

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
February 21, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer and he announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Public Open Meetings Act.

Present: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor Mary Harrington, Commissioner Albert Bradbury, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King. Also, Solicitor Stephen Robinson and Police Chief Michael Capriglione were in attendance. Commissioner Kathy Joseph was absent.

Minutes from the January 17, 2013, meeting were approved via a motion from Commissioner Bradbury with a second from Commissioner MacDonald.

Public comment – Silview resident Danielle Dicourmis spoke on the entrance to Ella Johnson Park from near her home and commented on the amount of foot traffic and debris left by park-goers. She wanted to know if the entrance could be closed off to prevent this from continuing. She believed that the fence was also on her property. Per our survey, the fence was off of the property line by more than 10 feet. Council agreed that it would not be a problem to close off that entrance.

Rick LaPenta from Insurance Financial Services came to speak to Council to present information about the rise in the worker's comp insurance premium and the reasons behind it.

Kim Sadowski from Insurance Financial services came to speak to Council about the medical insurance renewal and how our current plan was increasing by 10.5% and gave lower premium cost alternatives based on employee census information already on file that included a high deductible plan that was \$37,000 less than what the town would pay for the traditional plan. There were some general questions asked by council to Ms. Sadowski and It was agreed that a meeting with the employees would be necessary to explain the high deductible plan and health savings account data in detail. A special meeting for the Mayor and Commissioners was scheduled for March 7, 2013.

Resident John Joswick asked if the employees participated in the state pension plan and about the opportunity to get into the state's health plan. The town already participates in the pension plan, but the medical coverage is not open to non-payroll groups.

Town Manager King reviewed her report. The skatepark lease is up for renewal and DelDot wanted to know the town's position. We are not opposed to renewing for at least two years. Mayor Spencer made a motion to extend the lease period for another two years. Commissioner Bradbury seconded. All ayes.

Election (if having one) will take place on April 1, 2013, with intended candidacy being submitted by March 1, 2013. The annual business breakfast will take place on Tuesday, March 26, from 7:30 – 10:00 am, at the hall at the firehouse. Details are being firmed up with the guest speaker. Accrued vacation hours is on the agenda to discuss during new business.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly report for January. He also reviewed the Alderman's Report – monthly figure is \$53,632.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions. Robert Harvey, Maintenance Supervisor, reported that Amtrak fixed the potholes at the entrance on Water Street and he has been working on fixing up the judge's area so the front room can be used by the police officers during arraignment.

Solicitor Robinson advised of the closing of the property on 5 S. John Street and the parking ordinance was ready for the public hearing.

New Business – accrued vacation time. Town Manager King reminded the commissioners that our auditors point out the compensated absences on the town's books (vacation and comp hours) are a liability and that an effort needs to be made to clear these hours whether the town buys back the time, enforces the current policy, agrees to a pay-off schedule at separation/retirement, etc. Further discussion will occur at a future meeting.

Old Business – 2nd reading/adoption of Ordinance #2013-001 to amend and clarify the parking laws and regulations relating to the operation of motor vehicles for application within the boundaries of the town of Newport. Mayor Spencer opened the public hearing. Kevin Haigh, resident, asked if anything was being changed. Nothing was being changed - just section #385B was being clarified for Deljis. Commissioner Bradbury made a motion to close public comment; Vice Mayor Harrington seconded. Mayor Spencer called for a vote; roll call vote, all ayes.

Commissioner Bradbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vice Mayor Harrington seconded. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Commissioner Bradbury made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.