

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Council Committee of the Whole met on July 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. with Council President Neil presiding. Members of Council present were Mr. Anderson, Ms. Arndt, Mr. Boggerty, Ms. Hall, Mr. Lewis (arrived at 6:06 p.m.), Dr. Pillsbury, and Dr. Sudler. Mr. Rocha was absent. Mayor Christiansen was also present. Civilian members present for their Committee meetings were Mr. Garfinkel (via WebEx) and Mr. Shevock (*Legislative, Finance, and Administration*).

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Dr. Sudler moved for adoption of the agenda, seconded by Dr. Pillsbury and unanimously carried.**

### **Council Reports – June 2025**

#### First District

Dr. Pillsbury reported attending the Fourth of July Parade and the City of Dover Police Department Virtra Training System demonstration. She explained that it was a remarkable system, and she believed it would help in training officers.

Mr. Rocha was absent; no report was given.

#### Second District

Ms. Hall reported attending the Fourth of July Parade and the City of Dover Police Department's Virtra Training System demonstration. She also spoke with several constituents regarding ongoing complaints surrounding Barrister Place. She explained that potential solutions have been identified to address the fencing issue, clarify the city's right-of-way, and fulfill the promises made to the concerned residents. Additionally, Ms. Hall shared that she has identified a possible method to generate revenue for the city without placing additional financial burdens on the taxpayers.

Mr. Lewis reported overseeing the completed paving project on Elm Terrace, which he and the local residents had been anticipating for several months. He noted that he had received numerous complaints about vehicle damage being caused by a large ditch at the end of the road. With support from Sharon Duca, Assistant City Manager, and the Public Works Department, the project was completed, the ditch was leveled, and the resident's expressed satisfaction. Mr. Lewis also addressed constituent concerns about rising utility bills and ongoing frustrations related to Barrister Place, noting that many residents are upset with both the police and elected officials. He reported assisting Clearview Meadows with the completion of their Neighborhood Watch Program, which is expected to be finalized soon. He concluded by emphasizing the widespread discontent among residents regarding local elected officials and law enforcement.

#### Third District

Ms. Arndt reported attending many of the same events as her colleagues. She shared that a constituent had reached out to inform her that the new principal of the soon-to-be Central Elementary School (formerly Central Middle School) was interested in connecting with the neighborhood to establish a line of communication. This outreach led the constituent to express

interest in reestablishing the neighborhood association, which has been dormant for the past few years. Ms. Arndt also reported that the link downtown would be returning with a broader scope. This, in turn, raised the question of whether there is an updated list of neighborhood associations within Dover. She stated she would be willing to work with the City Clerk's Office to update the list, as she felt it would be a valuable tool for sharing information about programs and volunteer opportunities, helping neighborhoods come together and support one another.

#### Fourth District

Mr. Anderson reported addressing several constituent concerns and expressed his appreciation to city staff for their timely responses. He thanked Mr. Jason Lyon for his diligence in investigating a significant issue on Cecil Street involving the water and sewer lines. Mr. Anderson noted that he had received inquiries regarding the Neighborhood Watch Fund and emphasized the importance of moving forward with its implementation. He also attended the Fourth of July Parade and extended his gratitude to the Fourth of July Committee, stating that this year's fireworks display was the best yet. He explained that he is looking forward to positive things for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Dr. Sudler reported attending the Fourth of July Celebration on Legislative Mall and noted that the fireworks were amazing. He also shared that he had been meeting with family members of the victims of gun violence in the community to hear their concerns, give them condolences, and look at what can be done in the future to prevent gang activity with the youth in the community. Additionally, Dr. Sudler reported working in collaboration with the mayor to secure Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) to help address housing-related concerns in the community.

#### At-Large

Mr. Boggerty reported attending the Fourth of July Parade and fireworks. He shared that he met with the Chief of Police to review the viral video that had been circulating, in order to understand the incident and identify opportunities for improvement. Mr. Boggerty also commended a city employee named Sean, who was seen at 6:00 a.m. walking along Loockerman Street, picking up trash and cleaning the area. He explained that it was hot and muggy that day, and there are more employees like Sean who represent Dover. He acknowledged their heart and dedication to the area they serve and the city. He expressed his gratitude to all the city employees. He attended the Capital Green Community Day to show support for residents closely connected to the area, particularly in light of the tragic incident that occurred there last year. He emphasized the importance of supporting positive community efforts and concluded by noting it had been a very busy month, during which he engaged with numerous constituents.

