

*Wilmington City Council
Wilmington, Delaware
May 2, 2024*

“Youth in City Government Day”

City Council met in regular session with remote participation on the above date at 6:45 p.m., President Ernest M. Congo, II presiding along with Youth President Xavier Driver.

The opening prayer was done by Akira Grenardo, Deputy City Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by City Council.

ROLL CALL

The following members responded to the Call of the Roll: Council Members White, Darby, Oliver, B. Fields, McCoy** (virtual), Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera*(virtual) and Bracy, and Council President Congo. Total, ten. Absent with leave, Council Members Harlee, Mills and Spadola.

MINUTES

After the City Clerk read a portion of the minutes of April 18, 2024, upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Oliver (3rd District Youth Amiyah Lloyd), it was moved they be accepted as written. Motion prevailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The City Clerk read the following committee report:

Finance & Economic Development Committee Member	Present	Absent w Leave	Absent w/out Leave
Chris Johnson, Chair	Y		
Michelle Harlee, Vice Chair	Y		
Latisha Bracy	Y		
Nathan Field	Y		
Zanthia Oliver	Y		
James Spadola	Y		
Ernest “Trippi” Congo, Ex-Officio	Y		

President and Members of Council of
The City of Wilmington

April 22, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your Finance & Economic Development Committee met by **anchor location and remote participation**, to who was referred **Ordinance No. 24-020** entitled:

A PROJECT ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF A PROJECT FOR SALESIANUM SCHOOL, INC.; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS WITH RESPECT THERETO; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF WILMINGTON REVENUE BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000,000; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER NECESSARY ACTION

Have given this Ordinance careful study and recommend Council vote on it accordingly.

Respectfully submitted, Members of Finance & Economic Development Committee

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

The City Clerk read the following committee report:

Community Development & Urban Planning Committee Members	Present	Absent w/Leave	Absent w/out Leave
Maria D. Cabrera, Chair		N	
Nathan Field, Vice Chair	Y		
Shané N. Darby		N	
Bregetta A. Fields	Y		
Yolanda M. McCoy	Y		
James Spadola	Y		
Vincent M. White		N	
Ernest "Trippi" Congo II, Ex-Officio	Y		

President and Members of Council of The City of Wilmington

April 24, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your Community Development & Urban Planning Committee met jointly with Finance & Economic Development Committee by **anchor location and remote participation**, to who was referred **Ordinance No. 24-019** entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF A PORTION OF WEST SIXTEENTH STREET, LOCATED BETWEEN BRINCKLE AND GREENHILL AVENUES, FROM THE OFFICIAL CITY MAP

Have given this Ordinance careful study and recommend Council vote on it accordingly.

Respectfully submitted, Members of
Community Development & Urban Planning Committee

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Members Oliver and B. Fields, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following Treasurer's Report for May 2, 2024 was read into the record by City Clerk and upon a motion of Council Member Johnson (7th District Youth Jayana Michaels), seconded by Council Members B. Fields (5th District Youth Pax Tanner), the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

Note: The Treasurer's Report is included herein as an insert from Page 4 to Page 6.

[the remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

City of Wilmington



DaWayne Sims
City Treasurer

Treasurer's Report May 02, 2024

Cash - Ledger Balance (as of 05/01/2024):

General	M & T Bank	\$ 8,210,675.00
Payroll	M & T Bank	\$ 1,685,769.54
Law Department Court Costs	M & T Bank	\$ 3,992.07
Total Petty Cash	M & T Bank	\$ 5,874.09
Police - Evidence Found (Currency)	M & T Bank	\$ 1,148,644.29
Police & Fire Remembrance	M & T Bank	\$ 11,744.49
Police Department Discretionary	M & T Bank	\$ 30,022.73
Rent Withholding Escrow	M & T Bank	\$ 5,787.97
Grant-in-Aid	M & T Bank	\$ 112,760.87
Community Development Block Grant	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
Capital Projects	M & T Bank	\$ 1.00
Total Cash on Hand		\$ 11,215,273.05

Cash Equivalents & Investments (as of 05/01/2024):

