



Dana Johnston
Community Affairs Officer
302-366-7020
djohnston@newark.de.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2011

City Manager Announces Retirement from City Management

Newark, DE (December 20, 2011) – City Manager Kyle R. Sonnenberg has announced his retirement to Mayor and City Council. After three decades of public service, Sonnenberg states that he will be retiring from city management to pursue his lifelong interest in preserving nature, which has paralleled his career in public service through his participation in various organizations and committees. Sonnenberg’s last day will be February 24, 2012. Announcing his retirement now will allow the City Council to have a new City Manager to work with through the 2013 budget process.

“Kyle will be greatly missed in the City. He helped guide the City in a direction that will ensure that we have a strong and solid future. He proved to be particularly invaluable in the restructuring of the City’s utilities and emphasizing the importance of their maintenance. He is the first person I have met in City government who really understands the utility system,” says Mayor Vance Funk, III. “I wish him well in his pursuits.”

“Kyle has done a great job at the City. He has done everything we asked him to do and more. I wish him well in his endeavors,” says Councilman Stu Markham.

Sonnenberg has been with the City of Newark for over three years. During this time the City has accomplished the following:

- Established a greater focus and dramatically increased resources devoted to infrastructure maintenance.
- Developed financial policies to guide the City.
- Increased focus on economic development.
- Reduced reliance on utility revenues.
- Made notable improvements in the relationship with the University of Delaware.

“I want to thank the City Council for their support, vision, encouragement and willingness to change the status quo for the greater good. During a time of significant economic difficulty, they saw the need to

address long term issues and not just short term fixes,” says Sonnenberg. Because of policies City Council put in place, Newark has seen significant amounts of new development in its expanding downtown during the recession. Considering the economic climate of the past several years, this is unique and downtown Newark was recognized for it with the Great American Main Street Award.

Sonnenberg states, “I must also thank the City’s staff who are the true heroes of Newark. No matter how difficult the conditions, they step up to the plate and they are ready, willing and able to help our residents.”

Every department has helped the City weather the most difficult years for local government in the past 75 years by finding cost savings and operational efficiencies that include partnerships to improve service delivery such as the partnership the Newark Police Department has with the University of Delaware Police. It is staff at all levels that continue to identify cost saving measures and efficiencies. For example, it is the staff in the garage who found that new leaf removal equipment would reduce City staffing requirements by 66% as well as cut the number of trips to dump the leaves by approximately half. The Water and Wastewater Department staff found an innovative technology to get wastewater flowing under the Christiana so that old, at risk pipes can be removed. The Public Works Department made recycling available to all single-family residents at no additional cost to the resident by re-working the refuse collection schedule. The Finance Department instituted online bill pay to make bill paying more convenient and accessible in a technology driven community. The Parks and Recreation Department has enjoyed a partnership with the Delaware Trail Spinners and the Delaware State Park Trail Crew, which have volunteered more than 2,000 hours of labor in the relocation and construction of the Redd Park Trail. The Parks and Recreation Department has successfully broken ground on the Pomeroy Newark Rail Trail, which will connect Newark to a network of trails throughout the City and White Clay Creek State Park.

“These are just a few of the staff’s accomplishments over the past few years. With this progress as its base, the future of the City of Newark continues to be bright,” says Sonnenberg.

-END-