

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Regular City Council Meeting was held on July 14, 2025, at 7:55 p.m. with Council President Neil presiding. Council members present were Ms. Hall, Mr. Boggerty, Mr. Anderson, Dr. Pillsbury, Ms. Arndt, Mr. Rocha, Dr. Sudler, and Mr. Lewis.

Staff members present were Police Chief Johnson, Ms. Marney, Mr. Hugg, Fire Chief Carey, Mr. Rodriguez, and Ms. Bennett. Mayor Christiansen was also present. Ms. Melson-Williams was absent.

OPEN FORUM

The Open Forum was held at 6:15 p.m., prior to commencement of the Official Council Meeting. Council President Neil declared the Open Forum in session and reminded those present that Council was not in official session and could not take formal action.

Mr. Neil stated that citizen comments were limited to two (2) minutes due to the number of individuals on the agenda. He added that anyone with additional comments may submit them in writing to be included in the minutes.

Dr. Sudler stated that, given the reason for the public's attendance, proper notice should have been given so the public could adjust their remarks accordingly, as he was unaware of the process to reduce the speaking time from three (3) minutes to two (2) minutes. He suggested that council suspend the rules of the two (2) minutes and instead allow speakers three (3) to five (5) minutes to speak. He believes that allowing the extended time would be a gesture of good faith.

Dr. Sudler made a motion to suspend the rules from two (2) minute rule and allow three (3) to (5) five minutes for public comments, given the nature of why most individuals were present. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Boggerty seconded the motion for three (3) minutes.

Dr. Sudler raised a point of order, clarifying that his original motion was to allow three (3) to five (5) minutes for public comments, and he believed Mr. Lewis had seconded the motion for the record.

Mr. Rocha clarified that the stated time was three (3) to five (5) minutes and suggested that a specific time be decided on so the motion could be amended accordingly.

Dr. Sudler stated that Mayor Christiansen recommended four (4) minutes. He noted that he would be amenable to either three (3), four (4), or five (5) minutes, if Mr. Lewis was willing to amend his second.

Dr. Sudler made a motion to extend the open forum from the two (2) minute rule and allow four (4) minutes for public comments, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Anderson called for a point of information and asked whether the motion to suspend the rules required a two-thirds vote.

Dr. Sudler made a motion to extend the open forum from the two (2) minute rule and allow four (4) minutes for public comments, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis and carried by a roll call vote of five (5) yes (Boggerty, Arndt, Rocha, Sudler, Lewis), and

three (3) no (Hall, Anderson, Pillsbury).

Lucretia M. Martin, 483 Barrister Place, emphasized the impact of Daniel Guzman, Jr.'s murder, stating that communities needed to come together to address gun violence. She expressed concern that children cannot safely play outside due to frequent shootings and criticized the police response as limited to briefly stopping and leaving. She stressed that the entire community, not just them, but for everyone, needed help.

Kim Chapman, Dover resident, emphasized that she had never witnessed so much violence until moving to Barrister Place. She stated that police officers come through the neighborhood asking who is selling drugs, but fail to address serious incidents, such as fight nights that lead to shootings or murder. She expressed concern about her grandchildren's safety, noting they do not go outside unless accompanied by her. She also mentioned requesting speed bumps from her landlord but was told no action could be taken because they claim they cannot do anything.

William Faust, Jr., 136 Orchard Avenue, voiced strong concern over an opinion Mr. Neil published in the Daily State News. He was appalled by the letter, calling for its retraction, and suggested Mr. Neil should be censored if he does not apologize. He criticized the letter for ignoring key issues such as rising gun violence, deaths, prostitution, drug dealing, and homelessness. He also took issue with Mr. Neil's claim that no one had come to him with complaints about police conduct, stating that he has witnessed residents raise those concerns at the Regular Council Meetings. He noted that police officers were leaving due to burnout or better opportunities. He also expressed disappointment that, despite promises to assist with electric bills, some residents still struggle and are ineligible for help due to income limits.