Account Type & Fund	Institution	Investment Type	Number of Days	Interest Rate	Interest Receivable	Investment Amount
LIQUIDITY:						
General	M&T	Overnight Repo	Daily	3.99%	\$ 3,183.36	\$ 41,246,501.40
General	TD	High Yield Checking	1	4.58%	\$ 389.41	\$ 3,060,897.29
General	TD	High Yield Checking	1	4.58%	\$ 567.91	\$ 4,463,934.95
General	TD	High Yield Checking	1	4.58%	\$ 939.71	\$ 7,386,356.16
SUB-TOTAL:						\$ 56,157,689.80
Account Type & Fund						
Police & Fire Remem.	WSFS	CD	1/23/2025	4.88%	\$ 1,168.38	\$ 26,124.17
General	TD	CD	6/18/2024	5.28%	\$ 356,852.83	\$ 40,551,457.57
General	TD	CD*	6/14/2024	5.28%	\$ 150,684.35	\$ 17,123,221.88
General	TD	CD	6/17/2024	5.28%	\$ 277,737.03	\$ 31,043,632.80
SUB-TOTAL:						\$ 88,744,436.42
RESERVE:						
General ¹	TD	CD	5/20/2024	5.45%	\$ 496,117.62	\$ 18,206,151.22
SUB-TOTAL:						\$ 18,206,151.22
RESTRICTED:						
Capital Project	TD	CD	6/14/2024	5.28%	\$ 13,060.46	\$ 1,484,142.82
Capital Project	TD	CD	6/14/2024	5.28%	\$ 1,493.05	\$ 169,664.62
Capital Project	TD	CD	6/14/2024	5.28%	\$ 119,006.19	\$ 13,523,431.21
Water/Sewer	TD	CD	5/20/2024	5.45%	\$ 95,373.61	\$ 3,499,948.83
State Bonds Proceeds	TD	CD	6/14/2024	5.28%	\$ 30,345.70	\$ 3,448,375.00
SUB-TOTAL						\$ 22,125,562.48
Total Investments						\$ 185,233,839.92
Total Cash on Hand						\$ 11,215,273.05
Grand Total						\$ 196,449,112.97

¹ Budget Reserve

*Restricted use, Per ARPA US Treasury Guidelines

DocuSigned by:

DaWayne Sims 5/2/2024

DaWayne Sims, City Treasurer

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE

LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING • 800 FRENCH STREET • WILMINGTON, DELAWARE • 19801-3537

WWW.WILMINGTONDE.GOV • PHONE: (302) 576-2480 • FAX: (302) 573-5568

City of Wilmington



DaWayne Sims
City Treasurer

Treasurer's Report - Pensions I May 02, 2024

Cash - Ledger Balance (as of 05/01/2024):

Pension Payroll	M & T Bank	\$	175,323.50
Retiree Healthcare	M & T Bank	\$	2,813,685.84
Police Pension	M & T Bank	\$	1,000.00
Fire Pension	M & T Bank	\$	4,002,689.03
Non-Uniform Pension Act of 1990-Plan 3	M & T Bank	\$	14,498.51
Non-Uniform Pension Plan 2	M & T Bank	\$	1,000.00
Old Non-Uniform Pension - Plan 1	M & T Bank	\$	1,592.81
Total Cash on Hand		\$	7,009,789.69

Cash Equivalents (as of 05/01/2024) & Investments (Market Value as of April 26, 2024)

Account Type & Fund	Institution	Investment Type	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Interest Receivable	Investment Amount
LIQUIDITY:						
Fire Pension II	TD	CD	6/28/2024	5.28%	\$ 16,376.28	\$ 1,860,940.89
SUB-TOTAL:						\$ 1,860,940.89
RESERVE:						
Pension Trust	Rhumblin (S&P 500)					\$ 96,233,832.00
Pension Trust	Earnest Partners					\$ 17,127,160.00
Pension Trust	Dodge & Cox					\$ 13,445,197.00
Pension Trust	Artisan Global					\$ 13,521,194.00
Pension Trust	MFS Low Global					\$ 13,918,437.00
Pension Trust	Fidelity Total Intl. Index					\$ 17,064,111.00
Pension Trust	Harding Loevner					\$ 2,394,410.00
Pension Trust	Fidelity Emerging					\$ 2,848,789.00

