

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, and Police Chief Michael Capriglione.

Minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2016, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and a second from Mayor Spencer. All ayes.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, acknowledged receipt of list from Town Manager King stating which organizations received the donations out of the funds gifted to the commissioners from the DE Kids Fund. Erin Goldner, Hope Street, thanked the town for its support of the addiction community and the efforts of Hope Street. She also provided statistics of those affected by addiction. She wrote a grant to aid in funding to have a town event that would have a guest speaker to speak to the community. Chief Capriglione mentioned that the Newport Police Department was the only department in the county trained to carry and administer Narcan, which is used to reverse the affects of overdose.

No correspondence.

Town Manager King reviewed her report. Waste Management was having holiday staffing issues that prevented some property owners from having their garbage picked up. There are two or three residents who are constantly being missed. Confusion regarding the Martin Luther King holiday and replacement drivers not knowing the route also was part of the issue. A meeting is planned with Kurt Pilarski to discuss and to discuss a yard waste solution for the town. Ford Motor Credit was reviewing the town's application for financing of the maintenance truck. Candidates for solicitor are being interviewed in the coming week. Audit will be taking place May 1-5, 2017. Worker's compensation insurance payroll audit was completed, with the town owing an additional amount because of having two employees pending retirement. Budget notes were made regarding the year-end budget. Commissioner Chatburn wondered if the town would be able to pick up residential yard waste and dump it. We cannot because the Polly Drummond drop site is for residential customers only. Further discussion led to the possibility of the town having a dumpster located in the maintenance yard to have residents drop off their yard waste. Timeline, frequency and cost will be determined in the coming months.

Chief Capriglione presented his monthly and annual departmental reports. He noted that Commissioner Joseph questioned the increase in weapons violations. There were increased drug arrests, weapons arrests and assisting other agencies within the past year. Commissioner Joseph mentioned that there was no emergency turnaround on 141 for emergency vehicles. Based on configuration, a turnaround was not possible. Commissioner Czerwinski noted the amount of vehicles exit the Exxon parking lot right onto the 141 ramp. Chief Capriglione stated that the department has been actively enforcing that area.

Mayor Spencer wanted to know if SLEAF money could be saved to purchase a police vehicle. The SLEAF pass-through process was explained. Requests for equipment are made on a quarterly basis and amount is determined by what was seized/turned in.

Frank Walker asked the Chief about getting rid of old weapons. He answered that the department has many old weapons and that he is concerned about selling them and ending up in the wrong hands.

Parking on S. Augustine Street was mentioned again. The town has to invite the residents to a public meeting to discuss prior to changing the way parking is being handled.

Vice Mayor Joswick mentioned that he took a class with ATF and said that the instructor advised them that if someone holds a medical marijuana card, they cannot be licensed to carry a firearm. It is a federal law that the DEA would issue a violation. It will have to be reconsidered based on the fact that a few states have legalized marijuana use.

Alderman Report - \$41,603 in fines collected. Commissioner Joseph noted the difference in what is being reported as to what is showing as received on the budget. There is a difference because of the many credit card transactions that occur during the last few days of the month. There is a lag of at least two days when a credit card payment is recorded versus when it received by the bank. The numbers will never match up as long as the town accepts credit card payments.

Maintenance Report - A crane was being moved down the river to aid in the construction of a walking path. Deldot was contacted about the lag of traffic at James and Market Streets. A study will be done to determine if a delay is necessary on the lights or if an individual light/arrow is necessary. Gas line work on Water Street will be done at night to avoid too much disturbance to the industrial park businesses.

Code Enforcement - Tire storage and disposal at Santillano's was discussed. Tires are neatly stacked, but they need to be disposed of. Owner indicated he needed to have a certain amount

prior to pickup, but it turns out that he didn't want to pay an extra fee for a pickup of a smaller amount of tires.

Solicitor Robinson advised that TTM Operating Company has ceased operation and has stopped paying on their lease of equipment on the monopole. No bankruptcy has been filed. A copy of the lease will be forwarded to the town manager to see if the town can remove the equipment in default of lease terms. He has been preparing to interview solicitor candidates.

Mayor Spencer was in Dover on behalf of the Delaware League of Local Governments about non-potable water. He believes that an ordinance needs to be on the books to prevent issues with businesses building wells and it affected United Water. He talked about the James Street Bridge and the bid being 5 ½ million over budget and that the possible solution would be to build a structure on top of the current pylons which are still in decent shape. There is a Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for February. It was discussed either postponing, scheduling a special meeting to appoint the new solicitor, or conducting the meeting over the phone. (UPDATE: the meeting was postponed until March.) He thanked Erin Goldner for her support and positive comments about Newport. There was a brief comment made about resurrecting the community fund - having an outlet to support events in town without actually having to organize and endorse said events to prevent liability and financial strain.

Regular meeting was adjourned for Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 7:59 pm.

Regular meeting reconvened at 8:06pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Joseph and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.