Charlie Jackson, of 490 Barrister Place, expressed concern about the issues in his neighborhood. Acknowledging that no one can do everything, he emphasized that charity needs to start at home and spread beyond the city. He urged for immediate police presence in his area, questioning what would happen if help was not provided. He stressed the need for visible policing and questioned how effective the police can be if community concerns are not being addressed.

Judy Phillips, 483 Barrister Place, emphasized the need for community members to take responsibility and work together to restore Barrister Place. She requested the camera installation to help protect children and monitor activity in the area.

Apollonia Rivera, 466 Barrister Place, expressed frustration over the lack of progress following a \$10,000 allocation for cameras and fences approved at the June 23rd Regular Council Meeting. She noted visits from Dr. Sudler and two (2) code enforcement officers but stated that she had not heard from Police Chief Johnson. Despite promises of increased patrols, she reported only seeing police seven (7) times since her son's death. She requested, for the record, that council approve an eight (8) inch fence similar to the one at Stoney Creek with metal poles. She criticized police officers for being overly aggressive and not focusing on safety patrols, requesting that Chief Johnson be present in the community and hold his officers accountable. She also urged Mayor Christiansen to hold Chief Johnson accountable, emphasizing the need for collaboration between council members and the community as the City of Dover faces serious challenges.

Michelle'Ile Rivera, 466 Barrister Place, spoke on behalf of her nephew, Daniel Guzman Jr., expressing concern over a Dover Police report that she stated falsely implicated one of Mr. Guzman Jr.'s friends as the shooter. She stated that the report caused public confusion and emotional distress for her family, noting that 30 days had passed without an arrest. Despite the availability of footage from Ring cameras, footage from cameras and businesses, and other sources, she claimed the police had made no progress. She questioned why the police were harassing the community instead of protecting it. She argued that Stoney Creek, Barrister Place, and Dover East Trailer Park are separate neighborhoods with jurisdiction lines and should not be treated as one. She also raised concerns about residents overdrafting accounts to pay for high electric, mortgage, water, and trash bills, calling for real change and more community support rather than problematic police presence.

Rob Vanella, Wilmington resident and facilitator for Neighbors Organized for Credibility, Accountability, and Policing Delaware (NOCAP), addressed concerns regarding Mr. Neil's op-ed, stating it portrayed his group as bullies targeting the police. He criticized the implication that only certain individuals, such as taxpayers, get to define who is considered threatening. He argued that it could unfairly target homeless or poor individuals. He stated there was a lack of credibility and accountability in the Dover Police Department. He also pointed out an error in the op-ed, clarifying that while it mentioned anonymity, it referred to not going through official police channels. He emphasized that the matter was being treated as a journalistic exercise, in which sources should remain confidential. He announced a Police Reform Meeting scheduled for August 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Dover Library.

Shaniqua Myles, Dover resident, stated that she was not only a parent but as an advocate for a safe, accountable, and trauma-informed school environment, especially for the most vulnerable children. She emphasized that some things can no longer be overlooked, noting the failure of schools to uphold Title IX and to protect students from abuse, harassment, and retaliation. Ms. Myles explained that Title IX is a federal law ensuring students the right to learn free from sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination. She expressed concern that minority children who report misconduct are often punished instead of protected, facing retaliation, isolation, and emotional harm from the very adults meant to safeguard them. She called for stronger accountability, mandatory trauma-informed training for school staff, clear procedures, unbiased investigations, and meaningful protection for students who report harm. Emphasizing that children deserve to be believed and feel safe, she urged the community, including families, educators, advocates, and new leaders, to work together to build school systems that uplift rather than retraumatize students.

