

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
April 19, 2012

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

Minutes from March 15, 2012's meeting were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Bradbury. Voice vote – all ayes.

Public Comment: Resident John Joswick advised council of two hit and run occurrences on Larch Avenue and wanted to know if the town's police department would have any influence on the outcomes. He indicated that the county police did not issue summonses for those occurrences.

Correspondence – none.

Town Manager King reported on election results, potential grant opportunities with the Department of Agriculture for trees, the credit card machine malfunction and the rising cost of healthcare coverage. There was brief discussion about going to a lower cost, higher deductible plan for the employees. More research on this type of plan needs to be done.

Police Chief Capriglione presented his monthly departmental statistics. .

Alderman's Report was presented. Chief Capriglione commented on an upcoming "Click it or Ticket" campaign.

Maintenance Report was presented. Maintenance Supervisor Bob Harvey was present to address questions and concerns. He commented on work being done at Ella Johnson Park to clean up the graffiti. Commissioner Bradbury complimented Mr. Harvey on the work he did on the bathroom at the Old Town Hall.

Building inspector's report was reviewed. There was discussion regarding the dilapidated property on Ayre Street and the next steps that need to be taken. The property owner has not responded to the town's attempts to communicate with him. Franklin Walker, resident, provided council with some history

regarding past issues with the property and having assisted the owner with sealing off the property.

Solicitor Robinson advised council of the progress the charter has made through government.

Commissioner Joseph presented council with photos of Ella Johnson Park. Past photos showed huge amounts of graffiti and the most recent photos were after maintenance cleaned the graffiti. She also commented on liking the newly replaced sign. Commissioner Joseph discussed the possibility of getting a panic button of some sort for the town manager's office since oftentimes, she is alone. Chief Capriglione did note that the disadvantage to that type of system is that it would dispatch to a center who would then contact the officer on duty via cellphone. The town manager is able to obtain pricing and follow up.

Commissioner MacDonald commented on the road conditions at Walnut and Christian Streets. The road conditions are related to the drainage issues on Walnut Street and the study done by the engineers is still being considered.

Mayor Spencer advised council of meetings with Senators Peter and Blevins, Speaker Gilligan and County Executive Clark in regard to Streetscape financing. He mentioned the skatepark and wondered what their fate would be due to the 141 construction project. Mayor Spencer met someone who works in procurement for the state and mentioned doing some workshops for local businesses in obtaining financing for improvements.

Old Business: Sale of the old maintenance property. Firm offer awaiting notification from appraisal.

Resident Kevin Haigh questioned whether the tree grant opportunities extended to residents/property owners. Town Manager King advised she would contact the Department of Agriculture. There was a brief discussion regarding property owners' responsibility regarding trees.

Chief Capriglione mentioned the upcoming phase of work being done on 141.

Hearing no further business coming before the board, Commissioner Bradbury motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

