



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 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 (virtual), John Cartier (virtual), 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, seconded by Mr. Cartier, to approve the minutes from April 14, 2026 Council Meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Announcements

-Mr. Sheldon asked to speak under presentations.

D. Introduction of Ordinances

°26-046: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AARP INC., AND WSFS BANK TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS FUND GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

°26-047: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO THE FY25 HEALTHY HOMES SUPPLEMENT – LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT, WHICH IS

ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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

°26-048: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO THE FY25 LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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

°26-049: AMEND THE SCOPE OF WORK IN THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL ALLIANCE MENTAL ILLNESS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

°26-050: AMEND THE SCOPE OF WORK IN THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND CONTRACT WITH WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVANCY TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

°26-051: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND ADOPT THE CLASS SPECIFICATION OF LEAD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AND LEAD PROGRAM ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

°26-052: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR CLASSIFIED SERVICE 35-HOUR WORKWEEK EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE DELAWARE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COUNCIL 81, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, AFFILIATE LOCAL 1607 AND ADOPT THE NEW CLASS SPECIFICATION OF HOUSING PROGRAM ASSISTANT I AND HOUSING PROGRAM ASSISTANT II FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

E. Consent Calendar

R26-089: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF RAINA HARPER ALLEN TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY DIVERSITY COMMISSION

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins

R26-090: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MONICA GONZALEZ-GILLESPIE TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R26-091: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF SHAUN MICHAEL KELLY TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

R26-092: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF HERB INDEN AS CHAIR TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Hollins

R26-093: APPOINTING CHRIS DIMARCO TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Prime Sponsor: Mr. Cartier

R26-097: HONORING THE LIFE OF STEPHANIE HOJNICKI AND OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

Co-sponsor(s): 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

Consent Note

-Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to have the Consent Calendar read 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

R26-094: PROCLAIMING APRIL 22, 2026, AS "TRY TRANSIT DAY" IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY TO COINCIDE WITH THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Tackett

-Mr. Tackett moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have Resolution 26-094 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Tackett state per title.

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

Resolution 26-094 -- 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

R26-095: TO SET NEW CASTLE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR THE COUNTY'S PENSION PLANS

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

-Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-095 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Smiley, as stated in today's committee meeting, this resolution sets the County's contribution for 2027, and he noted that the contribution rate has gone down.

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

Resolution 26-095 -- 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

R26-096: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULE NO. 14.1 ("EXPENDITURES; NECESSARY APPROVALS") RELATING TO EXPENDITURE APPROVALS

Prime Sponsors: Ms. Durham, Mr. Smiley

- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-096 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

- Ms. Durham stated per title and moved to close floor to debate and call the vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carter and roll call vote was taken

Motion to close the floor to debate - approved

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

No: Street, Williams-Johns

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-096 -- Adopted

Yes: Kevin Caneco, David Carter, John Cartier, Dee Durham, George Smiley, David Tackett, Brandon Toole
No: Penrose Hollins, Janet Kilpatrick, Timothy Sheldon, Jea Street, Monique Williams-Johns
Not Voting: Valerie George

G. Time Sensitive Congratulatory/Honorary Resolutions

R26-098: CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SENIOR MANAGER JASON ZERN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Carter

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

-Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-098 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Carter spoke about the resolution.

-Council Members' comments were made by Mr. Caneco, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Hollins, Mr. Street, Mr. Carter.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-098 -- 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

R26-099: RECOGNIZING JUAN CARILLO FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE

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

-Mr. Sheldon moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-099 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Sheldon spoke about the resolution and the incident that took place.

-Council Members' comments were made by Mr. Carter and Mr. Caneco.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-099 -- 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

R26-100: RECOGNIZING THE NEW BRANDYWINE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN HOCKESSIN, DELAWARE AND CELEBRATING THEIR RIBBON CUTTING

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Kilpatrick

-Ms. Kilpatrick moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-100 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Kilpatrick stated per title.

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

Resolution 26-100 -- 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

R26-101: HONORING PEGGY SCHULTZ FOR HER DECADES OF WORK ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham, Ms. George

Co-sponsors: Mr. Caneco, Mr. Carter, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Hollins, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Street, Mr. Tackett, Mr. Toole, Ms. Williams-Johns

- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-101 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

- Ms. Durham spoke about the resolution.

