

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

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

Minutes from the meeting of August 20, 2015, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner MacDonald. All ayes.

Public Comment – Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, wanted to save his comments for the second reading of Ordinance 2015-003. He was advised that the town was postponing second reading and adoption because changes were not made to the draft. Mr. Lower asked what municipalities the town obtained information from in regard to any other town having a similar ordinance. It was noted that there were one or two municipalities who recently passed similar legislation, but this is something the town wanted for itself. He noted that residential blight was worse than a vacant lot. He had three suggestions to make to the town: 1. Three year time period instead of two, based on the scope of bank regulations; 2. Exclude commercial properties from this ordinance; 3. What happens if there is a sale?

After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the time period would be three years to redevelop a lot on which a building has been demolished or the tax rate reverts back to the previous rate.

Town Manager's Report – Fall Cleanup, insurance rebate, car issues in relation to the water tower painting. State health care plan, clerks meeting.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly department statistics.

Alderman's Report - \$52,547

Vice Mayor Joswick asked about why irate persons who have a warrant aren't held in our court.

Maintenance Report - 1515 E. Ayre yard still an issue. Town Manager will send a letter.

Code Enforcement – Biggest issue is unregistered cars on S. John Street.

Solicitor Robinson appreciated all the discussion on the demo ordinance.

Vice Mayor started a part time job at Cabela's and they have a "Hero" discount program. Officer would have to sign up for the program. Issue on East Ayre and Larch Avenue – cars are disregarding school buses and worried about kids getting hit.

Mayor Spencer attended the 9/11 ceremony at DMA, had a meeting with resident David Iannone regarding expanding his property. Setbacks are an issue and his neighbor would be encroached upon – Amtrak. He would need to contact someone at Amtrak to discuss prior to coming before the board for a variance. League of Local Government meeting is on September 24. Attended the RT 9 Library. Was notified of a parking issue at Richey School and wants to get a meeting together to see if a resolution can be met.

Motion to adjourn – Commissioner Joseph; Second – Vice Mayor Joswick.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.