



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING MEETING

Co-Chair George Smiley, Seventh District
Co-Chair John Cartier, Eighth District

May 7, 2026
2:00 PM
TO
4:00 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/Roll Call

The 5/7/26 Budget Hearing was called to order at 02:00 PM by Mr. Cartier.

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

Members absent:

None

B. Approval of Minutes - 04-30-2026

- Mr. Smiley made a motion, and Ms. Kilpatrick seconded, to approve the minutes of the 4-30-26 Budget Hearing. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- Mr. Cartier recognized Mr. Street as present via Zoom.

C. Community Services - Carrie Casey, General Manager

Department of Community Services FY2027 Budget Presentation

- Mr. Cartier introduced NCC General Manager Department of Community Services Carrie Casey.
- Carrie Casey made an introductory statement, recognized her staff and presented the Department of Community Services budget.
- Mr. Cartier recognized Mr. Hollins as present.
- Members of council commented and asked questions.
- Ms. Casey responded to questions.

D. Row Offices

Register of Wills - Ciro Poppotti

- NCC Register of Wills, Ciro Poppotti thanked his staff and indicated that there were no changes in his budget from the previous year.
- Mr. Cartier, Mr. Hollins, Ms. Williams-Jones and Mr. Tackett commented.

Recorder of Deeds - Michael Kozikowski

- NCC Recorder of Deeds Michael Kozikowski (virtual), introduced his senior staff, and presented the budget for the Office of the Recorder of Deeds.
- Mr. Kozikowski paused his presentation and invited questions about the fee schedule for the Recorder of Deeds Office.
- Mr. Caneco asked questions about the fee schedule.
- Ms. Sharee Cole, Chief Deputy Recorder of Deeds, answered.
- Mr. Kozikowski invited more fee schedule questions.
- Mr. Sheldon indicated he had a question but not about fee schedule.
- Mr. Kozikowski continued the presentation.
- Mr. Sheldon asked questions and Mr. Kozikowski answered.
- Mr. Cartier noted that NCC CFO Dave DelGrande came forward to answer Mr. Sheldon.
- NCC CFO Dave DelGrande commented and answered another question from Mr. Sheldon.
- Mr. Caneco asked questions and Mr. Kozikowski answered.
- Mr. Carter commented and asked questions and Mr. Kozikowski answered.
- Mr. Cartier commented.
- Mr. Kozikowski commented.

Clerk of Peace - Lisa Darrah

- NCC Clerk of the Peace Lisa Darrah presented the budget for the Office of the Clerk of the Peace and explained a new bilingual program.
- Mr. Hollins commented.

Sheriff's Office - Scott Phillips

- NCC Sheriff Scott Phillips indicated no changes other than staff/benefits to his budget.
- Mr. Phillips recognized his staff in the room and thanked his entire staff. He then explained some of his staff functions. He also detailed a "scam" involving callers pretending to be from the NCC Sheriff's Office. He also explained the revenue stream of his office.
- Mr. Sheldon asked a question and Mr. Phillips answered.
- Mr. Tackett commented.
- Mr. Phillips commented.
- Mr. Street commented.
- Mr. Phillips commented.
- Mr. Street commented.

E. County Auditor - Robert Wasserbach**County Auditor's FY2027 Budget Presentation**

- NCC Auditor Robert Wasserbach introduced his staff and presented the NCC Office of the Auditor's budget.
- Mr. Hollins commented.
- Mr. Wasserbach commented.
- Mr. Cartier and Mr. Street commented.
- Mr. Wasserbach commented.
- Mr. Cartier commented.

F. Ethics Commission - Robert Hicks, Chairman

Ethics Commission's FY2027 Budget Presentation

- Mr. Robert Hicks, Chair of the NCC Ethics Commission, recognized a staff member, commented on trainings and presented the Ethic Commission's budget.
- Mr. Cartier commented and asked a question.
- Mr. Hicks answered.
- Mr. Cartier commented.
- Mr. Smiley asked members if they wanted to have an additional budget hearing.
- Mr. Cartier asked for a show of hands. Three members indicated they wanted an additional budget hearing. It was decided that no additional hearing would be held.
- Mr. Caneco commented.
- Mr. Smiley commented.
- Ms. Durham and Mr. Smiley made several comments about when to discuss budgets.

G. Public Comment

Public comment will be limited to two minutes per speaker.

- Member of the public, CEO of Veteran's Services Joseph Walls thanked NCC General Manager Carrie Casey for veteran's housing. He also offered that veterans are available to help out in county efforts.

H. Adjournment

- Mr. Smiley made a motion and Ms. George seconded, to adjourn the 5-07-26 Budget Hearing.
- Vote to adjourn was unanimous.
- Mr. Cartier adjourned the hearing at 4:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Gildea, legislative assistant to Councilman John Cartier. The meeting was recorded and is available online.