

Newport Town Council  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
October 18, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice Mayor Mary Harrington and she announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Public Open Meetings Act.

Present: Town Manager Wendy King, 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. Mayor Michael Spencer was absent.

Minutes from the September 20, 2012, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Bradbury with a second from Vice Mayor Harrington. All ayes.

Public comment – Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, mentioned the opening of two new businesses in the Industrial Park – SpeedPro Imaging and MSC Equipment and he wanted it on record that the assistance of Town Manager King and Police Chief Capriglione were appreciated. Dom's Pizza was having a ribbon cutting of the expanded restaurant on October 23, 2012, at 11:00 am.

Correspondence was received from the Red Clay Consolidated School District requesting transfer of one of our access channels through the town's franchise agreement. This was further discussed in New Business.

Town Manager King reviewed her report. The engineering firm designing the second phase of Streetscape advised that decorative crosswalks will not be replaced upon the future resurfacing of Route 4 in both directions in the next 18-24 months, so it would be advisable if the town withdrew them from the design and opt for traditional "piano key" crosswalks which DelDot would replace upon resurfacing. Additionally, due to changes in federal regulations of the grant we are seeking, our 20% match could not be services, but rather, cash. There is a possibility that we could be grandfathered in the previous language since the date of our application is prior to the change in language. DelDot is looking into this for the town.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly report and noted that November 7, 2012, began the inattentive driving campaign which focuses on handheld devices. He complimented his officers on the hard work they have done in enforcement and noted that collections have been down. Solicitor Robinson wondered if the town should hire a prosecutor since it was not guaranteed that an officer could liaison every Wednesday.

Solicitor Robinson reviewed the Ethan Drive paving contract amid questions regarding validity of procurement. The nature of this contract is not ordinary for the town, but not uncommon elsewhere and should move ahead. An inspector will be contracted for inspection.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions.

Building Inspector's Report was presented with no questions.

Vice Mayor Harrington announced that rental ordinance discussion will be tabled until a committee is named.

New Business – Red Clay Consolidated School District has requested one of the town's three public access cable channels for the purpose of broadcasting 24-hour educational programming. It will not cost the town or taxpayers anything. The town would have two remaining channels as part of the agreement is they so choose to utilize them in the future. Commissioner Bradbury made a motion to accept the resolution (2012-002) to allow this. Commissioner Joseph seconded. All ayes.

Robert Harvey, Maintenance Supervisor, asked about moving the anchor in the park in front of 7-11. There was discussion referring to the group of people who were involved in bringing it into town in the first place, but it will be looked into.

Commissioner Joseph began reporting that a streetlight in front of Commissioner MacDonald's residence was out, but Commissioner MacDonald updated that it was finally being worked on, along with a fallen wire.

Commissioner Harrington confirmed that the introduction to the 2013 budget would be November. Town Manager King reviewed current budget outlining both expenses and income were down.

Chief Capriglione wanted to point out that he believed that the pay jobs were creating a surplus in the budget. Commissioner Bradbury believed that expenditures and income were a break-even in regard to the gas and wear and tear on the vehicles versus what was being brought in and that it was not the right time to discuss it.

Commissioner Bradbury motioned to adjourn; Commissioner Joseph seconded. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.