

Newport Town Council
Minutes – Regular Meeting
December 20, 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: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor Mary Harrington, Commissioner Albert Bradbury, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Town Manager Wendy King. Also, Solicitor Stephen Robinson and Police Chief Michael Capriglione were in attendance. Commissioner Michele MacDonald was absent.

Minutes from the November 25, 2012, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Bradbury with a second from Mayor Spencer. All ayes.

Mayor Spencer noted that he received an email regarding issues with the sewer in the industrial park.

Public comment – Resident John Joswick advised that at last month's meeting, he noticed sidebar conversations between council members during the budget discussion and the mayor had his hand over his mouth at one point and could not be heard by the audience. Solicitor Stephen Robinson acknowledged this and stated that people who are speaking need to be clear for the record.

Town Manager King reviewed her report which included a meeting with the Alderman to discuss the amount of cases being transferred to other courts, counterfeit money being passed to Court 42, and issues with the sewer line in the industrial park. There was further discussion on the sewer issues and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future with New Castle County to hopefully resolve some outstanding concerns.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his monthly report and the Alderman's Report. Town Manager King advised that on the report, the word "cases" in regard to dismissals was changed to read "charges" for a clearer accuracy of what was actually being dismissed.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions.

Solicitor Robinson advised that he reached out to Lydia Prigg regarding appointment of judges and she will speak to her counsel and get back to him. He thought the meeting with the Alderman went well, but would support the officers being there on Wednesdays to help with the cases, but a possible next step could be a prosecutor.

Vice Mayor Harrington thanked the police department and Corporal Maiorano for his assistance with a call to her home.

Mayor Spencer attended the Pearl Harbor ceremony at DMA and it was very nice.

New Business – Solicitor Robinson has been working with Corporal Maiorano on establishing an ordinance to clarify parking laws. Ordinance 2013-001 to amend and clarify the parking laws and regulations relating to the operation of motor vehicles for application within the boundaries of the town of Newport. Mayor Spencer introduced the ordinance and Solicitor Robinson explained the need for clarification. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept the first reading. Commissioner Bradbury seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes. Public hearing will be posted for adoption.

Old Business – FY2013 operating budget. After discussion and clarification on re-working a few line items and removing capital expenditures entirely from the operating budget, Mayor Spencer opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. Mayor Spencer closed the public hearing and made a motion to adopt. Commissioner Bradbury seconded. Roll call vote – all ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 817 pm.