

## **EXCERPT - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012**

The Regular Council Meeting was held on November 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. with Council President Leary presiding. Council members present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lynn, Mr. Perza, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Hare, and Mr. Hutchison. Mr. Bonar was absent.

Council staff members present were Police Chief Hosfelt, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. Koenig, Mrs. Townshend, Fire Chief Fortney, City Solicitor Rodriguez, and Mrs. McDowell. Mayor Carey was also present.

## **SAFETY ADVISORY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT - OCTOBER 24, 2012**

The Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee met on October 24, 2012 with Chairman Hutchison presiding.

### **Creation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee**

Mrs. Ann Marie Townshend, Director of Planning and Community Development, reminded members that the 2008 City of Dover Comprehensive Plan included a recommendation for the formation of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Group made up of bicyclists, pedestrians, DelDOT staff, MPO staff, and City staff to begin identifying gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network. She indicated that in September 2011, the Dover Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the Kent County Regional Bicycle Plan, which aims to create an effective, safe bicycle system in central Delaware. It shows where there are bicycle trails, lanes, and similar facilities in central Delaware and where there are gaps in such a service. This plan identifies a number of priorities in the City of Dover. She explained that the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee would work with the City, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Dover/Kent County MPO to prioritize projects for implementation and to promote safe opportunities for bicycling, walking, and jogging in the City of Dover.

Mrs. Townshend also explained that the creation of this Committee would provide the City a mechanism for regular communication with the cycling and pedestrian community, which would help to improve the quality of life in the City, help the City to achieve a Bicycle Friendly Community designation, and put the City in a positive position to receive funding through the State Trails and Pathways Initiative.

Staff recommended the creation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee consisting of five (5) City residents who are active pedestrians and cyclists selected by the Chair of the Safety Advisory and Transportation Committee, with participation from City departments, DelDOT, and the Dover/Kent County MPO.

In response to Mr. Hutchison, Mrs. Townshend stated that two (2) individuals had indicated an interest in serving the City in this capacity and another individual who may also wish to serve approached her at a Bike Summit. She suggested that recommendations be provided for consideration and that she meet with the Committee Chair prior to the end of the year to finalize the selection of members.

Mr. Keller questioned whether the City would be required to maintain the pathway, including snow removal. Mrs. Townshend expressed her opinion that the City would be responsible for snow

removal but that this would be a lower priority than snow removal from City streets. She acknowledged the importance of pathway maintenance, noting that an asphalt pathway on North Street that travels to Schutte Park has not been actively maintained and, as a result, grass is protruding and damaging the asphalt. She stated that the proposed committee would be discussing these types of issues.

The Committee recommended the creation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee as recommended by staff, and that staff work with the Committee Chair to develop a list of members to be considered for appointment to this Committee.

**By consent agenda, Mr. Hare moved for approval of the Committee's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Hutchison and carried by a unanimous roll call vote (Bonar absent).**