Tracy Palmer, 301 Cassidy Drive, Suite B, Pastor and Founder of Tracy Palmer Ministries, expressed frustration from a comment that was made on her Facebook post by Mr. Anderson. She stated that until council resolved their conflicts, they would be unable to help families heal, connect with the community, or make meaningful progress. She criticized council for being in disarray, pointing to ongoing bickering, arguments, and backlash among council members. She stated that she sent a formal complaint against Mr. Anderson for defamatory, unethical, and harassing conduct to the Delaware Division of Civil Rights and Public Trust, Delaware Public Integrity Commission, and the Attorney General's Office. She read the letter on the record:

RE: Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to formally report an inappropriate and unethical behavior of City of Dover, Councilman David Anderson. On July 4, 2025, Councilman Anderson publicly commented on one of my Facebook posts with the following inflammatory and defamatory statement. Is this the same EGL? She is a child rapist (did not want to mention the name, just the initials). He put her entire government name. Not only was this statement wholly inappropriate and publicly damaging, but it also included the full name of the accused, causing further harm to two families who have been working since 2014 to heal from a difficult chapter in their lives. I immediately removed the post to prevent further public harm and escalation. Rather than taking responsibility or showing restraint, he proceeded to attack me further through direct text messages to my phone. This conduct from an elected official is both harassing and abusive. I am currently recovering from brain surgery and cancer, and do not need nor deserve the stress, hostility, or targeted harassment from a city councilman whose role is to serve and protect the community, not tear it down. Councilman Anderson's behavior is not isolated. He has a pattern of speaking down to people, laughing in council chambers during serious matters, and showing a blatant disregard for the community's real issues. This is a city suffering from gun violence, homicides, prostitution, addiction, and homelessness, yet Councilman Anderson has not issued a single press release addressing these crises. Instead, he continues to start division, demean colleagues and weaponize past incidents for public shaming. This is not leadership. This is unethical and disgraceful behavior that undermines the integrity of public service. People in our city are dying, families are grieving, and homeless individuals in Dover suffer from trauma, addiction, and assault histories, yet instead of using his voice to bring healing, hope, or direction, Anderson chooses to bully, embarrass, and shame. His behavior is dangerous, divisive, and unbecoming of the office he holds. As such, I respectfully demand that a formal investigation be launched into his actions both online and off. Councilman Anderson should be sanctioned for behavior unbecoming of a public official. The City of Dover and related commissions reaffirm a zero-tolerance policy on harassment, bullying, and public defamation by elected leaders.

Ms. Palmer stated that council needs to be truthful, transparent, and listen. She noted that if council does not do the work, their title means nothing. She stated, for the record, that she did not want Mr. Anderson to come to her Facebook page and expressed relief that she had been blocked. She warned Mr. Anderson that he was “walking in danger,” and emphasized that it was not a threat.

Pastor Sheila Lomax, of 101 South New Street, expressed concern that the community needed to come together and do what was right instead of engaging in conflict. She emphasized that everyone has room for improvement and that the city needs healing. Pastor Lomax offered a heartfelt prayer, asking for heavenly guidance, healing for broken hearts, and open minds. She prayed for unity and the ability for people to come together and reason, even in disagreement. She acknowledged the pain of those who have lost children. She asked for God’s protection and guidance, emphasizing the urgency of the times, the need to speak truth, and to come together.

Chelle Paul, 501 Silverside Drive, spoke on behalf of Holy Trinity AME Church, expressed gratitude to all the council members who donated to the Youth Empowerment Event. She specifically acknowledged and thanked Dr. Sudler, Mr. Rocha, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Neil, Ms. Hall, Mr. Boggerty, Dr. Pillsbury, and Mr. Anderson for their support. She noted the event aimed to benefit, empower, and expose youth to new opportunities. While acknowledging council disagreements, she stressed the importance of unity in doing what was right. She urged council members to be honest with the public to avoid creating bigger issues. She emphasized the need for council to engage with the communities they serve, including those experiencing homelessness. She highlighted the importance of trusting the community and the police and stated that, although officers receive top-level training, additional training is needed, beyond diversity and inclusion. That was to address real-world dangers such as gang violence and street crime. She emphasized that police officers must be equipped to handle those situations safely and return home. She concluded by stressing that council must listen to residents to address issues and build a stronger, more connected community.

