

Newport Town Council
Meeting minutes
November 19, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meetings Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner John Joswick, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Michael Capriglione, Solicitor Stephen Robinson. Vice Mayor Mary Harrington was absent.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, thanked the town administration for their cooperation in a non-permitted use situation on Water Street. He also wanted to put on record that he notified the town manager about a contact, Tom Donovan, to do paint striping in the industrial park. Mr. Lower also mentioned the condition of Water Street and invited the mayor and commissioner to drive down Water Street to experience the ruts in the road, especially under the 141 bridge.

Town Manager King reviewed her report which included 2014 budget projections, meeting with Waste Management regarding services and road conditions in the industrial park and an upcoming meeting with DNREC regarding the memorandum of understanding between the state and town in reference to the care and upkeep of the boat ramp. There was discussion among council about what is currently expected from the town and what the town's abilities are and will be in the future.

Police Chief Capriglione presented his monthly report. He also advised council of an incident on Ayre Street involving Sgt. Johnson and a noted increase in criminal arrests/activity during the month.

Alderman's Report was reviewed.

Maintenance Report was reviewed.

Solicitor Robinson advised that he worked on Ordinance 2013-001 that outlines a date/procedure for appointment of Alderman. He will work with the town manager to obtain a listing of businesses not having a license and delinquent property owners for taxes.

Mayor Spencer reported that he met with Waste Management about services, a swale on the property and the condition of Water Street. While Mayor Spencer did not believe Waste Management would discontinue picking up the town's trash, they may at some point begin charging a nominal amount per household. There was further discussion about Water Street and the condition. Commissioner Joswick commented that Water Street was in Larry Mitchell's district and that the mayor should contact him to set up a meeting,

Albert Bradbury, resident, asked if the town had ever annexed the Brownfield property because they had just installed a solar array on the property. Mayor Spencer advised that those plans fell through.

Statement of Accounts and Profit/Loss reports were reviewed.

New Business: Town Manager King presented 2014 budget projections. Roll call vote to approve the first reading. All ayes.

First Reading of Ordinance 2013-001 – Ordinance to establish a date and procedure for recommendation of appointment of Alderman. Mayor Spencer motioned to accept first reading. Commissioner MacDonald seconded. Roll call vote all ayes.

Old Business: Streetscape Phase II. The plans were reworked to allow for the ADA regulations and the project was scaled back to \$1,000,000. The town now has to secure funding and the town manager will reach out to the elected officials to see if they are able to make a commitment.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with the right to reconvene. Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Council returned to regular session at 8:12 pm. There was no further business to come before the board, so Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.