



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 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 06:32 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), David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

B. Approval of Minutes

-Motion by Mr. Smiley, second by Mr. Carter, to approve the minutes from February 24, 2026 Council Meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Announcements

-Mr. Carter stated that at the appropriate time he would lift Substitute No. 3 to Ordinance 25-101 from the table.

-Mr. Tackett will table Ordinance 26-020 tonight and seek State Legislation in order to proceed with the legislation.

D. Introduction of Ordinances

°26-023: AMEND THE FY2026 CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET: APPROPRIATE \$1,031,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2026 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, FLEET EQUIPMENT 2026 CAPITAL PROJECT
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

°26-024: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDS OF \$91,500 FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT/REINVESTMENT FUND TO THE HOPE CENTER ELEVATOR RENOVATIONS GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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

E. Consent Calendar

R26-048: HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. MARCIA A. STARKS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Street

Consent Note

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have Consent Calendar read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

Consent Calendar -- Adopted

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

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

-None

G. Time Sensitive Congratulatory/Honorary Resolutions

R25-049: CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY ROSE MEDEIROS AND OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Cartier

-Mr. Cartier moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-049 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Cartier spoke on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-049 -- Adopted

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

R26-050: CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING PARAMEDIC FIRST CLASS MICHAEL PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns, Mr. Toole, Mr. Caneco

-Mr. Toole moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-050 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Toole spoke on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-050 -- Adopted

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

R26-051: HONORING JEANNE KRESS IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-051 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Williams-Johns spoke on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-051 -- Adopted

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

R26-052: CONGRATULATING THE MOUNT SALEM UNION AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THEIR 190TH ANNIVERSARY AND FAUCC

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco

-Mr. Caneco moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to have Resolution 26-052 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Caneco spoke on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-052 -- Adopted

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

R26-053: HONORING AND RECOGNIZING JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC. FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Mr. Toole, to have Resolution 26-053 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Williams-Johns spoke on the resolution.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-053 -- Adopted

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

H. Presentations

-Ms. Williams-Johns presented R26-051 to Ms. Jeanne Kress.

-Ms. Williams-Johns presented R26-053 to representatives from Jack and Jill of America

I. Consideration of Ordinances

°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

-Mr. Caneco moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-019 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Caneco explained the ordinance.

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

Ordinance 26-019 -- Adopted

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

°26-020: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED) 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

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Toole

-Mr. Tackett moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have °26-020 read by title only and placed before Council with the intent to table.

-Mr. Tackett moved to table °26-020. The motion was seconded by Ms. George and approved.

Ordinance 26-020 -- Tabled

°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

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

-Mr. Cartier moved, seconded by Mr. Smiley, to have °26-021 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Cartier explained the ordinance.

-Mr. Caneco commented on the ordinance and thanked the sponsors and the administration for bring forward the ordinance.

-There was no public comment.

Ordinance 26-021 -- Adopted

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

°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

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by **None**, to have °26-022 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Williams-Johns explained the ordinance.

Ordinance 26-022 -- Adopted

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

SUBSTITUTE NO. 3 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

-Mr. Carter moved to lift Substitute No. 3 to °25-101 from the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cartier. The motion was approved by voice vote.

-Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Caneco, to have Substitute No. 3 to °25-101 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Carter commented and explained the changes in Substitute No. 3. He thanked the Department of Land Use for their cooperation and support.

-David Culver, General Manager of the Department of Land Use, spoke on Substitute No. 3.

-Council members' comments were made by Mr. Toole, Mr. Carter

-Ms. Kilpatrick moved to have Floor Amendment No.1 to Substitute No. 3 to °25-101 read by title only and placed before council for its consideration. The motion was seconded by Ms. George.

- Ms. Kilpatrick spoke about the retroactive clause in the ordinance and her floor amendment.
- Council members' comments were made by Mr. Smiley, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Kilpatrick, Mr. Carter, Mr. Caneco, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Carter
- David Culver, General Manager of the Department of Land Use, spoke on Floor Amendment No. 1.
- Further Council members' comments were made by Mr. Street, Mr. Hollins, Mr. Carter, Mr. Street,
- David Culver, General Manager of the Department of Land Use provided further comment and stated that the County Executive supports Substitute No. 3 as it was introduced.
- Ms. Kilpatrick asked the General Manager several questions and Mr. Culver responded.
- Further Council members' comments were made by Ms. Durham.
- Public Comment on Floor Amendment No.1 was made by: Dale Swain, Rob Bullock, Betty Jo Keiper, MaryAnn Lavan, Monica Celli, Billy Papily, Dan Menafo, Stephanie Royle
- Ms. Kilpatrick requested a pause to consult with Counsel to Council. After consulting, **Ms. Kilpatrick withdrew Floor Amendment No. 1 to Substitute No. 3 to °25-101.**

-Mr. Cartier withdrew Floor Amendment No. 2.

-Mr. Sheldon moved to have Floor Amendment No. 3 to Substitute No. 3 to °25-101 read by title only and placed before Council for consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tackett.

- Mr. Sheldon explained and commented on Floor Amendment No. 3.
- Council members' comments were made by Mr. Carter, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Carter
- Public Comment on Floor Amendment No. 3 was made by Alle (virtual).

Floor Amendment No. 3 -- Adopted

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

-Mr. Sheldon withdrew Floor Amendment No. 4.

- Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Substitute No. 3 to °25-101 as Amended by Floor Amendment No. 3 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Mr. Carter stated he had no further comments.
- There were no further comments or questions from Council Members.
- Public comment: Sean Samitt, Chris Muntz, James Kendra, Dale Swain, Betty Jo Keiper, Thomas Price, Kyle Grantham, Matthew Amandola, Matt Sarver, Zach Kent, Peggy Schultz, Dustyn Thompson, Marissa McClenten, Laura Philon, Apuroop Mutyala, Lorraine Swain, Timothy Burroughs, Rachel Krantz, Bill Dunn, Chris Jamison, Kira Alejandiro, Keith Frankel, Beth Clifton, Susan Downs, Nancy Willing, Ligia Aceves, Jacob Walls, Alison West, Emma Leshock, Jen Ruebush, Angela Grubert, Meme Sewells

Substitute No. 3 to Ordinance 25-101 as amended by Floor Amendment No. 3 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Jea Street

J. Introduction/Consideration of Emergency Ordinances

-None

K. Public Comment/Other

-None

L. Motion to Adjourn

- Mr. Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carter and the meeting was adjourned at 09:22 PM.