

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
February 16, 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 January 19, 2012's meeting were approved via motion from by Commissioner Bradbury and seconded by Vice Mayor Harrington. Voice vote – all ayes.

Public Comment: Dave Gula from Wilmapco made a short presentation on the progress made in the discussions of a train station in Newport. He advised that Wilmapco was planning a workshop in March, possibly prior to the next meeting and would confirm at a later date.

Correspondence – a letter from Delaware Solid Waste Authority and the figures for the oil recycling. All other igloos have been removed due to the construction on 141. Soon, the oil igloo will be removed as well.

Town Manager King reported on the solar project dedication, the temporary employee, scheduling with Tom Josiah in preparation of the audit and the upcoming business breakfast.

Police Chief Capriglione presented his monthly departmental statistics. Vice Mayor Harrington asked if the graffiti ordinance had been put to good use yet and Chief Capriglione said that it had not. Mayor Spencer asked about the progress on the 141 project. Chief Capriglione gave a brief update and there was discussion regarding what would happen if we received snow and the plowing of the chutes.

Alderman's Report was presented with no questions.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions.

Solicitor Robinson advised that he had been working on the charter changes.

The commissioners had no questions or comments.

Mayor Spencer reported that he had met with Paul Clark, County Executive, briefly to discuss potential funding for the town's streetscape phase II project and that the County Executive was amenable to a meeting, as were Senators Blevins and Peterson. The Mayor also commented on the Business Breakfast and noted that Governor Markell would be speaking again this year.

Mayor Spencer reviewed the statement of accounts.

Old Business: handicapped parking at 202 E. Highland. This was initially discussed last spring. No action was taken because school was about to let out for the year. The resident's daughter had gotten back in touch with the Town Manager requesting resolution. There was much discussion regarding inconveniencing the resident versus inconveniencing the parents picking up their children from school, how far to allow the space to extend, etc. Chief Capriglione offered to speak to the daughter about it and report back next month.

Second discussions regarding the change to the town's charter and review of the proposed changes, most notably the alderman appointment and removal language. Another significant change will be to add language that gives council the ability, by vote of a super majority, to collect taxes sooner than the standard due date if the town is in a poor financial state. Other changes include altering the meeting date and clarification of "sidewalk" maintenance.

No further business came before the board.

Commissioner Bradbury made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Spencer seconded. Voice vote –all ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

