

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2016

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, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Town Manager Wendy King, Solicitor Stephen Robinson. Police Chief Michael Capriglione was absent.

Minutes from the meeting of May 19, 2016, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment - Resident/business owner Ron Roberts contacted Mayor Spencer with concern regarding Mary Street and whether it was going to be turned into a one-way street. It was done in the past and the change only lasted a short time. If that were to happen, there would be notification of the residents and a public hearing to discuss the matter. Someone commented about the road on Old Mill Lane not being opened. Mayor Spencer advised that the road most certainly would open and that the town was not in a legal position to stop that from happening as it is the property owner's right to access. He also confirmed that the road would not be running through the park as the rumor mill had indicated. Frank Walker, code enforcement, has asked the property owner to confirm the size of trucks that would be run on the roads and it was indicated that a rollback was the largest vehicle to be utilized on that road.

There was no correspondence.

Town Manager King outlined her report which included an update on Court 42, tax payments, meeting with David Athey regarding stormwater management, retirement party for the police officers, and spending the last week in July archiving and shredding in the office.

Chief Capriglione was absent, so the police report for May was reviewed by Town Manager King. There were no questions for the Chief.

Alderman's Report - \$42,346 collected for May.

Maintenance Report - Robert Harvey reported that Delmarva would upgrade to brighter bulbs on W. Ayre Street. Delmarva will send over a quote to add lighting. The grass at 104 N. Mary St. was cut.

It was commented that the maintenance department is great at snow removal.

Code Enforcement - Frank Walker reported the drums on the property of the cement business were empty water drums. There were approximately ten or so businesses yet to obtain a license and that the W. Ayre Street property was boarded up.

Solicitor Robinson submitted the audit letter and is working on obtaining a surveyor for Old Mill Lane.

Vice Mayor Joswick advised that he, Frank Walker and Bob Harvey looked at Mary Street for parking issues and to evaluate whether they believed it would benefit anyone if the street was made one way. For the benefit of the audience, Bob Harvey said that nothing had been determined and that nothing has come before council. Vice Mayor Joswick also brought up Augustine Street and advised that business people were parking their personal cars on the street, believing it was residential parking only. Mayor Spencer said that there is no such thing as residential parking and that the business people are allowed to park on the street. 102 E. Ayre was brought up because Vice Mayor Joswick believes that the property should be condemned. The building inspector has already declared it uninhabitable until the repairs he outlined in his detailed inspection were completed. It is taking the property owner a long time to make these repairs and the property has not changed in appearance on the exterior.

Mayor Spencer met with Secretary Small from DNREC about the permits for the environmental center and getting additional time. Comprehensive Plan Update Committee will most likely have recommendations ready for the commissioners.

Motion to enter into Executive Session for personnel matters at 7:25 pm.

Regular Session resumed at 7:35 pm.

There was no new business.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.