DocuSigned by:

DaWayne Sims 5/2/2024

7768CA8083E8468

DaWayne Sims, City Treasurer

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE

LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING • 800 FRENCH STREET • WILMINGTON, DELAWARE • 19801-3537

WWW.WILMINGTONDE.GOV • PHONE: (302) 576-2480 • FAX: (302) 573-5568

City of Wilmington



DaWayne Sims
City Treasurer

Treasurer's Report - Pensions II May 02, 2024

Investments (Market Value April 26, 2024)

Account Type & Fund	Institution	Investment Type	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Interest Receivable	Investment Amount
RESERVE:						
Pension Trust	Clarion Lion					\$ 10,094,200.00
Pension Trust	Morgan Stanley					\$ 8,357,407.00
Pension Trust	JP Morgan					\$ 15,216,930.00
Pension Trust	LM Capital Core					\$ 31,934,800.00
Pension Trust	Rhumblin Core					\$ 27,928,487.00
Pension Trust	Fidelity Bond Index					\$ 9,080,777.00
Pension Trust	Money Market					\$ 1,449,202.00
Pension Trust	OPEB Trust Fund					\$ 32,959,116.00
SUB-TOTAL						\$ 313,574,049.00
Total Investments						\$ 315,434,989.89
Total Cash on Hand						\$ 7,009,789.69
Grand Total						\$ 322,444,779.58

Total Funds under Treasury Management:

Total Investments						\$ 500,668,829.81
Total Cash on Hand						\$ 18,225,062.74
Grand Total¹						\$ 518,893,892.55

¹ Excludes non-City funds held in trust on behalf of City employees (Mass Mutual)

DocuSigned by:

DaWayne Sims 5/2/2024

776BCA8083E8468...

DaWayne Sims, City Treasurer

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE

LOUIS L. REDDING CITY/COUNTY BUILDING • 800 FRENCH STREET • WILMINGTON, DELAWARE • 19801-3537

WWW.WILMINGTONDE.GOV • PHONE: (302) 576-2480 • FAX: (302) 573-5568

NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Upon a motion of Council Member B. Fields (5th District Youth Pax Tanner), seconded by Council Member Oliver (3rd District Youth Amiyah Lloyd), the following non-legislative resolutions were accepted into the record and motion prevailed:

a. Recognition Resolutions

All Council	Recognize Youth in Government Day
Congo	Recognize Marie Foreman (104 th Birthday)
Congo	Recognize Omega Psi Phi Psi Zeta (50th Anniversary)
Mills	Recognize Tennis in the Streets

b. Sympathy Resolutions

Cabrera	Sympathy David Paul Roselle
B. Fields	Sympathy Deborah Ann Sargent
B. Fields	Sympathy LaQuenta V. Daniels
White	Sympathy Richard E. Williams

The following students participated in the "2024 Youth in Government Day":

- Xavier Driver, President of City Council
- Terrell Brown, 1st District
- Michael Moore, 2nd District (tie)
- Jayden Williams, 2nd District
- Amiyah Lloyd, 3rd District
- Kandyce Hardy, 4th District
- Pax Tanner, 5th District
- Symphony Byard, 6th District
- Jayana Michaels, 7th District
- Payton Staab, 8th District
- Angel Beltran, At-Large A
- Kaydence Walker, At-Large B
- Brahmin Jackson, At-Large C
- Veronica Minus, At-Large D
- Khalil Hackett, Mayor
- Miya Wright, Treasurer
- Blaise Santana, Chief of Staff to Mayor
- Zoey Corbett, Chief of Fire
- Jay'den Dale, Chief of Police
- Chase Robinson, City Auditor
- Janiyah Johnson Matthews, City Solicitor
- Ryan Blanco, City Clerk
- Chase Carter, Director of Parks and Recreation
- Abdiel Hernandez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation

- Iris Castilo, Commissioner of Public Works
- Bryan Flores, Commissioner of Licenses & Inspections
- Markyah Taylor, Director of Finance
- Destani Sutton, Director of Human Resources
- Derek Sharper, Director of Real Estate and Housing
- Dion Harris, Director of Integrated Technologies
- Destinee Clark-Griffin, Director of Constituent Services
- Asiyah Morris, Director of Risk Management
- Saajidah Glenn-Salaam, Director of Cultural Affairs
- Nehemiah Johnson, Director of Planning
- Averi Bivens, Director of Economic Development
- Landon Larkin, Director of Emergency Management

Although students participated in the Program throughout the course of the day, not all participated during the actual City Council meeting. In addition, Council Member Bracy mentioned the non-official resolution (After School and After Care Program) that was created by the Youth Council representing Council seats, which was read by At-Large A Youth Angel Beltran and At-Large D Youth Veronica Minus. The students who participated in the City Council meeting introduced themselves and the district and/or department they represented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, President Congo opened up the floor for public comments and the following individuals spoke:

- Dwight L. Davis
- Mike Lawson (virtual)
- Holland Raulston, Jr.
- Tony Rispoli (virtual)

Upon a motion of Council Member N. Field, seconded by Council Member Oliver, the public comment segment was extended. Motion prevailed.

- Timeless Thomas
- Paul Merrill
- Kristina Kelly (virtual)
- Donald Bluestein
- Christine Marks (virtual)
- Maggie Mesinger
- Susan Soltys
- Mike Soltys

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

President Congo mentioned that the agenda will be done out of order.

Council Member N. Field presented and called for the third and final reading Ordinance No. 24-019 (Agenda #0415) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF
A PORTION OF WEST SIXTEENTH STREET,
LOCATED BETWEEN BRINKLE AND GREENHILL
AVENUES, FROM THE OFFICIAL CITY MAP

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: This Ordinance has no negative anticipated fiscal impact.

Upon a motion of Council Member N. Field, seconded by Council Member Johnson, the Ordinance was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member N. Field spoke on the purpose of the Ordinance and made comments. Council Members Darby and Johnson made comments. Council Member Bracy made comments and raised a question, and Council Member N. Field responded.

**Note: At this time, Council Member Cabrera was recognized as being present and reflected in the minutes herein (Roll Call).*

Council Member B. Fields made comments. President Congo made comments.

***Note: At this time, Council Member McCoy was recognized as being present and reflected in the minutes herein (Roll Call).*

Council Member N. Field made closing comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk call the roll.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was read for the third and final time and was defeated by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members White, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera and Bracy. Total, six. Nays, Council Member Darby and Council President Congo. Total, two. Absent, Council Members Oliver, Harlee, McCoy, Mills and Spadola. Total, five.

President Congo declared the Ordinance **defeated**.

Council Member White presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-024 (Agenda #0422) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE A
CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
AND THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE OF DELAWARE
TO ENFORCE DELAWARE DOG CONTROL AND
DANGEROUS DOG STATUTES

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: This Ordinance has an anticipated fiscal impact of \$904,166.16 over a three (3) year period.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member White, seconded by Council Member Bracy, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Darby presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-025 (Agenda #0423) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 45 TO
PROHIBIT WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS
FOR NONPAYMENT OF UTILITY CHARGES

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The fiscal impact of this legislation is unknown at this time.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Darby, seconded by Council Member Johnson, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Darby **withdrew** Agenda #0424.

On behalf of President Congo, Council Member Darby presented Resolution No. 24-025 (Agenda #0425) as follows:

WHEREAS, the *City Council Reparations Taskforce to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States*, or the "Taskforce," was established by Resolution 20-080 as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan has set forth a goal of supporting a "Transparent and Well-Represented Wilmington" by facilitating the "study and development of reparations proposals for African Americans, in accordance with Resolution 20-080"; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 23-050 approved a modification to the timeline for the submission of the Taskforce's report to facilitate adherence to the FOIA (Freedom