#### Council President Neil

Council President Neil reported attending the African American Festival and the Fourth of July Parade. After the Barrister Place shooting, he organized a meeting at Manchester Square, with Dover Housing Authority (DHA) staff, Chief Johnson, and two of his staff. He also reviewed the full camera footage of the car reported stolen by the New York Police, which was stopped by Dover Police along with Mr. Boggerty, Mr. Rocha, and Mr. Anderson. Mr. Neil reported attending the Habitat for Humanity Ceremony at 223 South Cecil Street and a meeting with the mayor, Mr. Anderson, and the Kent County Economic Partnership (KEP) to discuss potential economic development. He was a guest speaker along with State Senator Eric Buckson at the James H.

Groves Adult High School graduation at Del-Tech. He attended a library board meeting along with the City of Dover Police Department Virtra Training System demonstration. He reported receiving a complaint regarding a food truck illegally parked on North New Street with lots of trash around it. He thanked Eddie Kopp for acting immediately in addressing the issue. He drafted a column for the July edition of the Modern Maturity Center Bulletin that was set up originally by Mr. Anderson. He asked Mr. Rocha to draft a column on the new Efficiency Smart Program for the August edition and Ms. Arndt to draft a column on Parks and Recreation for the September edition. He reported drafting commentary on the police department, which was published in the Delaware State News, where an organization has tried to paint the city council and police department in a bad light. He attended the Construction and Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals meeting in June along with Mr. Boggerty and Mr. Rocha. He received a written letter from a Nimitz Road homeowner expressing traffic complaints and problems with a student during the school year. He shared her letter with Chief Johnson and the Capital School District Superintendent. On behalf of Ms. Arndt and himself, he sent a Third District alert to the civic leaders. He reported exchanging emails with the Mayor of Little Creek the morning after the budget was passed concerning the electric rate increases. He addressed emails from a constituent on group homes and thanked Eddie Kopp for his help in addressing the concerns as well. Lastly, he consulted with the new president of the Delaware Manufactured Homeowners Association at her request and published a four-page newsletter for Wild Meadows Homeowners Association at the request of the president.

### **LEGISLATIVE, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committee met with Chairman Anderson presiding.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

**Ms. Hall moved for adoption of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Shevock and unanimously carried.**

#### **Evaluation of Proposals – Boggs Drive Drainage Improvement Engineering Support (Jason Lyon, Water/Wastewater Director)**

Mr. Jason Lyon, Water/Wastewater Director, reviewed the background and analysis regarding the Evaluation of Proposal for the Boggs Drive Drainage Improvement Engineering Support.

Staff recommended awarding the contract to Verdantas for the Boggs Drive Drainage Improvement Engineering Support, RFP #25-0022WW, for the amount of \$67,600.

**Ms. Arndt moved to recommend approving the staff recommendation to award the contract to Verdantas. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hall and unanimously carried.**

**Mr. Anderson moved for adjournment of the Legislative, Finance, and Administration Committee meeting, hearing no objection the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.**

Mr. Johnathan Flamer, 514 S. Greenberry Lane, Dover, Delaware, questioned the PowerPoint presentation from the previous Monday in relation to electricity usage. He asked what the estimated average home usage of electricity was. He stated that they explained that the average home would only increase by twenty to thirty dollars. After looking at the number they presented

and looking at his own home, his usage is almost three times lower than what the average house was using in the presentation. He explained that he asked Dr. Sudler to look into what housing developments they were looking at when they came up with the projected numbers for the increases that had been scheduled to begin on the first of August for the residential areas.

Responding to Mr. Flamer, Mr. Neil stated that he would have to take Mr. Flamers question back to the experts of that department and report back with an answer. He also mentioned the new Efficiency Smart Program that will be featured in the Modern Maturity Center Bulletin. He stated that they will come in and directly help Mr. Flamer because the more he saves, the less the city must pay to get the electricity to his home.

**Mr. Neil moved for adjournment of the Council Committee of the Whole meeting, hearing no objection the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.**

Fred A. Neil  
Council President