

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Minutes from the meeting of May 18, 2017, were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna, thanked to the town for its continued support of the Annual DE Kids Fund 5K, which has been scheduled for Saturday, August 5, 2017.

Town Manager's Report - Gladfelter Insurance came for a sight visit and noted the deteriorating conditions of the maintenance yard and provided a report of the findings. Roof should be bid out. Former employee Joanne Mude is no longer eligible for short-term disability because her paid time off was absorbed and the application was never completed by her or the doctor. Deldot is handling issues with the skatepark because the leader of the Better Life Ministries moved. They are trying to establish someone to take over this lease as a private citizen but are not having much luck. K9 truck was in a minor accident while backing up another agency and we had to put out \$2000 because no police report was taken on the scene and by the time the property manager contacted me, it was too late to file a claim on our insurance. Comcast franchise agreement will be renegotiated prior to March, 2018. Resolutions to appoint Tim Kucharski and John Brown as Alderman and Assistant Alderman were on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Worker's compensation insurance renewal is upcoming and a payroll audit is being done for accuracy.

Police Chief's Report - Police Chief Capriglione was absent, so Town Manager King reviewed the monthly statistics with Council.

Alderman's Report - \$51,535

Maintenance Report - Report was reviewed with no questions.

Code Enforcement - Carpet company- going through managerial changes, but will keep an eye on the dumpsters. S. Augustine parking - four cars were towed. Similar issue developing where several

cars were not tagged. Discussion regarding parking and business license renewal. Sundew Painting moved. Tenant moved on Ayre Street that was American Automotive. If it stays vacant for a year, it returns to conforming use.

Legal - Solicitor Griffiths communicated with Comcast regarding the franchise agreement. Resolutions were prepared for this evening. An index was created from all the information provided by the former solicitor.

Mayor - He wanted a plan of action to deliver the alderman resolutions to Dover. Celltower - bill passed the house allowing mini cell towers in state rights-of-way. He was concerned it would affect our revenue, but it will not. Bridge meeting will be July 10. There is an option to lower James Street to meet a 13'8" clearance. If this happens, James Street will be closed (Ayre Street will remain open) for 2-3 weeks. Hope Street is going to have a Round Table Discussion on August 2, 2017 from 6:30 - 9:00 at the Minquas Fire Hall, to discuss addiction. The 5K Run will be August 5. First Responders Day will be in October. Looking at the budget, he believes that the town will have a revenue shortfall of \$105,000.

Old Business - Ordinance 2017-001 - second reading. Stormwater Management regulations. Public Hearing opened - no public comment made. Motion made by Mayor Spencer; seconded by Commissioner Joseph. Roll call vote - all ayes.

New Business - Resolution 2017-001 and 2017-002. Resolutions to appoint Timothy Kucharski as Alderman and H. John Brown as Assistant Alderman. Solicitor Griffiths explained the resolutions and our charter requirements to have our aldermen approved by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Motion made by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Joseph to accept Resolution 2017-001. Roll call vote - all ayes. Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept Resolution 2017-002 to approve H. John Brown as Assistant Alderman. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes.

No Executive Session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.