of Information Act) conventions established by Chapter 100, Title 29 of the Delaware State Code, pertaining to public bodies. The submission date for the Taskforce’s report was extended to March 31, 2024, to enable the Taskforce to solicit public feedback and synthesize its findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Taskforce have identified and examined “issues of systemic racial disparity, racist practices and procedures and/or institutional discrimination against African Americans, resulting from the delivery or provision of City government services or the implementation or effect of City policies, and resulting from the delivery or provision of other government-provided services or widely implemented business practices or the implementation or effect of government policies or business practices” in the domains of policing; housing and economic disparity; education; health; and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the Taskforce has submitted findings and recommendations to City Council, a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment A, that summarize the history of such issues in the City of Wilmington, describe their impacts on the City’s African American population, and make recommendations for redress that are either in the purview of Council or could be brought to the attention of the appropriate entities by Council through outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Taskforce’s report builds on a preponderance of scholarly and legal evidentiary documentation regarding the ongoing effects of the institution of slavery and its legacy of persistent systemic structures of discrimination on living African Americans and society in the City of Wilmington, as well as the State of Delaware and United States of America more broadly; and

WHEREAS, it is the solemn duty of this Council to promote equity, fairness, and quality of life for all residents. This Legislative body’s efforts to conscientiously assess its laws and policies and undertake corrective action, when warranted, include but are not limited to Resolution 21-018- A Resolution to Conduct a Disparity Study Regarding Economic Development and Healthcare Access and Opportunity in Wilmington, sponsored by late Councilwoman Rasheema Dixon; Resolution 22-073 A Resolution to Adopt the Report Titled “Landscape Analysis Report for the City of Wilmington”; the establishment of the Wilmington Civil Rights Commission by Ordinance 18-001; the initiation of a Citizen Complaint Review Board by Substitute 1 to Ordinance 20-034; the adoption of a Fees and Fines Taskforce by Resolution 22-069; maintaining appropriate representation on the Wilmington Learning Collaborative (WLC) Council, and the establishment of a Residency Taskforce to advise on how best to recruit from within our City’s talent pool and attract new expertise to our community; and

WHEREAS, the report produced by the Taskforce constitutes a significant contribution to the City’s ongoing strides to acknowledge, evaluate, and address the impacts of past and present laws and policies on the quality of life and well-being of Wilmingtonians, particularly with regard to African Americans who are descendants of persons enslaved in the United States. It will serve as a guiding document for continued dialogue concerning racial disparities in the City of Wilmington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body accepts into the record the report titled "African American Reparation Report for the City of Wilmington: Addressing Historical Injustices and Building a Path to Equity and Access." The analysis of the barriers to racial equity issued by the *City Council Reparations Taskforce to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States* will be taken under advisement by the Council of the City of Wilmington as it works to uphold its commitment to a "Transparent and Well-Represented Wilmington" for all Wilmingtonians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council expresses strong support for collaboration with the relevant State and federal agencies to bring meaningful and lasting change for those who have experienced the generational impacts of slavery and its ensuing legacies of institutional racism and structural violence that have restricted opportunity for countless individuals in the City of Wilmington.

Upon a motion of Council Member Darby, seconded by Council Members Johnson and Bracy, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Darby spoke on the purpose of the Resolution and made comments. Council Member Johnson requested to be added as a co-sponsor and made comments. Council Member Bracy requested to be added as a co-sponsor and made comments. Council Member Oliver requested to be added as a co-sponsor and made comments. Council Member B. Fields made comments and requested to be added as a co-sponsor. Council Member White requested to be added as a co-sponsor. President Congo made comments. Council Member Darby requested to be added as a co-sponsor and made closing comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call the roll.

The above-mentioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members White, Darby, Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera and Bracy, and Council President Congo. Total, nine. Nays, none. Absent, Council Members Harlee, McCoy, Mills and Spadola. Total, four.

President Congo declared the Resolution **adopted**.

President Congo mentioned that the agenda will be done a little out of order again.

Council Member Johnson presented and called for the third and final reading Ordinance No. 24-020 (Agenda #0420) entitled:

A PROJECT ORDINANCE APPROVING AND
AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF A
PROJECT FOR SALESIANUM SCHOOL, INC.;
MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS WITH RESPECT
THERE TO; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF
CITY OF WILMINGTON REVENUE BONDS IN
AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT
TO EXCEED \$10,000,000; AND AUTHORIZING
OTHER NECESSARY ACTION

Upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Johnson spoke on the purpose of the Ordinance and made comments. Council Member Oliver requested to be added as a co-sponsor and made comments. Council Member Johnson made closing comments.

