

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 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 September 17, 2015, were approved via motion by Commissioner Joseph and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

There was no public comment and no correspondence.

Town Manager King reviewed her monthly report which included Fall Cleanup Day, state benefits training, vision care enrollment, and the future annexation of a property next to 1515 E. Ayre Street to make the 1515 annexation valid. Also, Harvey Hanna and Associates is generously giving the town \$2,500 to allow each commissioner to donate to the local charity of his/her choice.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly department statistics.

Alderman's Report - \$48,475 in fines/costs/security fees for September. Chief Capriglione noted that there were 149 cases dismissed and had concern about that. There was discussion about the steps to be taken to submit a name to the governor but in the meantime, a meeting with Court 42 staff is necessary to ensure the town's goals are being met and that ordinances are being followed.

Maintenance Department – Mayor Spencer wanted to know about the dirt pile at the yard. Supervisor Harvey advised that the soil must be environmentally tested before it can be removed. State plans to allow the town to utilize the lot that Greggo Ferrara has been using for staging during the 141 project.

Code Enforcement – Frank Walker advised that the town has its first residential solar array and that Marsh Road has been cleared of weeds/debris. His report was given to the commissioners.

Solicitor Robinson was working on demolition ordinance and was requesting tax delinquent account information.

Vice Mayor Joswick commented that in light of the ordinance on the table to be passed at the meeting, he felt that the town's legislation should not be written to the wants of a specific business and felt it was out of line. He also thanked the police department for the additional enforcement at E. Ayre Street and Augustine Streets.

Mayor Spencer would be attending a Delaware League of Local Government meeting and a legislative meeting in the next week.

Statement of Accounts and Budget were looked at.

There was no new business.

Old Business: 2nd Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption of Ordinance #2015-003 – An Ordinance to govern the demolition of buildings in the Town of Newport and the assessment of the real property upon which buildings have been demolished in the Town of Newport. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept. Commissioner MacDonald seconded. Public hearing was open. Solicitor Robinson reiterated the terms of the ordinance (redevelopment in a time period not to exceed three years to the date of demolition). There was no public comment, so the public hearing was closed. Rollcall vote – all ayes.

Mayor Spencer motioned to adjourn; Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.