UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE"), ARTICLE 3 ("USE REGULATIONS") AND ARTICLE 33 ("DEFINITIONS") TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THE REVIEW, SITING, AND OPERATIONS OF DATA CENTERS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco, Ms. Durham, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Tackett

-Substitute No. 2 to °25-101 remained on the table.

Substitute No. 2 to Ordinance 25-101 -- Remain tabled

J. Introduction/Consideration of Emergency Ordinances

-None

K. Public Comment/Other

Public Comment: Dora Williams, Dale Swain, Peter Stransky, Betty Jo Keiper, Shawn Coulter, Matthew Amandola, Tabitha Earls, Charmaine Wood, Jane McNicholas, Marissa McClenton, Chris Muntz, Lorraine Swain, Rachel Cranst.

Council Members' Comments:

-Councilman Smiley, Councilwoman Durham, Councilwoman Kilpatrick, Councilman Caneco, Councilman Hollins, Councilman Street made comments on the Consent Calendar procedures.

L. Motion to Adjourn

- President Williams-Johns moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carter and the meeting was adjourned at 08:08 PM.