President Congo requested the Clerk call the roll.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was read for the third and final time and was adopted by title and section recurring to the Enacting Clause and was passed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members White, Darby, Oliver, B. Fields, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera and Bracy, and Council President Congo. Total, nine. Nays, none. Absent, Council Members Harlee, McCoy, Mills and Spadola. Total, four.

President Congo declared the Ordinance **adopted**.

Council Member Johnson presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-026 (Agenda #0431) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A NEW METHODOLOGY
FOR CALCULATING CITY COUNCIL SALARIES AND
TO ESTABLISH SALARIES OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FOR THE 109TH COUNCIL SESSION TO BE EFFECTIVE
AS OF JANUARY 7, 2025

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Johnson presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-027 (Agenda #0432) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE
CITY CODE TO CREATE A WATER REVIEW BOARD

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Oliver, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Finance & Economic Development Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Oliver presented Resolution No. 24-026 (Agenda #0426) as follows:

WHEREAS, Sec. 2-307 of the Charter of the City of Wilmington authorizes the board of pensions and retirement to submit to Council a plan for pensions and retirement that is “comprehensive, fair and actuarially sound”; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 39 of the Wilmington City Code enumerates the parameters of pension benefits for covered employees. There are approximately 291 active participants and 1,317 in-pay participants in the City of Wilmington pension program; and

WHEREAS, Section 39-6 authorizes the Pension Commission to conduct “annual reviews of the overall financial condition of the city” and evaluate the feasibility of recommending cost of living increases for City pensioners; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan envisions policies and strategies relating to the compensation of City employees and human resource management as fundamental components of maintaining a “Prosperous and Sustainable Wilmington.” Individuals covered by the pension system have contributed a wealth of tangible and intangible benefits to the organization and operation of City services throughout their careers. Ensuring that these individuals and their families have sufficient financial resources to live with dignity following their retirement merits consideration in the budgetary deliberations; and

WHEREAS, pensioners have not received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the past 10 years. There have been substantial changes in the costs of living in the past decade. The City’s most recent modification in pension compensations was enacted by Ordinance 19-031. In fiscal year 2020, uniform and nonuniform pensioners who received less than \$20,000 annually from the pension fund were distributed a one-time payment of \$1,000 in lieu of a COLA; and

WHEREAS, according to the Elder Index, which is produced by the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, an individual aged 65 or older with average health and no mortgage would require approximately \$26,556 annually to live independently in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington (PA-NJ-DE-MD) Metropolitan Area. Inadequate resources can contribute to financial anxiety for retirees affecting both mental and physical health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, this Council recommends the cost of living for the City’s pensioners be evaluated based on nationally recognized standards to better align with the present economic conditions and average household expenditures these individuals incur; and

WHEREAS, pension benefits also support the families of retirees, their widows or widowers, and eligible dependents. In some cases, these payments constitute their sole income to meet household needs; and

WHEREAS, pension policies are a retention and recruitment mechanism. As other public and private employers broaden their benefits, it is incumbent on the City of Wilmington to maintain an attractive compensation package that is commensurate with the dedication and quality of talent our City seeks to engage; and

WHEREAS, the City's unassigned fund balance has increased from \$34 million in 2017 to \$75 million, or 40% of the budget, in fiscal year 2024. Entering fiscal year 2025, the unassigned fund balance has risen to \$95 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON this Legislative body urges the Administration to include pension cost of living increases among its top budgetary priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative body recommends that pension payments be adjusted to be more reflective of today's economic conditions, as well as our City's recognition of the positive contributions of pensioners who faithfully served the constituents of Wilmington during their tenures.

Upon a motion of Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Members B. Fields and Johnson, the Resolution was before the Council for its consideration. Motion prevailed. Council Member Oliver made comments.

