



NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING

July 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, John Cartier (virtual), Dee Durham, Valerie George, Penrose Hollins, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street (virtual), David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Members absent: Janet Kilpatrick

B. Approval of Minutes

-Motion by Mr. Smiley, second by Ms. George, to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2026, Council Meeting. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

C. Announcements

-Mr. Tackett announced that he wanted to add \$1000 to the August Quarterly grant, which was approved at the 7/28/26 Finance Committee Meeting. Ms. Williams-Johns moved to amend the previously approved grant and increase the total from \$1000 to \$2000 (\$1000 Williams-Johns, \$1000 Tackett). The motion was seconded by Mr. Smiley and approved by voice vote.

-Ms. Durham announced that Ordinances 25-163, 25-164, and 25-165 would be lifted from the table. She noted that there were substitutes for Ordinances 25-164 and 25-165.

D. Introduction of Ordinances

°26-092: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR THE CAPTAINS, MAJORS AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL, REPRESENTED BY THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,

NEW CASTLE COUNTY LODGE NO. 5

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

°26-093: AMEND THE PAY PLAN AND RATES OF PAY FOR CLASSIFIED SERVICE EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY LODGE NO. 5

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

°26-094: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDS FROM THE DELAWARE OPIOID SETTLEMENT COMMISSION TO THE PROJECT REACH OPIOID GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

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

°26-095: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDS FROM THE DELAWARE OPIOID SETTLEMENT COMMISSION TO THE OPIOID INTEGRATED PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF POLICE

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

°26-096: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TO THE FY2027 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC) GRANT TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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

°26-097: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION THROUGH THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 WASTEWATER DHSS HIGH RISK SUBSTANCES TESTING OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

°26-098: AMEND THE FY2027 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM THE RECORDER OF DEEDS TECHNOLOGY FEE ACCOUNT TO THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR DOCUMENT TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS CONTRACTED SERVICES

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

°26-099: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2 ("ADMINISTRATION"), ARTICLE 3 ("OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES"), TO MODIFY CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY NEW CASTLE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS

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

°26-100: AMENDING NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2 ("ADMINISTRATION"), ARTICLE 2, DIVISION 2.02.300 (REGISTRATION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENTS)

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

Co-Sponsor(s): Mr. Toole

°26-101: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE OF DELAWARE GRANT-IN-AID FUNDS TO THE ABSALOM JONES SENIOR CENTER FY2027 GRANT, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, COMMUNITY RESOURCES DIVISION

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

°26-102: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDS FROM THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID SETTLEMENT DISTRIBUTION COMMISSION TO THE HOPE CENTER

RECOVERY AND HOUSING STABILIZATION INITIATIVE GRANT, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

°26-103: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: FOR FY2026, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DELAWARE DIVISION OF LIBRARIES AS A FEDERAL PASS-THROUGH GRANT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES WITH FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT TO BE DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY TO THE TEN NEW CASTLE COUNTY LIBRARIES WHICH ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF LIBRARIES

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

E. Consent Calendar

R26-154: CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW HAPPER TO THE FIRE AND AMBULANCE ADVISORY BOARD

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. George

R26-155: HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STAN MERRIMAN

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Caneco

Consent Note

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Ms. George, 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, Timothy Sheldon, George Smiley, Jea Street, David Tackett, Brandon Toole, Monique Williams-Johns

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

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

R26-156: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO SIGN THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY LODGE NO. 5 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

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

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Tackett

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have Resolution 26-156 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Ms. Williams-Johns noted that this resolution was discussed at today's Executive Committee Meeting. She explained the resolution.

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

Resolution 26-156 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

R26-157: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO SIGN THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY LODGE NO. 5 CAPTAINS, MAJORS, & LIEUTENANT COLONEL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

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

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Tackett

-Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have Resolution 26-157 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

- Ms. Williams-Johns noted that this resolution was discussed at today's Executive Committee Meeting.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Resolution 26-157 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

**R26-158: TO AMEND NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
CHAPTERS 1 THROUGH 8 REGARDING EMPLOYEE POLICIES**

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

- Ms. George moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-158 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. George explained the resolution, noting that these are the changes that have been discussed in the Personnel Subcommittee meetings over the last year.
- Mr. Caneco requested clarification on 7.1 Sick Leave. Ms. George asked Nellie Hill, Clerk of Council, to respond to Mr. Caneco's questions.
- Ms. Durham had a follow-up question to Mr. Caneco's question. Her question was answered by Ms. Hill.
- There was no public comment.

Resolution 26-158 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

**R26-159: APPOINTING MONICA HILL TO THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARD OF
ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Resolution 26-159 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. Durham state per title.

