

Newport Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He 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 Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Police Chief Michael Capriglione, and Solicitor Chris Griffiths.

Minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2018, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

There was no correspondence.

Public Comment: Joe Stagliano, Stonehurst, asked for speedbumps along Mary Street as he is not comfortable allowing his children to play outside unattended because cars are speeding through the neighborhood. Police Chief Capriglione commented that there have been several requests over the years at that location, but they are not able to be installed where Mr. Stagliano was referring to because of the distance to the stop sign. He offered more enforcement to the area. Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, commented that frequently on weekend dog walks along Market Street, cars tend to do what he considers drag racing because they may know that there are no police in the area. Commissioner Chatburn offered that it is the same way at Walnut and Christian and that traffic enforcement may be hindered by other matters.

Town Manager's Report - Election update- no election because there were two letters of intention received for two seats on the commission. Carol Ann Gretz and Florence Czerwinski will be sworn in at the Reorganization meeting in April. Newsletters were going out. Tom Josiah, town accountant, will be in for several visits to prepare the town's financial statements for the upcoming audit. Waste Management will begin picking up the town's trash and recycling on Wednesdays beginning April 4. Commissioner Chatburn asked why it was changed to Wednesdays instead of the originally suggested day of Fridays. Waste Management determined that Wednesdays would be a better day for them and it would not be such a severe change for the town. Spring Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 28.

Police Chief's Report - Monthly statistics. The department applied for a \$12,000 SLEAF grant to replace the outdated tasers as the company would no longer support incidents involving usage because the tasers are so old.

Aldermans' Report - \$53,857 in court fines collected in February.

Maintenance Report - Bob noted that the truck parked on Lynam that a resident had a question about was parked legally. Delmarva will be installing street lights at West Ayre Street and Old Mill Lane. Signage will be

placed at Old Mill Lane once the town receives confirmation that the County approved Mr. Papa's request to change the address. There was an electrical problem at the maintenance garage, but it was repaired by Tusi Electric.

Code Enforcement - Tree removal at the entrance of Ella Johnson Park will occur in the coming week. The trees are being removed courtesy of GFP Cement and the purpose is to keep the road clear of monkey balls, leaves and other debris that could become a traffic hazard. A fence will be installed at the railroad end. Recycling is not being picked up at some residences because the cans are improperly filled. Letters will be sent to property owners to have them advise their tenants of proper disposal of waste and recycling. Carol Ann Gretz, resident, commented on low-hanging wires from either Comcast or Verizon. Frank said that if they were too low, he would cut them for safety purposes, but phone calls were normally made.

Solicitor - Comcast franchise agreement is in the process of being renegotiated and should be ready for discussion and vote in April. Alderman candidates will be interviewed next month. Worked on resolution for new business.

No comments from Commissioners.

Mayor - Mayor Spencer thanked Commissioner Joseph for her 10 years of loyal service. HB177 (composition of the Board of Adjustment) is in the Senate. Mayor Spencer commented that he is questioning who would be deciding who is qualified to serve? He spoke to Lydia Massey and she was following up on the Alderman candidates and would like us to move forward by the third week in May.

New Business - Resolution 2018-001 - To rename 0 S. Mary Street to 1 Old Mill Lane. After brief discussion, it is the property owner's burden to work with New Castle County, the postmaster and emergency services to notify. The resolution is saying that the town is fine with the request. Mayor Spencer made a motion to approve. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.