

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
November 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: Vice Mayor Mary Harrington, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner Michele MacDonald. Also, Solicitor Stephen Robinson and Police Chief Michael Capriglione were in attendance. Town Manager King and Commissioner Albert Bradbury were absent.

Minutes from the October 18, 2012, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Joseph with a second from Vice Mayor Harrington. All ayes.

Public comment – Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, mentioned the Delaware Kids Fund event scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2012. He also mentioned the condition of Water Street, possibly due to the weight of the Waste Management trucks. Mayor Spencer acknowledged the need for repair and it will need to be visited at some point next year.

Correspondence was received from a resident in regard to the political signs. Mayor Spencer noted that every two to four years, this comes up and that while some believe it looks messy, it is temporary and the parties were quick to remove the signs this year.

Town Manager's report was available for review.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly report. He advised of the cellphone campaign.

Alderman's Report was presented by Chief Capriglione. Commissioner Joseph expressed concern for the amount of outstanding fines. Chief Capriglione elaborated on a conversation he had with Chief Justice Smalls from Court of Common Pleas regarding the amount transfers they receive from our court. There should not be as many. There will be a meeting with the Alderman, Police Chief, Town Manager, Town Solicitor and Mayor to discuss.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions. Commissioner Joseph thanked the maintenance staff for their hard work during the hurricane.

Solicitor Robinson advised that Newport Landholdings requested an extension of due diligence for the settlement of 5 S. James Street because a Phase I environmental study needed to be completed. Mayor Spencer motioned to grant extension and Commissioner MacDonald seconded. All ayes. He reported that he notified Evans Paving that he was granted the contract for paving Ethan Lane and that resulted in Evans Paving declining because of lack of equipment and ability to follow state specs.

Master Corporal Maiorano addressed the solicitor about the interpretation of Title 37 and Title 21 parking ordinances and the correct ones being input in the Deljis system with the proper fines.

Richard Piendak, property and business owner, mentioned the parking problems on Ayre Street.

Mayor Spencer presented the Statement of Accounts report with no questions.

Old Business – Ethan Lane paving project. Mayor Spencer made a motion to rescind former motion to award the project to Evans Paving and to award the project to Richard's Paving. Commissioner Joseph seconded. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Commissioner MacDonald mentioned that she attended an event for Wilmapco and representatives from DelDot and Amtrak were there as well and one of the items they discussed was progress of proposed rail stations around Delaware and it was the intent to close the gap between Wilmington and Newark.

New Business – 2013 budget – first reading. Mayor Spencer went through many of the line items on the proposed budget for 2013 for thoughts and comments. There were minimal questions with the exception of full understanding of the town's liability of state-regulated fees (victim's comp) and why they are not apparent on the operating budget. There were some "changes" made to the original balanced budget that was presented by Town Manager King and those changes will be discussed further for feasibility when the town manager can address the items in question at the public hearing/adoption on December 20, 2012.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.