

August 3, 2026

The New Castle City Commission meeting was held on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6pm. Present was Mayor Phoebe Thompson, Commissioners Tony Kurtz, Cheryl Hay and Jennifer Delling. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, City Attorney Josh Clubb and Public Works Director Joey Bramblett, Fire Chief Steve Judy, Deputy Zack Napier, Joe Durbin of Paxton Media, citizens Tyler Edwards, Dale Mahoney, Danny Holcomb, Donna Feltner, Sally Welch, Betty St.Clair, Sydney Willard, Magistrate Danny Shain and business owner Miranda Arnold.

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Kurtz made the motion to accept the minutes from all the July meetings as presented. Commissioner Delling seconded the motion. The motion did carry unanimously.

Commissioner Hay made the motion to approve all financial activity for July of 2026. Commissioner Delling seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Mayor Thompson checked online balances in city held accounts.

Tyler Edwards was in attendance representing the festival committee. He is the new secretary for the committee. He requested that the Mayor and Commissioners attend their next meeting if at all possible. It will be held in the locker on August 11th at 7pm. He also advised that the committee wants to hold a "chicken fry". The Mayor advised that the commission had decided that there could not be any more of these types of fundraisers held in the locker. She and Commissioner Delling will be attending the festival committee meeting on the 11th.

SpectrumVoIP had presented a proposal to the City regarding their services for a phone system. While they could offer a small savings compared to our current provider, they do require a 5 year contract. It was decided that changing would not be in the best interest of the City at this time, so the current system with SpectrumVoice will continue.

There were several in attendance concerned about various properties around the city that have been neglected to the point of being a nuisance, accumulation of junk, trash and debris and uncut lawns. Mayor Thompson advised that upon the advice of the City Attorney, a code enforcement board would need to be established and a code enforcement officer hired in order to properly address these issues. She asked for volunteers to sit on the board and to contact city hall with their contact information.

Donna Feltner also spoke regarding her concern about Daryl Pennington living on the streets of New Castle and the danger he poses. She advised that she took her concerns to city hall and requested that they be conveyed to the Mayor. She was not pleased at all with how her complaints were handled and she felt she was not taken seriously. She has also contacted other government agencies regarding this matter.

Danny Holcomb also addressed the Commission regarding Daryl Pennington. He feels that he poses a threat to the public and to himself. He requested that the Commission and Josh Clubb look into possible ordinances that could be enacted to help address this problem.

Deputy Napier advised that Daryl Pennington has been charged with public camping (a newer state law) and that if anyone sees him committing a crime, harassing anyone or in any way causing a disturbance to call 911 or the Sheriff's office and not to hesitate to call each and every time they witness such activity.

The 2026 real and personal property tax rate was the next item to be addressed. The compensating rate is .134 and the rate allowing for 4% increase in revenue is .139. The 2025 rate was .141.

Commissioner Kurtz made the motion to have first reading of Ordinance #26-03, AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE. The ordinance sets the rate at .139. Commissioner Delling seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Attorney Clubb gave first reading of Ordinance #26-03.

There will be a public hearing at 5:45pm on September 14, 2026 regarding the tax rate.

Joey advised that the fascia, gutters and downspouts at the FD have been replaced.

Chief Judy gave the activity report for the month of July and also the financial report.

As there was no further business to be addressed tonight, Commissioner Hay made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Delling seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

\*The deputy report was turned into the City Clerk the following day: 64 hours were logged for the City by Deputy Jamiel and Napier for the month of July. There were 17 traffic stops, 10 citations issued, 1 arrest made, 16 complaints addressed, 4 cases opened, 13 other incidences handled.\*