

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2017

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, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Police Chief Michael Capriglione and Solicitor Chris Griffiths.

Minutes from the meeting of September 21, 2017, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment: Dan Burroughs, resident, has had issues over the last few years over a few matters and wanted to sit down to have a detailed discussion with Chief Capriglione and came to find out why that meeting has not happened yet. He began to get into some of the issues he was having, such as being threatened with murder and had issues with the conduct of the public officials. He wanted to approach council to see if they could be of some assistance to him. Mayor Spencer indicated to Mr. Burroughs that a council meeting was not the venue to air his grievances or to get into detail regarding his issues because his case had been heard in court and that dissatisfaction with any outcome would need to be taken up with the Attorney General's office. Mr. Burroughs disagreed and felt that council had a right to know what was happening. Mr. Burroughs and Mayor Spencer continued to disagree on what council meetings were meant for. Commissioner Chatburn said that the two parties should decide when and where to have a conversation. It ended that Mr. Burroughs thanked council for their time.

Erin Goldner, Hope Street, thanked the town, especially Mayor Spencer and Chief Capriglione, for their participation and support of the 2nd Annual First Responders Day. There were over 200 people in attendance. She also made mention that Harvey Hanna and Associates will be holding another fundraiser, Operation Warm Newport. It is an overnight camping outing on November 16, 17 and 18. Funds raised from this will purchase coats for 1100 children in Newport.

Town Manager's Report - Update on 102 E. Ayre Street meeting with owner, code enforcement and our solicitor. Update on zoning change for Mr. Dominic Papa - there may be additional things to review before an ordinance is introduced. 2018 budget is being looked at and a few things being considered to be increased are capias fees and building permit fees. Commissioner Chatburn offered that it could create more consistency in other agencies as well. Mayor Spencer mentioned that we have space on the monopole that we should try to fill. Vice Mayor Joswick suggested that the town manager meet with Buckley Auto because the owner is now doing fleet work.

Chief Capriglione reviewed the police department statistics for September.

Alderman's Report - \$57,041 fines collected in September.

Maintenance Report was presented. Commissioner Chatburn mentioned a street light out at Walnut and Christian Street.

Code Enforcement - Code Officer Walker was proud at the way the town is representing. Parking is much better and grass is being cut. He would like to attempt to tackle trash and explained to the commissioners that his approach is to always be nice.

Solicitor Griffiths updated council on 102 E. Ayre Street and the strict guidelines and deadlines the property owner will have to abide by if he does not want the property condemned. The pumphouse lease is completed as the property owners and the town have agreed on terms. Payment on an annual basis will occur each April. He requested that the first reading of the ordinance to change the zone on Mary Street be tabled so he can evaluate a more detailed map to determine if the town's comprehensive plan needs to be updated. He would like to establish a code book that contains all the town's ordinances and also create a council rules/procedure booklet that contains information on how to introduce an ordinance, public comment time limit, how to conduct yourself at a meeting, etc. He believes it will be beneficial, especially to new commissioners, who have no background in public policy.

Vice Mayor Joswick advised that there have been over 27 cars broken into in Newport and surrounding areas.

Commissioner Chatburn wanted to pass on complimentary feedback for the court clerk, Emily Graff. Woman was having a hard time contacting Court 42 but when she did, Emily provided excellent service and resolved the woman's issues.

Mayor Spencer requested an executive session next month to discuss personnel matters. He attended a few meetings, but indicated that they were not necessarily town-related. He made a motion to table the item on New Business per Solicitor Griffiths' recommendation. Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. All ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.