

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
March 15, 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 February 16, 2012's meeting were approved via motion by Commissioner Bradbury and seconded by Mayor Spencer. Voice vote – all ayes.

Public Comment: Resident John Joswick wanted to make council aware of illegal dumping along the Amtrak rail line behind his house and was told that DNREC was investigating. The town administration was not contacted regarding the problem or resolution. Mr. Joswick also indicated that the fence along the tracks was going to be replaced.

Correspondence – none.

Town Manager King reported on election detail, the upcoming audit, spring cleanup, yard sale, and new businesses that have located in town.

Police Chief Capriglione presented his monthly departmental statistics. Commissioner Bradbury congratulated Chief Capriglione on his proclamation presented by Governor Markell for his long and dedicated service to the Police Chiefs' Council.

Alderman's Report was presented. Outstanding receivables were discussed along with the new ordinance that was passed regarding payment arrangements. Solicitor Robinson brought up a possible assessment to the town for DUI cases.

Maintenance Report was presented. Commissioner Bradbury wanted to know if it was possible for the Solicitor could review plans from a business

wanting to subdivide his parcel due to non-conforming lot size. Solicitor Robinson said he would look at the plans if submitted to the town manager.

Building inspector's report was reviewed. Properties in disrepair on Ayre Street were discussed.

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

Vice Mayor Harrington commented that the town was not looking very nice due to the graffiti in areas and trash blowing due to construction on 141 and suggested looking at the budget for possibly adding staff to the maintenance department. There was discussion regarding the current duties carried out by the maintenance department in comparison to what had been done in the past and with the garbage and recycling duties being outsourced, there should be enough time in the day to complete the necessary tasks by the current staff members.

Mayor Spencer reported about the train stop workshop that had been held just prior to the meeting. There was discussion regarding bringing more interest to the project. The Mayor reminded council about the upcoming business breakfast and dedication of Total Trax on March 30.

Mayor Spencer reviewed the statement of accounts and profit/loss budget. Commissioner MacDonald wanted review of the phone line item in Court 42's budget because it seemed high. Town Manager King advised she would review and correct.

Public Hearing – Charter change adoption. Mayor Spencer opened the public hearing. Resident Kevin Haigh asked if anyone from the town raised any questions by phone or in writing and was told that there were no inquiries. He also asked if any amendments had been made and the only one that needed to be made was in regard to the civil and criminal penalty section. It needed to indicate that any state offenses made will be assessed the state fines/penalties and any activity violating a town ordinance can be assessed the town's fine structure. There were no further comments. Mayor Spencer closed the public hearing and made motion to adopt the proposed changes via resolution 2012-002. Commissioner Bradbury seconded. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Old Business: handicapped parking at 202 E. Highland. Chief Capriglione followed up with the owner's son and suggested to council that the town paint the additional 5 feet required to make a regulation handicapped parking spot and place a sign. Commissioner Bradbury made a motion. Commissioner MacDonald seconded. Voice vote – all ayes.

No further business came before the board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.