

COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Council Committee of the Whole Meeting was held by video conference on June 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., with Council President Sudler presiding. Members of Council present via video or telephone were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Boggerty, Mr. Neil, Mr. Hare, Mrs. Arndt, Mr. Rocha, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Lindell. Civilian members present for their Committee meetings were Mr. Contant (arrived at 6:02 p.m) and Mr. Shevock (arrived at 6:09 p.m.) (*Legislative, Finance, and Administration*).

LEGISLATIVE, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Hare moved for adoption of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Neil and unanimously carried.

Discussion - Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Program (Lori Peddicord, Controller/Treasurer)

Ms. Lori Peddicord, Controller/Treasurer, reviewed the background and analysis regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Program.

Responding to Mr. Rocha, Ms. Peddicord stated that the audit service is put out to bid every couple of years in order to solicit a new set of eyes and costs to review the City's systems. She advised that this was the last year of the current award period and that for Fiscal Year 2022 there could be a new auditor.

Responding to Mr. Taylor, Ms. Peddicord stated that if the auditor finds a discrepancy they bring it to staff's attention and in most cases they need to review the City's policy, procedure, or internal control process. She advised that the auditor would also go out in the field to see what other municipalities, governments, and state entities are doing and they give suggestions from time to time. Ms. Peddicord noted that the auditor keeps the City in line with any generally accepted accounting standards (GASB) implementations that change and new accounting practices. She stated that there are not disputes with the auditor, but they may suggest that the City change a process.

Responding to Mr. Anderson, Ms. Peddicord stated that GASB are the guidelines that govern how transactions are processed and reported on.

Mr. Hare moved to recommend approval of staff's recommendation to accept the audit program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neil and unanimously carried.

National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL) Restoring Central Dover Community Renewal Plan - Request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds (Will Grimes, Director of Operations, NCALL)

Ms. Karen Speakman, Executive Director, Ms. Chanda Jackson, Community Engagement Specialist, Mr. Will Grimes, Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator, and Ms. Patricia Kelleher, Real Estate Development Director with National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL) reviewed their request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Responding to Mr. Contant, Ms. Jackson stated that the \$100,000 requested for public health would be used to hire another staff member that would be more intentional about targeting specific individuals, providing case management services, and ensuring the service delivery of the professionals are adequate enough so that people can be successful, rather than duplicating services offered by other groups fighting the opioid problems in the City.

Responding to Mr. Contant, Ms. Jackson stated that the new staff member would conduct training for behavioral health specialists and would be a counselor/case manager working with clients directly. She advised that NCALL currently had an opioid outreach specialist who was working on training with Delaware State University (DSU) and Bayhealth. Ms. Jackson noted that by bringing on another staff member it would allow them to expand what they were currently doing.

Responding to Mr. Contant, Ms. Jackson stated that they were in the process of doing research, identifying best practices, looking at what other States were doing, and service delivery and how it impacts the success rate among the population being looked at. She advised that NCALL had funds from Healthy Communities Delaware for additional support.

Mr. Contant asked that if NCALL were to come back and request this funding that they provide an idea of how the money would be spent for each of the four line items presented to include what the return would be, whether it was a program already in existence, and provide multiple examples of the long-term positive impact that it would have. He advised that this would help in determining where the money would be best used.

Responding to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Grimes stated that Capitol School District was a partner because it was within their target area, however, they were moving into workforce development because it was something brand new for NCALL. He advised that Solid Rock Community Center had become a testing site with over one thousand certification credentialing courses, and they would like to get scholarships for people in the community to be able to take advantage of the courses. Mr. Grimes noted that in the first year they were targeting 10 to 20 young adults age 16 to 24 for a pilot program. He stated that the courses cost anywhere from \$400 to \$4,000 and they wanted to use the platform they had in place to take advantage.

Mr. Anderson stated that he had asked that the NCALL presentation be limited to 10 minutes and have a broader scope and that details could be sent to staff for further analysis.

Mr. Sudler moved to recommend referral of this item to staff for qualifications of the supplemental American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously carried.

North Bradford Street - Street, Sidewalk and Tree Plan (Phase 1) (Sharon Duca, Public Works Director)

Ms. Sharon Duca, Public Works Director, reviewed the background and analysis regarding the North Bradford Street - Street, Sidewalk and Tree Plan (Phase 1).

Responding to Mrs. Arndt, Ms. Duca stated that the Public Works Department had gone door-to-door that morning with flyers that were also posted to the website, DoverTV, and Facebook, and spoke to residents that had called in with questions to inform them of the public meeting on July 7, 2021.

Responding to Mrs. Arndt, Ms. Duca stated that they would be accepting comments after the meeting on July 7th. She advised that Public Works would need more one-on-one interaction with the property owners as they looked at alternatives which would be best suited for each location. Ms. Duca noted that she expected the meeting on July 7th would be a preliminary meeting to go over what was being looked at to-date and to hear the voices of the public as to what they were looking for.

Responding to Mrs. Arndt, Ms. Duca confirmed that Public Works intended to modify the plan included in the packet and present it again.

Ms. Kesha Braunskill, Urban and Community Forestry Program Director, Delaware Forest Service, advised that she met with Ms. Duca to discuss the project and look at alternatives for tree preservation considering the health of the tree, disease, canopy health, decay, and then making recommendations for the protection of those trees. She noted that they also encouraged replacement of trees in a more suitable place.

Mrs. Arndt moved to recommend that staff continue to develop a plan for North Bradford Street paving and curbing with input from Delaware Forest Service Professionals and the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rocha and unanimously carried.

City Manager Search

Mr. Hare reviewed the process used for the last City Manager Search in 2020.

Mr. Hare moved to have the Council President appoint members for an interview committee and bring their suggestions and recommendations to City Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neil.

Mr. Sudler stated that he was prepared to name the individuals he had selected for the City Manager Search Committee if approved.

Mr. Lindell asked when the meeting was held to discuss the process presented.

Mr. Hare moved to recommend that the Council President appoint a City Manager Search Committee to bring their suggestions and recommendations to City Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neil and carried with Mr. Lindell voting no.

Selection of Interview Committee for City Manager and City Clerk

Mr. Sudler recommended the appointment of Council members Tricia K. Arndt, Andre M. Boggerty, William F. Hare, Gerald L. Rocha, Sr. (Chair), and Mayor Robin Christiansen, and Mrs. Kim Hawkins, Human Resources Director, to serve on the Interview Committee for the City Manager and City Clerk.

Mr. Neil moved to recommend acceptance of the appointments to the Interview Committee for the positions of City Manager and City Clerk, as recommended by Council President Sudler. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously carried.

Mr. Neil moved for adjournment of the Legislative, Finance and Administration Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Shevock and unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

SAFETY ADVISORY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Neil moved for adoption of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Rocha and unanimously carried.

Strategies for a Safer Dover (Councilman Ralph L. Taylor, Jr)

Mr. Taylor, Police Chief Johnson, and Ms. Chanda Jackson, Community Engagement Specialist, NCALL, reviewed the strategies for a Safer Dover presented at the Police Chief's Advisory Committee Meeting on June 22, 2021.

Chief Johnson provided the following statistics:

- There was a 60% drop in homicides within the City of Dover from January 1st to June 15th, 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.
- There was a 17% drop in robberies.
- There was a 32% drop in sexual assaults.
- There was a 15% drop in aggravated assaults.
- There was an 18% drop in crimes where someone points a weapon or fires a weapon at someone.
- There was a 56% drop in reckless endangerment.
- There had been no damage to property by firearm in the current year, a 100% drop from four (4) incidents in 2020 to none in 2021.
- 57 firearms had been taken off the street, which was 40 more than the same period in 2020.

Ms. Jackson provided the following information regarding the Police Chief's Advisory Committee:

- The committee had been focusing on learning more about the departments and had a presentation from the different units at each meeting.
- They had discussed the police hiring process, the municipal police academy program and its curriculum, field orientation, training, the role of psychology in training, drug and burglary investigations.
- The meeting was open to the community and comment and feedback was received regarding the mobile substation in addition to the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) initiative coming forward.
- There was now a youth focus group of the Police Advisory Committee from Dover High School.

Mr. Taylor discussed the following regarding the Police Chief's Advisory Committee Meeting on June 22, 2021:

- Reverend Theodore Henderson from Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Dover and Vicinity (IMA) had discussed a comprehensive marketing strategy to market Dover as safe, clean, welcoming, and inclusive.
- A gun buyback program was discussed.
- Chief Johnson provided a presentation and strategy on approaching gang violence.
- Under Restoring Central Dover, Ms. Jackson had scheduled a meeting of the Police Chief's Advisory Committee on July 1, 2021 to include Manchester Square, Derby Estates, and Willis Road and to jumpstart the work they would begin in those areas.
- Mr. Taylor scheduled another meeting of the Police Chief's Advisory Committee on July 7, 2021 at Liberty Court in the multi-purpose room.

Mrs. Arndt and Mr. Neil advised Mr. Taylor that the July 7, 2021 meeting would conflict with the North Bradford Street Rehabilitation Project Community Meeting scheduled for the same day and time so they would be unable to attend.

Police Chief Johnson discussed the following regarding Group Violence Intervention (GVI):

- It is a national program closely associated with gang violence.
- It was brought to Delaware through the office of the Governor and it had been in place in Wilmington for over two years.
- The basic premise of GVI is to target the identified less than 1% of individuals doing the majority of violent crimes in a given area in partnership with the Department of Corrections and other state level social services agencies with relevant data and give them options.
- The first option is to accept services that will address some of the challenges they face that leads to violent behavior.
- The second option is that if help is declined, law enforcement focuses on that individual in a constitutional right to identify their behavior and address it with arrest and incarceration.

Mr. Hare moved for adjournment of the Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Neil and unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Neil moved for adjournment of the Council Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Arndt and unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Roy Sudler Jr.
Council President

RS/MR/jt/tm

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