

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 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 June 15, 2017, were approved via motion by Commissioner Joseph and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Matarese, 201/203 Stonehurst, came to discuss an agreement made by the commissioners with Mr. Matarese's grandfather and prior property owner, Robert Fontana, concerning rental of an old water pumphouse. They would like to rent the space from the town. They would also like a determination regarding parking. The Matarese's have been maintaining the pumphouse and surrounding area since purchasing the home/lot from Mr. Fontana and are prepared to put a new roof on the structure as the former lease indicates. Solicitor Griffiths would like to establish a new lease and update indemnity liability. Chief Capriglione will look at parking situation as far as signage and whether it's considered "no parking" as their neighbor owns a big truck and parks there at times and used to park his tow truck there.

Erin Goldner, Hope Street, advised everyone of the town hall meeting being held at Minquas Fire Hall on August 2, 2017, at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm). Public comment will begin at 8:00 pm. Purpose is to discuss addiction and resources, hear personal stories, etc. Many noted Delawareans will be in attendance.

Delaware Kids Fund 5K will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2017.

Town Manager's Report - Town Manager King, along with other managers/planners attended a meeting with Richard Hall, Director of Land Use for New Castle County. Council was advised of the attempted effort to appoint an Assistant Alderman. There was difficulty due to time constraints and the lengthy process to confirm the candidate and the candidate not wanting to have his family business subject to FOIA. The town received a quote for liability insurance through the pool/Strategic Insurance Partners which is lower than the current renewal price for the traditional policy the town had been carrying. There is some concern with joining a pool and the potential for loss. Tax payments are consistently coming in.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Spencer made a motion to join the insurance pool; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes.

Chief Capriglione reviewed his report. Erin Goldner asked if the person who robbed 7-11 was caught. Chief answered that one was.

Alderman's Report - \$56,260 fines collected in June.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions.

Code Enforcement - Business license collection for in-town businesses is 100%. There are three properties in town that are on the Sheriff's sale list. Mayor Spencer wanted an update on the RV parked near Pump it Up. Addressed it with the owners of the Limousine business. The person who owned it came to the municipal building to get the rules from the town manager and was not happy with what he was told. The property owner was notified and wanted the town to address the matter. He ended up moving it near the railroad, but eventually, it was removed permanently. The town needs to update the ordinance to address recreational vehicles parking in commercial districts.

Solicitor Griffiths worked on the alderman appointment and reviewed the franchise agreement with Comcast.

Vice Mayor Joswick advised that Cabela's will be working with us to offer the police department discounts on ammunition purchases in the future. Chief Capriglione thanked Vice Mayor Joswick for offering his employee discount for the last ammunition purchase.

Mayor Spencer attended a meeting about the James Street Bridge. James Street can be lowered to 13'6", but BASF would like 13'8" coming in and going out. It would probably take 2-3 weeks when they get started. Bill Lower asked if meeting minutes were going to be distributed and Mayor Spencer believed they would. He commented on the skatepark situation that we cannot allow the skatepark to be run like it has been and is hopeful that a responsible party comes forward.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

