

Newport Town Council
Meeting minutes
February 19, 2015

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm. All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was compliant with the Delaware Open Meetings Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Michael Capriglione, Solicitor Stephen Robinson..

Meeting minutes from January 15, 2015, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Joseph and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Correspondence was received from the agencies in which donations were made to thank the town. A donation was made to March of Dimes, but is no longer in town. Commissioner MacDonald decided to send the remaining funds to the soup kitchen.

Mayor Spencer noted correspondence received from Greg Williams regarding a meeting about stormwater management.

Town Manager King reviewed her report, including weather closing, 102 E Ayre Street up for Sheriff's sale on March 10, 2015, business license application distribution, emergency communication network, municipal election filing deadline, and Business Breakfast – March 24.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed the department's monthly statistics. He advised that Master Corporal Dennis Sandusky has submitted his resignation effective June 5, 2015, using his vacation/comp time to remain on payroll through December, 2015. Dillon Kashner is in his 12th week of the police academy and will be graduating on May 15, 2015.

Alderman's Report - \$48,532 in court fines collected. There was discussion regarding amount of transfers and the need for a liaison as much as possible to defray the amount of transfers and case dismissals.

Maintenance Report – Mr. Harvey reported on progress of Code Enforcement with Mr. Frank Walker handling commercial area and abandoned houses and Mr. Harvey handling residential area. Filing system will be set up in the office and a computer program is being researched to be able to download information into a data base. Updates were given on 303 E. Ayre Street and 201 N. Mary Street. Informed of vacant/abandoned home at 209 E. Ayre Street. We need mortgage information. There was question of entering private property and posting the property. Code dictates that we can enter if immediate danger. There was a discussion about abandoned cars. Vice Mayor Joswick questioned ability to enter private property according to NCC code, but NCC code does not dictate what can happen in Newport.

Solicitor Robinson observed proceedings at the Alderman's Court and noted again that a liaison would be beneficial as often as possible. He indicated that he and the Alderman had a conversation about code enforcement and that he is on board. Chief Capriglione advised that the state capias fees were raised and we should consider raising ours. Advised of situation with Regina Malizia and her guardianship account in regard to paying taxes – working on that issue.

Vice Mayor Joswick was at Bowlerama for the Special Olympics and thought that the town should get involved. Chief Capriglione advised that the department is involved at the event held at UD in June.

Mayor Spencer is happy with the direction the town is moving. Resolution to get out of the National Flood Insurance Program on deck for next month.

Bob Harvey asked about Municipal Street Aid being cut. Mayor Spencer was going to contact Kim Williams for further clarification.

Commissioner Joseph motioned to adjourn; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