Daniel Guzman, Sr., a Dover resident and father of the late Daniel Guzman, Jr., who was murdered, shared his journey of turning his life around after a troubled youth and time in jail, choosing to change for the sake of his children and family. He expressed concern about the lack of positive police interaction with children in the community, stating that while some activities were taking place, they appeared to be limited to the council's inner circle. From his perspective, the police are not doing enough to engage with the community. Acknowledging the challenges of being a police officer, he stressed the importance of showing compassion regardless of circumstances. Addressing gun violence, he stated it stems from deeper issues, including the recruitment of youth into gangs and exposure to drugs and firearms. He called on council to go after those recruiting children and criticized them for ignoring those problems until they affect more suburban neighborhoods. He urged the council to act with genuine care and a commitment to making a meaningful difference in saving lives.

Cleveland Wilson, 234 North Kirkwood Street, stated that he was aware there are rich, poor, and privileged individuals. He noted that he can tell which council members care, highlighting Mr. Boggerty as he was listening to individuals on the floor speaking. He emphasized that it was important to him. He added that council needed to talk to residents and gather information. He stated that if council members would honestly help the community, they would always have his vote.

Martha Wright, Dover resident, stated that her son was murdered 71 days ago on May 4th at McGlynn's Pub. She shared that she attempted to contact Police Chief Johnson and Mayor Christiansen but was turned away. She stated that she has served the Dover community for 17 years, during which she has cared for and fed children and the homeless. She expressed deep frustration over the handling of her son's murder case. She noted that while one suspect was held on a \$118,000 bond related to two (2) recovered firearms, another was released on unsecured bail without an ankle monitor, allowing him to move freely around Dover. She added that she had encountered her son's killer when she was walking into Dollar General. She shared that the lead detective on her son's case told Victim Services there was no threat and that she and her children were safe. However, she questioned how safety could be assured when she encountered her son's killer at Dollar General. She stated she has received no updates on the case and regularly visits the Dover Police Department to share community information, only to be told, "It

is coming along.” She mentioned a recent meeting with the Attorney General where the police presented evidence, but it was rejected due to the need for more evidence. She pleaded with council to ensure that justice was being served and that the killers were removed from the streets. She pleaded with the council to pursue justice so that the killers would be taken off the street. She also urged the council to seek justice to ensure the killers are taken off the street. She referenced a Facebook post her son had written back in 2020, calling for change, and she shared his post with Dr. Sudler and Mr. Lewis. She stated that those changes never came, and violence has continued to rise. She pleaded for her son's name not to be in vain and urged council to save the children, emphasizing that they are the future. She highlighted that two 22-year-old individuals lost their lives, leaving behind their daughters.

Via WebEx, Dream Johnson, Dover resident, stated that she wanted to address the topic of police officer training. She asked what the protocol was for officer training and suggested that more information be made available to residents so they can know more about the process. She shared an incident involving her neighbor's children, who were in a vehicle that was approached by officers with guns drawn and pointed at them. She acknowledged that police officers have a job to do but emphasized that children deserve to feel safe. She suggested the need for more training and mentioned that some states required police officers to work in correctional facilities before being assigned to patrol duties. She explained that it would help police officers get to know their community and understand who they were interacting with. She suggested that the approach could be something worth looking into.

Responding to Mr. Neil, Dr. Sudler expressed gratitude and publicly thanked him for being amenable to the motion that was made to extend the speaking time for everyone during the open forum.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Robin R. Christiansen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Ms. Arndt.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dr. Sudler moved for adoption of the agenda, seconded by Ms. Arndt, and unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by a single roll call vote of the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of Council requests, in which event the matter shall be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered a separate item.

Ms. Arndt moved for adoption of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rocha and carried by a unanimous roll call vote (Hall absent).

PRESENTATION – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE – MICHEAL S. THOLSTRUP – PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (JUNE 2022-JUNE 2025)

Mr. Neil stated that the Presentation for Michael S. Tholstrup would be rescheduled.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2025

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 23, 2024, were unanimously approved by a motion of Ms. Arndt moved for adoption of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rocha and carried by a unanimous roll call vote (Hall absent).