***Note: Council Member McCoy was experiencing technical difficulties and once again was recognized as being present.*

Council Members Bracy, Johnson, N. Field and White requested to be added as a co-sponsor. President Congo requested to be added as a co-sponsor. Council Member Cabrera requested to be excused after the vote. Council Member B. Fields requested to be added as a co-sponsor. Council Member McCoy raised a question and Council Oliver responded. Council Member Oliver made additional comments. Council Member McCoy requested to be added as a co-sponsor.

President Congo requested the Clerk to call the roll.

The above-mentioned Resolution was received, adopted as read and directed to be recorded and filed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members White, Darby, Oliver, B. Fields, McCoy, Johnson, N. Field, Cabrera and Bracy, and Council President Congo. Total, ten. Nays, none. Absent, Council Members Harlee, Mills and Spadola. Total, three.

President Congo declared the Resolution **adopted**.

Council Member Oliver presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-028 (Agenda #0427) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE
THREE ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS OF AMENDED
CONTRACT 22002WDPS (PUMP, VALVE AND
MISCELLANEOUS MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

MAINTENANCE SERVICES) BETWEEN THE
CITY OF WILMINGTON AND MUNICIPAL
MAINTENANCE COMPANY

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The fiscal impact of this Ordinance is three (3) one-year contract extensions at an estimated price per extension of Nine Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand and One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$982,150.00). with the possibility of a price adjustment for the second and third extensions not to exceed the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for all urban consumers for all items in the Philadelphia/Camden/Wilmington Metropolitan Area for the prior year, at the option of the City.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Public Works & Transportation Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Oliver presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-029 (Agenda #0428) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE
THREE ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS OF AMENDED
CONTRACT 22003WDPS (WATER DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEM ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT
AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES) BETWEEN THE
CITY OF WILMINGTON AND WILLIER ELECTRIC
MOTOR REPAIR COMPANY, INC.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The fiscal impact of this Ordinance is three (3) one-year contract extensions at an estimated price per extension of One Million One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$1,173,470.00), with the possibility of a price adjustment for the second and third extensions not to exceed the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for all urban consumers for all items in the Philadelphia/Camden/Wilmington Metropolitan Area for the prior year, at the option of the City.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Public Works & Transportation Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Oliver presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-030 (Agenda #0429) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE
TWO ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS OF AMENDED
CONTRACT 24009PWPS (MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT) BETWEEN THE CITY OF
WILMINGTON AND ASSET MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The fiscal impact of this Ordinance is two (2) one-year contract extensions at an estimated price of (i) Eight Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$847,551.00) for the first extension and (ii) Eight Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$847,551.00), with the possibility of a price adjustment not to exceed the Consumer Price Index – Urban (CPI-U) for all urban consumers for all items in the Philadelphia/Camden/Wilmington Metropolitan Area for the prior year, at the option of the City, for the second extension.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Public Works & Transportation Committee. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Oliver presented and called for the first and second reading Ordinance No. 24-031 (Agenda #0430) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 42 OF THE
CITY CODE TO REVISE THE UNDERGROUND
FACILITIES COORDINATION MANUAL

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: This Ordinance has no anticipated fiscal impact.

The above-mentioned Ordinance was given two separate readings by title only and upon a motion of Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member B. Fields, the Ordinance was received, recorded and referred to the Public Works & Transportation Committee. Motion prevailed.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Council Members and Council President spoke on the following: those who came out to the Homeownership Forum were thanked; renaming of Mercedes Fields Way; May Day; announcement of community events; announcement of upcoming Finance & Economic Development Committee to discuss the budget ordinances; everyone was encouraged to support the business community; those who were a part of the spring cleaning of the Soldiers and Sailors monument were thanked; community cleanup; Pride Recovery meeting; and including but not limited to, everyone was thanked for attending tonight's meeting whether in-person or virtually, and were thanked for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion of Council Members B. Fields and Johnson, seconded by Council Member Oliver, Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Note: More detailed information is reflected in the videotape of the May 2, 2024 City Council meeting at the following link: <https://wilmingtonde.new.swagit.com/videos/304125>.

Attest: Maribel Seijo
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk