MINUTES
New Castle County Council FY14 Budget Hearings
Executive Office/Row Offices/County Auditor
April 7, 2014

I. Administrative-Finance Committee Co-Chair John Cartier convened the April 7, 2014 Budget Hearing at 3:00 p.m. in the 8th Floor Council Conference Room.

II. Council members present: Mr. Bell, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Cartier, Ms. Diller, Mr. Hollins, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Powers, Mr. Reda, Mr. Smiley, Mr. Street, and Mr. Tackett. Absent were Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Weiner.

III. Mr. Smiley motioned to approve the minutes from the 3/31/2014 Budget Hearing, which was seconded by Ms. Diller, and unanimously approved.

IV. David Grimaldi, CAO, presented the County Executive's FY15 Budget and responded to Council's questions. Points of focus included the increase in certain salaries due to changes in positions. The office of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer will be vacant and the office of Chief of Staff has been filled. There are no other significant changes from last year's budget.

V. Robert Wasserbach, County Auditor, presented his FY15 budget and responded to Council's questions. Points of focus included prior year goals and accomplishments, the need for quarterly audit meetings, instituting Enterprise Risk Management program in each County department, and increasing salary and benefits line to add one more full-time employee to Auditor's office.

VI. Ken Boulden, Clerk of Peace, presented his FY15 budget and opened the floor to questions from Council Members. Points of focus included same conversion of civil unions to marriages by July deadline, reclassifying Clerk-Typist III position to Account Clerk I, and request to Executive Office for an Intern to help in conversion process.

VII. Michael Kozikowski, Recorder of Deeds (ROD), presented on his budget for FY15 and opened the floor to questions from Council Members. Points of focus included progress and positive effect of electronic documents and records program, positive outlook in home sales and values due to market factors as well as NCCPD crime fighting initiatives, and launching more doc types (i.e. mortgages).

VIII. Ciro Poppiti, Register of Wills, presented his FY15 budget and responded to Council's questions. Points of focus included positive effect of evening hours in Middletown, announcement of backlog report scheduled for May 6, 2014, update that over 600 old estates have been settled resulting in $1 million to NCC, and there are approximately 3,000 old estates left to process.

IX. Trinidad Navarro, NCC Sheriff, presented his FY15 budget and responded to Council's questions. Points of focus included transition from old Crown Victoria's to new Chevy Impala's, addition of one full-time position, and the commitment by the Sheriff's office to continue informing residence of their rights in the foreclosure process.

- Mr. Bell suggested that a few Chevy Tahoe's be included in the new vehicles to allow for prisoner transport duties and inclement weather conditions.

X. Councilman Smiley made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Councilwoman Kilpatrick and the motion was unanimously approved.

The budget hearing was adjourned at approximately 4:11 pm

A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Holajter, Legislative Aide to Administrative-Finance Committee Co-Chair John Cartier.