MONTHLY REPORTS – MAY 2025

By motion of Ms. Arndt, seconded by Mr. Rocha (Hall absent), the following monthly reports were accepted by consent agenda:

City Council's Community Enhancement Fund Report
City Manager's Report
Controller/Treasurer's Budget Report
Fire Chief's Report
Police Chief's Report

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY CITY COUNCIL

By consent agenda, Ms. Arndt moved for approval of the following appointments, seconded by Mr. Rocha and carried a unanimous roll call vote (Hall absent).

Board of Assessment Appeals – Four-Year Terms to Expire March 2029

A. William Garfinkel, Accounting, Chair
B. John G. Davis, Jr., Undesignated

FINAL READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2025-12 – AMENDING CHAPTER 102 – TAXATION, ARTICLE III – REALTY TRANSFER TAX, SEC. 102-71 – DEFINITIONS AND ARTICLE IV – ABATEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES SEC. 102-113 – QUALIFICATIONS (DAVID S. HUGG, III, CITY MANAGER AND ANN MARIE TOWNSHEND, ROSSI GROUP)

The First Reading of the Proposed Ordinance #2025-12 was accomplished during the Council Meeting of June 23, 2025. The Ordinance is available at the entrance of the Council Chambers or on the City's website at www.cityofdover.com under "Government".

Dr. Pillsbury moved that the Final Reading of the proposed ordinance be acknowledged by title only, seconded by Mr. Rocha, and unanimously carried (Hall absent).

Mr. David Hugg, III, City Manager, reviewed Proposed Ordinance #2025-12 – Amending Chapter 102 – Taxation, Article III – Realty Transfer Tax, Sec. 102-71 – Definitions and Article IV – Abatement of Real Estate Taxes Sec. 102-113 – Qualifications.

Responding to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hugg clarified that the ordinance has already been passed and enacted. The ordinance needed a housekeeping technical amendment to the ordinance since it was adopted.

Responding to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hugg clarified that the ordinance would benefit all residents in the downtown development district.

By motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Arndt, Council, by a unanimous roll call vote (Hall absent), adopted Ordinance #2025-12, as follows:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOVER, IN COUNCIL MET:

That Chapter 102 - Taxation, Article III - Realty Transfer Tax, Section 102-71 – Definitions, be amended to read as follows:

(3) *First-time homebuyer* means a natural person who has at no time held an interest in residential real estate, wherever located, and which has been occupied as their principal residence, and who intends to occupy the property being conveyed as his principal residence, within 90 days following recordation of the deed. The first-time homebuyer must file an affidavit certifying to his qualifications before the exemption can be granted. In order to alleviate claims for rebate of the transfer tax paid, no rebate shall be made once the deed for the transaction has been recorded. First-time homebuyers submitting a false affidavit in any respect, which would entitle them to the exemption, shall be subject to payment of the unpaid transfer tax, plus interest at the rate of one and one-half percent per month and, upon direction by the council, referral to the attorney general of the state for criminal prosecution. This subsection shall apply to all real estate settlements held on or after January 2, 2000. First-time homebuyers are exempt from the transfer tax as provided herein. The first-time homebuyer exemption shall apply to the seller of property that qualifies for the first-time buyer exemption but only for property located within the downtown development district defined in Appendix C. Council shall have the right to deny this exemption to any property owner where the sale and purchase appears to be done fraudulently to take advantage of the realty transfer tax exemption ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED:

That Chapter 102 - Taxation, Article IV - Abatement of Real Estate Taxes, Section 102-113 - Qualifications, be amended as by inserting the text indicated in bold, blue, italics, and deleting the text indicated in red strikeout as follows:

(d) Any persons purchasing residential real property in which they will reside within the downtown development district defined in Appendix C shall be given tax relief from the payment of real estate taxes in the following manner: first year of ownership, total tax abatement; second year of ownership, 75 percent tax abatement; third year of ownership, 50 percent tax abatement; fourth year of ownership, 25 percent tax abatement; fifth year of ownership, no tax abatement. Provided however that the homeowner is required to occupy the home as their principal place of residence during the entire time that the taxes

are abated and if the property ceases to be their principal place of residence at any time during the four-year period of abatement, then they shall lose their right of abatement and shall be required to pay immediately all taxes abated up to the time that the home ceases to be their principal residence. In order to obtain the tax abatement, the homeowner must make application by affidavit submitted to the city assessor, city manager or his/her designee, or contractor showing qualification for the abatement and each year thereafter, submit a similar affidavit showing their continued right to the abatement. If qualification for the abatement ceases within the four-year period of abatement the homeowner is required to notify the city assessor, city manager or his/her designee, or contractor of the lack of qualification for the abatement and within 90 days from the date the qualification ceases, pay all taxes abated in the past.

ADOPTED: July 14, 2025

CITY MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hugg had no announcements.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Christiansen had no announcements.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Sudler made a motion to instruct staff to perform a cost analysis for mobile lighting and/or mobile lighting with a camera to be placed in the field, featuring dimmed lighting, near Dover East Trailer Park and Barrister's Place. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Responding to Mr. Neil, Mr. Paul Waddell, Electric Director, stated that the smart lighting was only in the high-priority zone in the downtown area. They cannot plug any of the smart lighting adapters into those lights that are down there. It was all in the pins where the photocells go. He explained that they would need to purchase new light heads and then put them into the system if council wanted to go that route.

Responding to Mr. Neil, Mr. Waddell clarified that the proposed \$3 million for the city did not include smart lighting. The intention was only to have the smart lighting downtown on a trial basis.

Responding to Mr. Neil, Mr. Waddell explained that they were going to replace all the Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights around the rest of the city, so they could spread that expense out slightly. The security lights and the roadway lights, which are on the arms, are completed. The next step was to do the post-op lights, which were in most of the neighborhoods.

Responding to Mr. Neil, Mr. Waddell stated that Dr. Sudler was referring to a light trailer, not the type of system that would have to be set up. That was based on what the staff came back with from the motion. He described the light trailer as a light all, something that they just put out there, and it is either battery power, gas-powered, or plugged into something. He referred back to Dr. Sudler, believing that he was not talking about any type of floodlights that they would maintain.

Responding to Mr. Rocha, Mr. Waddell clarified that there is a way to prioritize some of the discussed areas to install Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting in those neighborhoods. He stated that he included LED lighting in his budget. He explained that before starting the large-scale LED light replacement, they identified issues with lights that did not meet standards. The LED lights were rotten, damaged, and the light heads were dilapidated. He noted that they would go through and address these issues on a development-by-development basis. With previous city leadership, they decided to abandon that approach and replace the LED lights throughout the entire city. He said this was the initial phase, focusing on the high-priority downtown area, with plans to test smart lighting. Instead of trying to upgrade different sections with mixed types of lights, they planned to start with security lights, then move on to roadways, and finally address post-top lights, which comprised 65% of all city lights. He mentioned that this would require a significant amount of money and would be spread over two years. Although he does not have a specific budget for a complete replacement, they are replacing lights as they fail through attrition, using LED fixtures since they no longer stock conventional lights. He also noted that residents might see LED lights in some subdivisions, while other areas still have old halogen or mercury vapor lights.

Responding to Mr. Rocha, Mr. Waddell stated he would need to get more information about who is responsible for the lights at the Dover Housing Authority properties and Manchester Square. He noted that if they do replace those lights, he was aware that over by River Road, right across the family court, they do maintain those lights. There was an agreement with Delaware Family Housing, and they maintain some lights. He explained that if you drive through that area, residents will see duplicate lights, and some lights never turn on, and then, those lights that are on are the ones that have been abandoned.

