

**SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, AUGUST 13, 2013**

**A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:**

<b>Michael H. Vincent</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Samuel R. Wilson, Jr.</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Joan R. Deaver</b>	<b>Councilwoman</b>
<b>Vance Phillips</b>	<b>Councilman</b>
<b>Todd F. Lawson</b>	<b>County Administrator</b>
<b>Gina Jennings</b>	<b>Finance Director</b>
<b>J. Everett Moore, Jr.</b>	<b>County Attorney</b>

**The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Vincent.**

**Call to  
Order**

**Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order.**

**M 374 13  
Amend  
and  
Approve  
Agenda**

**A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to amend the Agenda by deleting the grant request from Diamond Swoop 14U Softball Team (for the purpose of obtaining additional information) and to approve the Agenda, as amended.**

**Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Absent.**

**Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Absent;  
Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;  
Mr. Vincent, Yea**

**Corre-  
spondence**

**Mrs. Deaver announced that the State is planning to update Ellendale residents on work to ensure safe water supplies in the area. DNREC and the Division of Public Health have scheduled a workshop to be held Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church in Ellendale at 6:00 p.m. The workshop will provide residents with the most recent information concerning environmental investigations in the vicinity of the church, private well sampling associated with the justification for municipal water distribution, and cancer study results in the Ellendale area.**

**Mrs. Deaver referenced a letter received from JJID, Inc. regarding the rejection of bids for the Inland Bays Projects. (The letter will be forwarded to the Engineering Department.)**

**Mrs. Deaver referenced a letter received from Dennis Storey of Oakwood Village requesting the County's assistance in a matter with the President of the Oakwood Village LLC and a violation of the covenants of Oakwood Village relating to drainage. Mrs. Deaver stated that she would like Mr. Storey to receive a response from the County.**

**Minutes**            **The minutes of August 6<sup>th</sup> were approved by consent.**

**Coyote Regulations Proposal**            **Charles P. “Chip” West II was in attendance to discuss and express concern regarding the eastern coyote that has arrived in Delaware. He stated that the coyote will affect everyone; that the coyote is a wild animal and a predator that has a large potential to become invasive; that the coyote has many food sources and one of those sources could be pets; that coyotes’ habitat preference is wooded lot interface with suburban corridors; that coyotes will affect agriculture (livestock), hunting, outdoor pets, and human interaction in suburban environments; that they will affect the ecosystem from the smallest ground nesting creature and up; that coyotes can largely remain unseen so the extent of the problem is unknown; that the coyote can change the conservation environment in Sussex County; that coyotes could affect tourism; and that the increasing coyote population needs to be curbed through year-round hunting and trapping.**

**Mr. West stated that there is a proposal through the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s Division of Fish & Wildlife for a coyote hunting season from November 1 to February 28; however, Mr. West stated his belief that this proposal is shortsighted. Mr. West reviewed the regulations of nearby states including Virginia, where trapping and hunting is permitted year-round. Mr. West asked the Council for a letter or a Resolution to be sent to the Secretary of DNREC asking them to consider the year-round coyote hunting season proposal. He reported that a meeting has been scheduled on September 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the DNREC building in Dover.**

**Nathan Hudson, a farmer, and Representative David Wilson spoke in support of legislation / regulations to permit the year-round hunting and trapping of the eastern coyote. Representative Wilson stated that he was one of the sponsors on a Bill to address this problem and that he would rather see the issue addressed under Delaware Code versus by regulations. Representative Wilson stated that he would like the Council to send a message to the State of Delaware and to DNREC that the Council has concerns and supports the proposal for year-round trapping and hunting.**

**Mr. Phillips noted that the coyote could affect the real estate industry.**

**Mr. Moore advised that he is aware of people having pictures of coyotes on game cameras in (probably) each of the Councilmanic Districts.**

**M 375 13**            **A Motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, that the**  
**Adopt**            **Sussex County Council adopts Resolution No. R 012 13 entitled “A**  
**Resolution**            **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL’S**  
**No.**                 **SUPPORT FOR REGULATIONS PERMITTING THE LAWFUL YEAR-**  
**R 012 13**            **ROUND HARVEST OF THE EASTERN COYOTE IN DELAWARE”.**

**Motion Adopted:     4 Yeas, 1 Absent.**

**M 375 13  
(continued)**

**Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Absent;  
Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;  
Mr. Vincent, Yea**

**Adminis-  
trator's  
Report**

**Mr. Lawson read the following information in his Administrator's Report:**

**1. Finance Department Update**

**During last week's Council meeting, the Finance Department provided an overview of the County's new tax bill and announced our initiative to accept credit card payments both online and in person.**

**I can report that in the first week, 140,000 tax bills have been printed or processed electronically. Citizens should receive their bills in the mail this week if they haven't already. All tax bills are available online and can be paid directly using the County website.**

**In the first week, the County recorded more than \$30,000 in credit card sales at the bill payment counter; \$13,000 of the \$30,000 was for services for which the County has never received credit card payments. The remaining \$17,000 was for property taxes.**

**The ability to accept credit card payments at the counter has greatly increased the County's efficiency and flexibility, which allows us to better serve our customers. I would like to thank staff for their efforts in making this initiative such a success.**

**Introduction  
of Proposed  
Ordinance**

**Mrs. Deaver introduced the Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR EXCAVATION OF A BORROW PIT TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN BALTIMORE HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 7.2 ACRES, MORE OR LESS" filed on behalf of Melvin L. Joseph Construction Co., Inc. The Proposed Ordinance will be advertised for Public Hearing.**

**Additional  
Business**

**Under Additional Business, Dan Kramer questioned if the Council members read the minutes prior to approving them and he stated that they must not as he "found a big flaw".**

**Mrs. Deaver commented on the meeting of the Route One Pedestrian Safety Committee that was held in Rehoboth. She stated that DelDOT's Secretary was there and he made reference to a problem with County signs/sign regulations. Mr. Lawson was asked to contact Secretary Bhatt to determine what the concern is.**

**M 376 13**

**At 10:51 a.m., a Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to recess and go into Executive Session for the purpose of**

**M 376 13**      **discussing issues relating to pending/potential litigation and land**  
**Go Into**      **acquisition.**  
**Executive**  
**Session**      **Motion Adopted:      4 Yeas, 1 Absent.**  
**(continued)**

**Vote by Roll Call:      Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Absent;**  
**Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;**  
**Mr. Vincent, Yea**

**Executive**      **At 10:55 a.m., an Executive Session of the Sussex County Council was held**  
**Session**      **in the Caucus Room of the Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing**  
**issues relating to pending/potential litigation and land acquisition. The**  
**Executive Session concluded at 11:08 a.m.**

**M 377 13**      **At 11:09 a.m., a Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr.**  
**Reconvene**      **Phillips, to come out of Executive Session and to reconvene the Regular**  
**Session.**

**Motion Adopted:      4 Yeas, 1 Absent.**

**Vote by Roll Call:      Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Absent;**  
**Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;**  
**Mr. Vincent, Yea**

**There was no action on Executive Session items.**

**M 378 13**      **A Motion was made Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Deaver, to adjourn at**  
**Adjourn**      **11:10 a.m.**

**Motion Adopted:      4 Yeas, 1 Absent.**

**Vote by Roll Call:      Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Absent;**  
**Mr. Phillips, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;**  
**Mr. Vincent, Yea**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Robin A. Griffith**  
**Clerk of the Council**