- Council Members' comments were made by Mr. Hollins, Mr. Smiley, Ms. George, Ms. Williams-Johns, Mr. Street.

- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-101 -- 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

R26-102: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY AND ENCOURAGING EDUCATION, RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT, AND COMMUNITY PREVENTION EFFORTS

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-102 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Williams-Johns spoke about the resolution.

Resolution 26-102 -- 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

R26-103: A RESOLUTION HONORING OFFICER CORPORAL COREY BELK

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to have Resolution 26-103 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Toole and Mr. Caneco requested to be added as co-chair.

-There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-103 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Timothy Sheldon

H. Presentations

I. Consideration of Ordinances

°26-034: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED UNTIL MAY 26, 2026) THE ANNUAL REVENUE ORDINANCE OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

°26-035: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED UNTIL MAY 26, 2026) CALCULATION OF SEWER SERVICE CHARGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

°26-036: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED UNTIL MAY 26, 2026) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 CAPITAL BUDGET
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

°26-037: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED UNTIL MAY 26, 2026) THE CAPITAL BUDGET ORDINANCE OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026
Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley, Mr. Cartier

°26-038: (STATUS: TO BE TABLED UNTIL MAY 26, 2026) ADOPT THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF NEW CASTLE CO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026

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

-Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-034, °26-035, °26-036, °26-037, °26-038 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Smiley moved to table °26-034, °26-035, °26-036, °26-037, °26-038. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cartier and was approved.

Ordinance 26-034, 26-035, 26-036, 26-037, 038 -- Tabled

°26-039: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 13 ("STORMWATER MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS") REGARDING STORMWATER MAINTENANCE AND GREEN VALLEY – PHASE V COMMUNITY

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Sheldon

-Mr. Sheldon moved, seconded by Mr. Carter, to have °26-039 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Sheldon stated that this was previously discussed in committee.

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

Ordinance 26-039 -- 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

°26-040: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF PITTSBURGH TO THE HOPE CENTER SHELTER RENOVATIONS - FHLB GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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

-Mr. Hollins moved, seconded by None, to have °26-040 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Hollins stated per title.

Ordinance 26-040 -- Adopted

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

Absent: George Smiley

°26-041: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE ANTICIPATED ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO THE EMERGENCY HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

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

-Mr. Hollins moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-041 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Hollins noted that these are the annual allocation for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for emergency shelter grants.\

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

Ordinance 26-041 -- 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

°26-042: REALLOCATE FUNDS IN THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND BETWEEN PROJECTS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

-Mr. Hollins moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-042 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Hollins noted that this ordinance was discussed at the Community Services Committee. This is for the purchase of nine tax parcels around the Rt. 9 Library to help provide for additional affordable housing opportunities.

-Mr. Street commented on the ordinance and thanked General Manager Carey Casey, county council and several administrations.

-Mr. Toole congratulated Mr. Street on his hard work.

-There was no public comment.

Ordinance 26-042 -- 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

°26-043: AMEND THE FY2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY FEE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS AND RECORDER OF DEEDS TECHNOLOGY FEE ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF BLUE VOICE SOFTWARE

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

-Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-043 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Smiley noted this ordinance will provide for a closed loop communication system.

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

Ordinance 26-043 -- 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

°26-044: AMEND THE FY2026 CAPITAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET: APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DNREC) THROUGH DELAWARE'S NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, GENERAL PARKLAND IMPROVEMENTS 2021 CAPITAL PROJECT

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

-Mr. Carter moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-044 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Carter stated that this was briefly discussed in committee and noted that this is a pass-through grant that will provide additional funds for the reforestation work at Wiggins Mill Park.

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

Ordinance 26-044 -- 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

J. Introduction/Consideration of Emergency Ordinances

-None

K. Public Comment/Other

-Mr. Street made comments on overpaid County taxes. He asked the Administration to take another look at this issue.

L. Motion to Adjourn

- Mr. Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cartier and the meeting was adjourned at 07:25 PM.