Responding to Mr. Rocha, Mr. Waddell clarified that they do not have a Portable Light All Lighting System. All the ones that they have would be mounted on their trucks that they use, such as when they need to replace a light. The Grounds Department or Parks and Recreation Department may have a Portable Light All Lighting Systems. He also mentioned that Dover Rental and United Rental have a Portable Light All Lighting System. He emphasized that Portable Light All Lighting Systems can be obtained. He is unsure of the ability of the other Dover entities that may have a Portable Light All Lighting System.

Responding to Mr. Waddell, Mr. Boggerty stated that he supported the decision to figure out levels of lighting, but the Portable Light All Lighting System could be a disturbance for some residents due to the level of noise, the responsibility of maintaining it to turn it off and on, and the amount of fuel they burn. He suggested that those concerns be considered. He also mentioned that continuously running those systems can get a bit costly for maintenance and upkeep.

Responding to Mr. Boggerty, Mr. Waddell stated that he would need to look at the electric feed that is out in Barrister's Place and Dover East Trailer Park. He suggested that they could put a pole in that area, and then it would be permanent. He noted that they would put it on a photocell and see where the feeds were and how difficult or easy it was to put the photocell in there.

Responding to Mr. Waddell, Dr. Sudler clarified that the location would be around the northeast corner, where the open field and vegetation that runs along Dover East Trailer Park.

Responding to Dr. Sudler, Mr. Waddell was unsure of the lighting map at the moment of where it was and how difficult it may be to tap something off and run it up a pole.

Responding to Mr. Waddell, Dr. Sudler stated that they would need to come up with something quickly that all of council can be amenable to. When it comes to safety and considering the cost, but at the same time, he chooses safety over cost.

Mr. Lewis updated council on what he has been doing with Mr. Waddell and his staff. He stated that he had Mr. Waddell and his staff repair all non-functioning lights at Barrister Place and previously repaired the lines last year along Stoney Creek Barrister Place. As council was aware, he emphasized that he actively patrols his neighborhoods in the Second District and takes notes of the streetlights that are out. He explained that Ms. Duca and Mr. Hugg were included in an email regarding the lighting mechanism previously discussed by Dr. Sudler. Ms. Duca had contacted Mr. Novak to check if it was available in the Public Works Department. He stated that he was still waiting for a response from Ms. Duca. He also mentioned that they were exploring the possibility of obtaining an apparatus from the Public Works Department temporarily until they can get permanent lighting out in the field due to the area being very dark. The victim's mother had raised lighting concerns with him, requesting that some form of lighting be installed in the area because it was pitch black. He emphasized that he had been trying to get cameras installed over the past two (2) years, as everyone was aware. He noted that he had visited Barrister Place and observed that the camera installation was underway but not yet completed. From his understanding, there were issues with the wiring and the cable, but those were being addressed. He stated that he had been in contact with Ms. Duca about the cameras and had asked her about placing a camera in the alleyway. He noted that the cameras were initially requested in 2023 for the alleyway of Stoney Creek, which runs alongside Barrister Place. He also mentioned that the site was currently experiencing illegal dumping.

Responding to Mr. Hugg, Mr. Lewis stated that one (1) camera was located in the heart of Barrister Place, at the cul-de-sac, and the other camera was positioned at the exit of Barrister Place on South Little Creek. He noted that the two (2) cameras were currently in the process of being installed. He mentioned that those were not the cameras he had requested. He had specifically requested a camera to be placed in the alleyway of Stoney Creek, which would have captured part of Barrister Place. He explained that he had sent several emails, which he could share, and noted that he was copied on those emails. He emphasized his frustration with the situation, stating that Barrister Place had been waiting for the cameras to be installed, which could have provided additional coverage. He requested a follow-up on the status and asked to be informed.

Responding to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hugg stated that it would not be a significant task to put a permanent light fixture in Barrister Place once they determine where the power is. He suggested that they go ahead and get a permanent light fixture, rather than worry about trying to get temporary lighting. Mr. Hugg noted that it would be a better solution.

Responding to Mr. Hugg, Mr. Waddell clarified that he would begin working on the matter the next day.

