

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
September 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 Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Police Chief Michael Capriglione and Solicitor Chris Griffiths.

Minutes from the meeting of August 17, 2017, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

Public Comment: Amanda Matarese, resident, asked about the status of the town newsletter. Town Manager King advised that one was not put out over the summer, but one would be upcoming to include the Fall Cleanup. Erin Goldner, Hope Street, spoke about First Responders Day that will occur on Saturday, October 7, 2017, at 10 S. James Street (across from the tavern) from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Kevin Haigh, resident, wanted to know who controlled the purchasing of the flags (the town does.). Dan Burroughs, resident, wanted Council to know about an ongoing incident affecting him as he was identified as a victim. He did not describe the incident, but expressed his desire for a resolution he would be satisfied with. He did say he was getting his home and his father's home ready for sale.

No correspondence.

Town Manager's Report - 102 E. Ayre Street update and upcoming meeting. Contact with Remington Vernick and Beach, late tax notices were sent, Fall Cleanup 10/21/17. Board of Adjustment meeting - Dominic Papa, GFP Cement. Error on Alderman's Report was corrected. Budget highlights. DelDot bridgework agreement was processed.

Chief Capriglione read his monthly department results. He advised the council about the \$26,000 seizure and if the case goes federal, the town will receive 80% of the funds. He asked the mayor if he could present some information regarding his budget. Mayor Spencer said it could be presented in New Business.

Alderman's Report- \$52,454 in court fines and costs.

Maintenance Report - "72 Hour Parking" sign installed. Firehouse wanted to be sure that closing John Street was okay for the open house.

Code Enforcement - 102 E. Ayre Street and upcoming meeting. Issues with properties whose grass is not cut until threatened.

Vice Mayor Joswick had concerns that Code Officer Walker was directing traffic because a tractor trailer was stuck. He felt that it was not appropriate and could create a liability for the town. Mr. Walker countered

that he is an independent contractor so the town would not be held responsible in case of an accident. It was expressed that Mr. Walker reports to the town manager and that a commissioner should not be directing a town employee. Bob Harvey, Maintenance Supervisor, advised that if this would happen in the future, a traffic vest should be worn.

Solicitor Griffiths - Stonehorse pumphouse lease, upcoming meeting with 102 E. Ayre Street. FOIA response regarding the seized firearm, Board of Adjustment preparation.

Mayor Spencer attended the Delaware Founders Insurance Trust monthly meeting. He attended a Jobs for Life breakfast in Dover. He received an email from Jason Hastings about the bridge and project will begin in early summer. He received a phone call from a property owner regarding the potential for a new automotive dealership on Ayre Street.

Old Business - pumphouse lease with the Matarese family. Mrs. Matarese presented an overview of the last few meetings regarding the request to lease the pumphouse in Stonehurst from the town. Parking was a concern and they wanted to be sure that if they were going to pay the annual lease amount plus a new roof and door, they wanted parking to be private. After discussing the matter, Mayor Spencer made a motion to enter into a lease agreement with the Matareses with the amendments to include the pumphouse, street and a sign to be placed in front of the property indicating "private." Vice Mayor Joswick seconded. Roll call vote - all ayes.

Mayor Spencer wanted to clear up an issue from 2008 where the police department was reporting to the mayor and vice mayor due to issues with previous administration. He made a motion to have the town manager oversee the police department as outlined in the charter. Commissioner Joseph seconded. All ayes.

New Business - Chief Capriglione wanted the opportunity to explain his budget and wanted any alleged misrepresentations cleared up. He handed out material on his budget, the grants coming in, the budget without the grants shown and the police fleet. After a lengthy discussion, he and Mayor Spencer had differences of opinion regarding the representation of the numbers and how the budget appears. Mayor Spencer felt that everything should be footnoted. The auditing firm will be asked if the budget is allowed to be separated as far as reporting grants and aid.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.