

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act. Meeting started late because the Board of Adjustment meeting that started at 6:30 pm ran over.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Police Chief Michael Capriglione and Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Commissioner Kathy Joseph was absent.

Minutes from the meeting of December 21, 2017, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Mayor Spencer. All ayes.

There was no correspondence.

Public Comment - Erin Goldner, Hope Street DE, thanked the town for its donation and wanted to let everyone know that the week of January 22 - 28 was National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week and shared information on Drugs and Alcohol Chat Day (regretfully, due to the brief closing of the federal government, that event was cancelled). Fran Tusi, Tusi Electric, advised of a drainage problem in the industrial park adjacent to the railroad tracks. Bob Harvey, Maintenance Supervisor, will speak to Amtrak to see if they can remove the debris on their property that could be preventing proper drainage.

Town Manager's Report - Board of Adjustment meeting - Delaware Metals is requesting a variance for parking, landscaping buffer and setbacks. Decision is tabled until February pending additional information. Meeting with Richard Piendak to discuss an upcoming project he is making plans for. Upcoming meeting with Carmine Casper to discuss upcoming project he will be taking on with a property owner across from Waste Management. Alderman position will be advertised in addition to the responses/resumes we have received from Lydia Massey's short list. Election is April 2. Year-end budget was reviewed and line items were amended within departments to add funds to line items that were underfunded from overfunded line items. Lightpoles were replaced on Market Street. Mayor Spencer had a question if reallocation of budget line items should be formally amended by resolution or ordinance. Commissioner Chatburn and Solicitor Griffiths did not feel that was necessary.

Chief Capriglione reviewed monthly departmental statistics and annual statistics, with special focus being placed on the department removing 21 guns from the street and noting 75 drug crimes in 2017. Over \$70,000 was seized. No fatalities in 2017.

Alderman's Report - \$41,886 received in Court fines.

Maintenance Report - They have been working in garage.

Code Enforcement - Things are looking good - E. and W. Ayre Street properties being rehabbed are turning out very nice.

Vice Mayor Joswick asked if was cheaper to use salt or brine. Bob Harvey, Maintenance Supervisor, advised that salt/brine is currently in the yard.

Solicitor Griffiths is working on Alderman position, franchise agreement for Comcast, handled a FOIA request, citizen was discussing potentially suing the town and police department, but has withdrawn and may pursue other means of resolution.

Mayor Spencer was happy with the budget. Solicitor Griffiths believes the construction of the Board of Adjustment should be changed because he sits on the board and if an applicant challenges a decision, he cannot represent the town. To alter the makeup of the board, it would require a change in charter. Mayor Spencer advised council to go through the charter to see if other amendments should be made as it is not recommended to approach the General Assembly with just a single amendment. Former Court Clerk, JoAnne Mude, passed away on 12/24/17. The League of Local Governments was concerned about Verizon placing repeaters on utility poles within municipal boundaries which were only supposed to happen on state Right-of-Ways. Bonnie Metz is going to have a meeting to clarify.

Commissioner Chatburn asked if Election Board was in place and Town Manager King confirmed it was. There was discussion about voter list and it is kept by the town manager.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.