

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 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, Police Chief Michael Capriglione (late) and Solicitor Stephen Robinson.

Minutes from the meeting of February 19, 2017, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Joseph. All ayes.

Erin Goldner, Hope Street, thanked the town for their continued support and for the donation that was made to Hope Street and submitted a "thank you" card.

Town Manager's Report - Summary: Meeting with owner of 102 E. Ayre with the Code Enforcement officer to discuss project, timeline and expectations, compliment call for the Maintenance Department for their efforts during the snowstorm, upcoming audit by the IRS for 2015 payroll, no election, cleanup day scheduled for April 29.

Police Chief's Report - February, 2017, statistics were reviewed by the Town Manager.

Alderman's Report - \$46,047 fines collected for February, 2017. Commissioner Joseph wondered about the statistics for case dismissals. These are tracked manually and data was collected by the court clerk. In her absence, these were not being tracked. Deljis has no mechanism in the system to build a report of what is dismissed, nor are issued warrants, which are also tracked manually.

Maintenance Report - New truck has not arrived, a few residents complained about DelDot plowing them in after they cleared street parking area and sidewalk.

Code Enforcement - Needle was removed that was discussed last month near the barbershop, meeting with 102 E. Ayre Street owner, parking on S. Augustine Street. Parking on S. Augustine has been an issue for a while and council is considering restricting parking to one side of the street. Prior to that happening, the property owners/businesses in the area will be invited to the next meeting to discuss and express concerns and hopefully offer solutions.

Solicitor Robinson will be working with Chris Griffiths to ensure that a smooth transition is made when Solicitor Griffiths is appointed next month. He will be doing the audit letter to issue to Barbacane Thornton for the 2016 audit and working to fill an open cell tower location.

Commissioner Joseph wanted to publicly thank her neighbors for clearing their cars and moving them so that the roads could be plowed.

Mayor Spencer advised of a variance granted to ServPro by the Board of Adjustment to adjust their setback to 5 feet from 10 feet so they can build a storage building. He will be attending a meeting in Dover with Jason Hastings and others to discuss the James Street Bridge and there will be a meeting on April 12, 2017, at the Old Town Hall with the business community on Water Street, and Representative Williams and DelDot. There will be no election this year, but going forward, campaign finance forms will need to accompany the intention to run for a seat. A business roundtable was held with Senator Delcollo, Representative Williams, and Senator Walsh with a cross-section of businesses in town to discuss things that were concerning to them or issues the state reps could help them with or information they wanted to share. It was successful and there will be more planned for the future. The question was asked if there was an update regarding potable water - there was not.

Meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session.

Regular session resumed.

Mayor Spencer motioned to adjourn; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.