

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 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 Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Police Chief Michael Capriglione and Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Commissioner Tim Chatburn was absent.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2017, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Commissioner Joseph. All ayes.

Public Comment: Dominic Papa from GFP Cement presented his plans of redevelopment to council which included expansion of an accessory building for storage and small office building. He was asked how many parking spots he had and he answered 22. He would no longer use access from Fedale Roofing. There were no additional questions.

Erin Goldner, Hope Street DE, suggested that the town look into grant opportunities that the state would have in establishing a downtown development district. Mayor Spencer responded that the town had reviewed this when it first became available and what monies that would become available to the town would not substantiate the regulations that would dictate the type of housing and development to be done. The size of our downtown is also not large enough for the town to receive a significant amount of money.

Fran Puglisi, resident, had a comment about a resident who parked his truck in an area that made it difficult to navigate turning and wanted to know if yellowing the curb would be possible. Maintenance will look into this when the weather is favorable.

Town Manager's Report - Meeting with Chris Fazio regarding assistance with permitting/inspections, phone call with Lydia Massey regarding the Alderman appointment, comprehensive plan amendment to accommodate a change in zoning at O S. Mary, holiday closures, upcoming meeting with Richard Piendak regarding 300 E. Ayre Street, renaming Mary Street to Old Mill Lane.

Police Chief's Report - Monthly department statistics. He attended an active shooter training course required state-wide. PFC Kashner was awarded Trooper of the Year through Crimestoppers.

Alderman's Report - \$51,068 in fines/court costs.

Maintenance Report - E. Ayre Street will need to be paved. Engineer will be contacted to review.

Solicitor's Report - side issue with resident, litigation potential with a resident which will possibly be discussed in an upcoming Executive session if necessary, one internal employee matter, FOIA issue, and Alderman candidates. Outstanding items - procedure/code book, franchise agreement with Comcast.

Commissioners - nothing to report

Mayor - First phase to lower bridge will occur in the spring. Intersection at James and Ayre Streets is being done now. Brief meeting with NewGenzyme representative to discuss possibility of partnering with the Colonial School district who has a Chinese language immersion program to host a field trip with the 25 students to tour the facility having it be in Chinese. Budget is very nice looking for this time of year. Vice Mayor Joswick asked if the Ayre Street intersection was a permanent fix and Mayor Spencer was not certain at that point.

Old Business - Second reading - Ordinance #2017-002 - An ordinance to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment to allow for rezoning of a commercial property. Parcel number was clarified through public comment. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept; Vice Mayor seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes.

Second reading - Resolution #2017--003 Adoption of FY2018 Operating Budget. Mayor Spencer made motion to accept; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. No public comment. Roll call vote - all ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.