

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
December 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, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, and Police Chief Michael Capriglione. Commissioner Kathy Joseph was absent.

Minutes from the meeting of November 17, 2016, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and a second from Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

No public comment.

No correspondence.

Town Manager King reviewed her report - pension applications for Stephen Johnson and John Brown, public notice for Solicitor, town engineer left Remington, accepting Sheridan's proposal for maintenance truck and that financing through Ford Motor Credit was pending. There is was discussion regarding the circumstances behind the engineer leaving the firm that represents the town and that at some point, a request for proposal will be requested.

Police Chief Capriglione reviewed his report and pointed out the new K-9 report. He advised that PFC Kashner was invited to the DEA on a part-time basis and would be reimbursed overtime worked for them. Radios were ordered through SLEAF and that process was explained.

Alderman Report - \$45,207 fines collected. Mayor Spencer pointed out the increase in receivables since the beginning of the year. There was discussion about the collection process, what can be done to ensure we are collecting fines and working with defendants to where they are able to make their monthly payments if on a payment plan

Maintenance Report - Truck was ordered.

Code Enforcement - Parking still an issue, but it is getting better. There were a few water leaks (Suez issue) around town that were being repaired. Vice Mayor Joswick mentioned the tires at Santillano's shop. It was found that disposal of tires is limited and tire shops will have an overflow at times.

Solicitor Robinson has been speaking to potential candidates for solicitor and there are five or six that are interested. Roberts administrative subdivision was recorded.

Vice Mayor Joswick commented that he felt the town should be more involved with the community as in days past when the children could visit Santa at the Old Town Hall or when there were Easter Egg Hunts at Richey School, and sponsoring a team at Stanton-Newport Little League. Mayor Spencer agreed, but the former Community Fund and members of that board would arrange and pay for those events. He added that the town was involved with things such as the First Responders Day, Pearl Harbor Day and the Delaware Kids Fund 5K where things were happening in town, but we were not coordinating and paying for the event. We are able to donate funds if needed, allow groups to meet rent-free, waive permit fees, etc.

Mayor Spencer talked to Chris Fazio from Remington Vernick about our engineer's departure and that he was going to bring the new team to meet the town manager after the holiday. He notified council about the passing of Bill Lower's mother and that he attended her service. He attended a small gathering with Dave Tiberi for Anthony Delcollo. He received an email from Kim Williams regarding having a meeting soon about the James Street Bridge. He attended the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony.

2nd Reading/Adoption of 2017 Operating Budget - Public Hearing. Motion to accept by Mayor Spencer; seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. There was no public comment. Roll call vote - all ayes. Mayor Spencer made a motion to keep the tax rate the same (\$1.0712 per \$100 of assessed value); seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

Adjourn for Executive Session - motion by Mayor Spencer; seconded by Commissioner Chatburn.

Return to Regular Session at 8:40 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Spencer; seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

