

Newport Town Meeting
June 20, 2013
Minutes

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: Mayor Michael Spencer, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner John Joswick, Commissioner Michelle MacDonald Town Manager Wendy King. Also, Solicitor Stephen Robinson and Police Chief Michael Capriglione (late) were also in attendance. Vice Mayor Mary Harrington was absent.

Minutes from the May 16, 2013, meeting were approved via motion by Commissioner Joseph and seconded by Mayor Spencer. Commissioner MacDonald noted a correction to the minutes – date was incorrect – original minutes were dated May 18, 2013.

Public Comment –Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, thanked the town for its cooperation in regard to the Delaware Kids Fund 5K and a special use permit would be forthcoming.

Town Manager King presented her report. Discussion included the phone system needing replacement (estimates are being procured), audit draft, tax payments, Delmarva invoice for Industrial Park sign and temporary skate park closure due to the 141 construction.

Resident Donna Valiante commented on how nice the streets looked now that the dead trees and orange cones have been removed.

Resident Terry Parton asked who was responsible for fixing a curb if it was due to a traffic accident. The insurance of the party at fault should cover damage.

Mrs. Valiante asked about concrete planters as a more cost effective solution to trees. Chief Capriglione noted that DelDot would not approve that based on the traffic study done and the incidents on Justis Street because of the curve. Planters would most likely cause more damage if they were struck in an accident.

Chief Capriglione gave his report and noted that there had been some graffiti incidents, closure of Dollar Plus and Surplus due to some unsavory activity and an issue with two foster children of a resident.

Alderman's Report was given with no questions or comments.

Commissioner Joseph asked about the town obtaining a crime map supposedly at no cost to the residents for real time information about what was going on in the town. Chief Capriglione noted that they used what was available through the state.

Maintenance Report – no questions.

Solicitor Robinson reported on the Verizon monopole lease status and renewing the franchise agreement with Comcast.

Commissioner MacDonald asked about the plans of surveying the town roads for repair. It is on the radar and it was noted that a loan would need to be taken out to fix the streets in town. The engineers will be contacted to do a study.

Commissioner Joswick reported that the broken fence belonging to Amtrak was replaced. He met with Larry Mitchell and a rep from DelDot about repairing the dip in the road on James Street. He commented on the location of Dollar Plus and Surplus having asbestos and that he knows this from when the firehouse was looking into buying the property.

Ms. Valiante said that she has noticed cars stopping at the crosswalk at the intersection of Walnut and Justis Streets. It was not the intention to have cars stop and there is no 'Pedestrian Crossing' sign, so the cars should not be stopping. She also commented that when Justis Street was paved several years ago, there was heavy vibrating from the equipment and foundations can crack as well as things coming off the walls.

New Business – Mayor Spencer appointed the Planning Committee for updating the town's Comprehensive Plan. Residents Tim Chatburn and Michael Capriglione; business representatives Richard Piendak, Dave Tiberi and Bill Lower; Mayor Spencer and Vice Mayor Harrington. This committee will meet at least two times in July and two times in August. These meetings are workshops and not open to the public. Public meetings will occur when the committee has met and will obtain public input at that time. Commissioner Joseph made a motion to accept the committee and Commissioner Joswick seconded.

The summary of the Verizon monopole lease business terms are \$2,000 per month with a 3% increase per year. Renewal period is four “5 year” options. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept pending final legal review. Commissioner Joswick seconded. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Comcast franchise agreement was written for a longer period of time and Solicitor Robinson recommended the town accept a five year renewal. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept; Commissioner Joswick seconded. Voice vote – all ayes.

Commissioner Joseph made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.