

Newport Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 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 Kathy Joseph, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, and Police Chief Michael Capriglione.

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

No public comment.

Town Manager's Report: Fall cleanup is 10/22/16. Packet contained information regarding the need for standard operating procedures for illicit discharges that affect stormwater, pesticide application, and street sweeping along with a long narrative explaining why this is required. Ascensus Consulting is taking over the plan document for the employees' deferred compensation plan, 102 E. Ayre Street update and budget projections.

Mr. James Bond, owner of 102 E. Ayre Street, updated council on the status of his property renovation.

Police Chief's Report - Chief Capriglione read off his monthly statistics. There were several drug arrests during the previous month. Parking issues will be addressed by cars getting stickered and towed over the weekend.

Alderman's Report - \$45,553 in fines/costs/security fee.

Maintenance Report - Sewer pump has been replaced, but there are issues with holes in pipes that need to be replaced. Bids are being requested. Sheridan Ford gave quote for truck that did not indicate financing so that will be followed up on.

Code Enforcement - Parking still an issue, but hopefully the police department towing will get attention. Most others getting notices are compliant.

Legal: Solicitor Robinson worked on redevelopment ordinance. East Coast Survey has completed the survey and marked the right of way. It is to be determined what will happen as far as "creating" a road. (This is a conversation we should have before the end of the year.) Executive session to discuss personnel.

Commissioners: Vice Mayor Joswick - Red Clay school buses are using E. Ayre Street/Larch Avenue as shortcuts and some are disobeying traffic signs on Augustine Street. Buses also have hard time navigating the street because of the volume of cars parked near Augustine. Frank Walker also advised of the armored cars using Ayre Street and potentially tearing up the road. Chief Capriglione suggested discussing with DelDot the possibility of having a delayed traffic light at James Street so more people would use James and not cut through neighborhood streets

Commissioner Czerwinski stopped in and spoke to GRM Concrete about the incident with waking up the resident at 5 am. They apologized and said it would not happen again. Commissioner Czerwinski noted that the individuals she spoke to were very nice.

Mayor Spencer commented that the public meeting on the proposed ordinance had a nice turnout and was well-received. He commented on the unfunded mandates and other things that will negatively impact the budget now and in the future, but wanted management to put out real numbers as the budget will more than likely run a deficit for the next three months.

New Business: Ordinance 2016-002 - An Ordinance to amend the Town of Newport zoning code and map to amend the Redevelopment Overlay district in the General Business district west of Route 141 and to provide mixed use structures in the Redevelopment Overlay district; all consistent with the 2014 Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan. The ordinance will allow for mixed-use construction in this district (commercial/retail on the bottom floor and residential on the upper level). Building height for a mixed use parcel will also be allowed to increase to 58 feet as opposed to 35 feet in single use area.

Commissioner Chatburn, who was a member of the steering committee, made the presentation before the Mayor and Commissioners. Mayor Spencer made a motion to enter the committee recommendations into the record. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept the Introduction; Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Public comment regarding the ordinance: Eric Jester, Motorama, asked if non-conforming uses would be grandfathered. It was indicated that yes, they would, but in regard to his business, it was not relative and he would not be affected by this zoning change. Frank Walker, Code Enforcement, commented that the workshop was informative and well-presented. Robert Harvey, Maintenance, thought the committee did a great job and that the renderings of potential buildings were beautiful.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept the First Reading; Vice Mayor Joswick accepted. Roll call vote - all ayes.

Commissioner Joseph made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:53 pm; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Mayor Spencer made a motion at 8:12 pm to return to Regular Session; Commissioner Joseph seconded.

Commissioner Joseph made a motion to adjourn; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.