

Newport Town Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He 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 Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Police Chief Mark Wohner, and Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Commissioner Carol Ann Gretz was absent

Minutes from the meeting of February 21, 2019, were approved via motion by Commissioner Chatburn and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Public Comment - Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, thanked Commissioner Chatburn for his service to the town. Mr. Lower introduced Thomas Harvey IV, Executive Director of the Greater Newport development projects. Mayor Spencer thanked Commissioner Chatburn for his service. Commissioner Chatburn noted that if he was still in town, he would be interested in serving the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Correspondence - Note from Erin Goldner, Hope Street DE, thanking the commissioners for the donation to Hope Street DE.

Town Manager's Report - Police Department Awards Banquet at Minquas Fire Hall 3/28/19, Spring Cleanup 4/27/19, planning workshop 3/29/19, audit schedule, budget notes, Delaware Decision Makers luncheon.

Police Chief's Report - Richey School update on school shirts and washing machine. Feasibility of placement of washer is an issue, but could possibly place in nurse's office bathroom. Vice Mayor Joswick asked about locating the unit in the boiler room, but that space was not offered by the school and Chief Wohner did not see it. Police Department members have been mentoring at lunchtime. Chief Wohner noted that the children congratulated him on becoming Police Chief. Vehicle maintenance expenses are being monitored closely and solutions are being researched. Vendor for the t-shirts has not been selected, but a mockup was done by Chief Wohner and he sent it to Richey. Walnut Street enforcement of trucks - signage content is going to be looked at by Solicitor Griffiths because the outdated sign states that trucks cannot access James Street from Walnut Street. Education by the officers will come before enforcement. Maintenance Supervisor Robert Harvey mentioned a contradicting sign off James Street which does not prohibit trucks on Ayre to Augustine.

Alderman's Report - \$36,854 in fines collected.

Maintenance Report - Sewer pump was fixed, but to have the structure rebuilt, it could cost up to \$250,000. Richard's Paving did some work on Ayre Street for us as a courtesy.

Code Enforcement - Code Enforcement Officer Walker spoke with Chief Wohner about the parking on Ayre Street and at one point, there were 8 unregistered vehicles on the street. Getting better. He is hearing compliments about the police enforcing stop signs and residents are thankful. Discussion about property next to lawyer's office on Justis Street - it is vacant and grass is always high. Now there is an issue with his truck in driveway as it's expired. Chief Wohner did attempt to contact him and owner has been non-responsive. Research enforcement through court. Mayor Spencer mentioned getting a contractor to do the maintenance and billing the property owner as the county does that. Commissioner Chatburn voiced concern about sending in contractors to do yard maintenance as the town would ultimately be responsible, but Mayor Spencer felt it was a possible solution to a problem.

Solicitor's Report - Monopole contracts with AT&T and Sprint, personnel issues, issues within the police department. Commissioner Chatburn wanted to know what terms AT&T were requesting. Solicitor Griffiths advised that a broker was offering two options to decrease the monthly revenue for a longer term on the pole.

Commissioners - Vice Mayor Joswick had issue with Air Control at 1604 E. Ayre Street - trucks parking across the street and busses cannot get by when the trucks is out there.

Mayor Spencer showed a rendering of Bridge 159 (James Street bridge). Water Street intersection will be repaved. The construction schedule is ambitious, but if it goes by plans, it should be done in December. He attended a kickoff meeting for bike path. Delaware Decision Makers meeting. He testified in Dover on a bill that would support a person's choice to end his/her life in critical medical situations.

There is no new business. There is no old business.

Adjourn for Executive Session - 7:38 pm.

Back in Regular Session at 8:02 pm.

Motion to adjourn: Mayor Spencer; seconded by Commissioner Chatburn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.