Resolution 26-159 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

G. Time Sensitive Congratulatory/Honorary Resolutions

**R26-160: RECOGNIZING AND HONORING CAITIE LAYTON FOR BEING SELECTED AS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND COMMENDING HER EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION TO
STUDENT SUCCESS, EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY**

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Williams-Johns

- Ms. Williams-Johns moved, seconded by Mr. Smiley, to have Resolution 26-160 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. Williams-Johns commented on the resolution and congratulated Caitie Leyton.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Resolution 26-160 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

H. Presentations

- Ms. Williams-Johns presented Resolution 26-160 to Caitie Leyton.

I. Consideration of Ordinances

°26-086: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE ANTICIPATED FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR AGING & ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES TO THE 2027 AB JONES SENIOR CENTER ART LOVING SENIORS GRANT, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

Co-sponsor(s): Mr. Toole

-Mr. Hollins moved, seconded by Mr. Sheldon, to have °26-086 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Hollins stated per title and noted that Mr. Toole was added as a co-sponsor.

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

Ordinance 26-086-- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

°26-087: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PASSED THROUGH THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY, OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY TO THE FY27 OHS 250TH ANNIVERSARY MOTORIST AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY 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 °26-087 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Caneco noted that it was discussed at today's Public Safety Committee and noted that it is a pass-through grant.

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

Ordinance 26-087 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

°26-088: AMEND THE FY2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET: APPROPRIATE STATE OF DELAWARE FUNDING RECEIVED FOR THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY POLICE EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS BUDGETARY LINE ITEM

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

-Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °26-088 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.

-Mr. Smiley stated as per title.

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

Ordinance 26-088 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

°26-090: AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE FUNDING FROM THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY COUNCIL FY2027 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET TO THE SENIOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM GRANT, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

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

- Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have °26-090 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Mr. Smiley stated as per title.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-090 -- Adopted

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

°26-091: AMEND THE FY2027 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET:REDUCE THE GRANTS AND FIXED CHARGES BUDGET LINE ITEM OF COUNTY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY OPERATING PROGRAMS AND GRANTS

Prime Sponsor(s): Mr. Smiley

- Mr. Smiley moved, seconded by Mr. Cartier, to have °26-091 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Mr. Smiley stated per title.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-091 -- Adopted

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

°25-163: (STATUS:TABLED) AMENDING NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 6 ("BUILDING CODE "), ARTICLE 3 ("ADMINISTRATION") TO CODIFY THE PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITHIN THE NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

- Ms. Durham moved to lift °25-163 from the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cartier and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have °25-163 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. Durham stated that this has been discussed a few times in committee.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 25-163 -- Adopted

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

SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 TO °25-164: (STATUS: TABLED) AMENDING *NEW CASTLE COUNTY CODE* CHAPTER 40 ("UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE") AND APPENDIX 6 RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF CERTAIN COUNTY COMMITTEES

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

- Ms. Durham moved to lift °25-164 from the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tackett and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Substitute No. 1 to °25-164 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. Durham noted that these ordinances have been discussed several times and stated per title.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance 25-164 -- Adopted

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

SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 TO °25-165: (STATUS: TABLED) AMENDING THE PAY PLANS AND RATES OF PAY FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF CERTAIN NEW CASTLE COUNTY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

Prime Sponsor(s): Ms. Durham

- Ms. Durham moved to lift °26-165 from the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tackett and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Durham moved, seconded by Mr. Tackett, to have Substitute No. 1 to °25-165 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Ms. Durham moved Floor Amendment No. 1 to Substitute No. 1 to °25-165. Ms. Durham explained that Floor Amendment No. 1 would strike the words "and b" from line 38 because there is only an Exhibit A. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smiley and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Durham moved to have Substitute No. 1 to °25-165 as amended by Floor Amendment No. 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smiley.
- Ms. Durham stated per title.
- There were no questions or comments by Members of Council.
- Public comment: Cora Castle

Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance 25-165 as amended by Floor Amendment No. 1 -- Adopted

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

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

°26-017: (STATUS: TABLED) 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

- Mr. Tackett moved to lift °26-017 from the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. George and approved by voice vote.
- Mr. Tackett moved, seconded by Ms. George, to have °26-017 read by title only and placed before Council for its consideration.
- Mr. Tackett noted that this ordinance was previously discussed at the last Land Use Committee meeting on July 7, 2026.
- There were no comments or questions from Members of Council or the public.

Ordinance 26-017 -- Adopted

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

No: Dee Durham, Valerie George, Brandon Toole

Absent: Janet Kilpatrick

J. Introduction/Consideration of Emergency Ordinances

-None.

K. Public Comment/Other

- Public comment: Joseph Ted Laws, Kevin Goldsborough, Donald Goldsborough, Donna Laws, Nicki Laroya, Thomas Smith, Jim Servino.
- Mr. Carter addressed those who spoke and commented on solar farms. Mr. Hollins, Mr. Caneco, Mr. Tackett, and Ms. Williams-Johns also commented on solar farms.

L. Motion to Adjourn

- Mr. Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toole and the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.