

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 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 Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, Police Chief Michael Capriglione. Commissioner Timothy Chatburn and Commissioner Kathy Joseph were absent.

Minutes from the meeting of October, 15, 2015, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

Public Comment – Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, wanted to confirm with Town Manager King that an email had been sent to confirm their donation to the town in the amount of \$2,500 so the commissioners can donate \$500 each to their favorite local charity. There was phone conversation, but no email. Mr. Lower will send a confirmation. He also thanked the town for hosting the 6th Annual DE Kids Fund 5K and appreciates the town's support in this event.

Town Manager King reviewed her report which included the budget projections for 2016 (new business), Superior Vision Plan for the employees, an additional fee called a "risk" fee attached to the state benefits invoice, Delmarva arranging for tree trimming along Ayre Street. BASF contacted the office about lighting in and around the parking area for their employees and wanted to know who took care of that. The town had no prior involvement, so a follow-up conversation between Paul Moran and Mayor Spencer should occur to further discuss.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his department statistics.

Alderman's Report - \$50,241 for October, 2015. It is noticed that when Sgt. Johnson is in court acting as a liaison, fewer cases are transferred out of Court 42. It is the intention to continue this program.

Maintenance Report – presented without questions.

Code Enforcement – Code Officer Walker advised of parking issues on both the East and West sides of Ayre Street mostly due to the automotive service and body shops parking vehicles to be serviced on the street.

Solicitor Robinson worked on the Ella Johnson ordinance, advised there was no pending litigation and attended the Board of Adjustment meeting prior to this meeting.

Mayor Spencer attended the League of Local Government dinner meeting and advised that he was in contact with someone regarding the possibility of locating a charging hub for electrical cars in town.

New Business – First reading/Introduction of Ordinance #2014-004 – zoning change for Ella Johnson Park to conservation district at the suggestion of the town engineer to ensure that Ella Johnson Park will remain parkland. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept; Commissioner MacDonald seconded. There was no public comment. Mayor made a motion to accept the first reading; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Introduction to the 2016 Operating Budget – Highlights: Proposed 3% increase for employees and solicitor. Most expenses stay the same, but employee-related expenses (FICA, pension contributions) will change due to increase in payroll. Town speed overtime removed from budget all together. Transfer to capital account will happen again in 2016. Decrease in workers compensation insurance with hope of exploring the insurance pool with other municipalities. Overall police budget stays about the same with the retirement of tenured officer at the end of 2015, an addition of a newly graduated officer from the academy in June and the retirement of another tenured officer in July, 2016.

There was a calculation question that needed to be looked at for December's meeting so a correction could be made.

Code Officer Walker suggested that the town look into free training offerings from Del Tech since the education budget was cut in half in Administration.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept the first reading; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner MacDonald seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

