

August 2, 2021

The New Castle City Commission meeting was held on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6pm. Present was Mayor Kurtz and Commissioners Mitchell, Thompson, Sevier and Hay. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, City Attorney Josh Clubb, Public Works Director Joey Bramblett, Asst. PW Vincent Bates, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Ellis and from the Fire Department Sabrina Doll

Mayor Kurtz called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to accept the minutes from all July meetings as presented. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. The motion did carry unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to approve all disbursements, deposits and transfers for the month of May. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Commissioners Thompson reviewed all balances in city held accounts using the online banking service.

The roofing project at the Fire Department has been completed.

Treece Remodeling has the locker gutter project on their upcoming schedule.

Lynn advised that Rumpke will be replacing the 4 waste carts at the Fire Department with a 4 yard dumpster at no additional cost to the City.

There will be a public hearing held at 5:45pm on September 13, 2021 regarding the 2021 real and personal property tax rate.

Commissioner Sevier made the motion to hold a special meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 2:00pm to have 2nd reading and adoption of the ordinance setting the 2021 real and personal property tax rate. Commissioner Thompson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Funds in the amount of \$121,581.25 have been received and deposited. These funds are the first of two disbursements. The second will be received next fiscal year. There was discussion regarding the allowed use of these funds and which of these uses best suits the City's needs. The bulk of the funds will be used for water/sewer infrastructure projects. There was discussion of giving full-time city employees premium pay of \$2500.00 each since they all worked in person through the pandemic.

Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to give Lynn Adams, Jody Bramblett and Vincent Bates \$2500.00 each. Commissioner Sevier seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

The City received a letter from the HC Cross Country team requesting a donation for this season. There was discussion.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to give the HC Cross Country Program \$200. Commissioner Hay seconded the motion. Commissioners Hay, Mitchell, Thompson and Sevier voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Kurtz abstained from the vote.

The Odd Fellows Lodge has proposed that Carter Street from South Main to Center Street be renamed Joe Yates Lane, in honor of Mr. Yates and all he did to preserve historic property in New Castle. There was brief discussion. Attorney Clubb will check into the legalities of this matter and provide a report at the September meeting.

The OddFellows Lodge reserved the Locker for August 21st in order to hold a fundraising event. Since they are a non-profit organization, the Commission decided to lower their rental fee to \$50.

Michael reported that he is working on one case of flagrant non-compliance and he will be contacting the County Attorney's office. He is working on a few complaints for grass/weeds. There was a parking issue reported on College Street which is blocking two-way traffic.

Lynn advised that CRF funds have been extended and that the City now has the ability to use the remaining funds of \$30,355. The same previous rules/regs apply.

Public Works had nothing to report at this time.

Sabrina reported that the Fire Department purchased a used Tahoe and that they will be having a fish fry on August 28th from 4 to 8pm.

As there was no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sevier seconded and the motion passed unanimously. We adjourned at 6:30pm.