Mr. Waddell stated that, regarding the camera, the fiber team was scheduled to go out to Barrister Place the following morning to make the final connections. That was based on what he was told on Friday, July 11th. He was hopeful that the cameras would be active between Tuesday, July 15th, and Wednesday, July 16th. However, he was unsure when the installation process would be completed and when everything would be configured on the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) side.

Responding to Mr. Waddell, Mr. Lewis expressed gratitude, stating that this was long overdue.

Responding to Dr. Sudler, Mr. Waddell clarified that he could provide an answer the following day regarding how long the process would take to install the cameras and install a permanent light fixture.

Dr. Sudler stated that he would rescind his motion following the discussion and information provided by Mr. Lewis, as well as the points of interest of Mr. Boggerty, if Mr. Lewis was willing to rescind his second.

Dr. Sudler rescinded his motion based on the discussion and the information rendered by Mr. Lewis, as well as the points of interest of Mr. Boggerty. Mr. Lewis then rescinded his second.

Responding to Mr. Waddell, Mr. Lewis stated that the adjacent community, where the field was divided between Barrister Place and Dover Estates, had been supportive of adding lighting in the field. He mentioned that he had been in contact with the residents, who expressed their amenability during a community meeting held two (2) weeks ago. He noted that there should not be any issues with the lighting shining into residents' windows or causing disturbances, as the adjacent community wanted the safety mechanisms that Barrister Place was seeking.

Responding to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Waddell suggested installing one (1) of their roadway lights in Barrister Place, which is a 400-watt equivalent. He mentioned that those lights are already installed on Route 13 and are designed to cast a long downward path without projecting light to the sides. He noted that those lights are called "dark sky" lights, meaning they emit minimal light outward. Instead, the light is directed downward, which should effectively light up a good portion of the area.

Mr. Anderson expressed gratitude for the updates provided and noted that council members had been inquiring about their progress. He requested that council receive weekly updates until the matter is completed. He explained that regular updates are important, so council can stay informed and respond to the frequent questions they receive from constituents. The second item that he addressed was informing the public about the Dover Hope Zone's Hope Streets program, held on Wednesday evenings during the summer from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. He explained that it was a free community initiative focused on violence prevention through promoting fitness, wellness, and community engagement particularly aimed at youth, under the theme #SpreadHope. The event flyer was available on both the City of Dover's Facebook page and his own Facebook page. He noted that the upcoming Hope Streets program events would take place adjacent to the People's Church on July 16th, at the Green Beret Project on July 23rd, and at the Whatcoat Village Apartments Playground on July 30th. He also mentioned that there were additional locations planned for future Hope Streets program events, which he would announce

at a later meeting date. He noted that there were several events and opportunities available in the city, and he encouraged individuals to take advantage of them. He emphasized the importance of involving the youth in those activities as a way to keep them out of trouble. He added that the People's Community Center offers a wonderful youth program, along with other locations such as the Sankofa Cultural Arts Center and the Green Beret Project. He noted that there is a lot happening in the city because many individuals genuinely care, including every member of City Council. He emphasized that council members are deeply committed to the community, dedicating their time, effort, and even their own money. He added that the commitment extends to Mayor Christiansen, the city staff, and members of council, all of whom have a genuine heart for the residents of Dover.

Mr. Rocha stated that on August 9th at 6:00 p.m., the Central Delaware National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be hosting a Freedom Fund Banquet with the theme "Boots on the Ground." He also mentioned that also on Saturday, August 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., there would be a back-to-school event at Booker T. Elementary.

Mr. Neil stated that the library offers great activities and programs for children of all ages that are worthwhile and easily accessible. He also noted that NASCAR is taking place this upcoming weekend, so traffic is expected to be heavy through Thursday, July 17th, through Sunday, July 20th, due to it being a large national event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

ANDRIA BENNETT
CITY CLERK

All ordinances, resolutions, motions, and orders adopted by the City Council during their Regular Meeting of July 14, 2025, are hereby approved.

ROBIN R. CHRISTIANSEN
MAYOR