

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2018

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, Commissioner Carol Ann Gretz, and Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Police Chief Michael Capriglione was absent.

Minutes from the meeting of March 15, 2018, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick. All ayes.

There was no correspondence.

Public Comment - Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chambers, 232 W. Ayre Street, commented on tractor trailers being present on W. Ayre Street and there was discussion on what constituted "tractor trailer" and council obtaining more specific information regarding the vehicles that were seen and what should be permissible. Pictures were given to council for their review. Also, it was noted that some of the vehicles were seen at 9:00 pm. Stephanie Banks, 230 W. Ayre Street, showed pictures of items being stored above the fence line on what appear to be metal racks and that the storm drain that Mr. Papa rebuilt seems to not be catching water. It was noted that there has been a significant amount of rain and many areas are being affected. This is a "wait and see" scenario. Mr. Chambers commented that he removed his business vehicles and equipment from the property across from his residence and that he placed hardscaping in areas so no one could utilize the area and wanted to know who owned the road. Mrs. Chambers commented that the speed limit is being ignored and that she has concern for her grandchildren outside. Mayor Spencer advised that was a police matter and that the Police Chief would be made aware of her concerns. Mrs. Chambers wanted to know why the trees at the entrance to Ella Johnson Park were removed. The trees were removed because the road would be littered with debris from the trees (leaves and monkey balls).

Erin Goldner, Hope Street Delaware, wanted to say that the 2018 First Responders' Day would be Saturday, October 13, 2018.

Town Manager's Report- Financial statements are being prepared in advance of our audit which is taking place late April/early May, cleanup day 4/28, camera system for municipal building, Richey School ballfield upgrade, Waste Management had issue with business using a resident's can to dispose of the business trash, budget notes. Commissioner Chatburn had question regarding the ballfield and was concerned about stormwater runoff. It was confirmed that the school district/contractor have received stormwater and sediment management approval from DNREC and that our inspector knows what to look for and our engineers have to bless the plans, as well. Vice Mayor Joswick wanted to know if ARS was financially squared and they are.

Police Chief's Report - Chief Capriglione was absent. Town Manager King reviewed the monthly statistics. Commissioner Gretz wanted to know how it was possible to patrol as many miles as indicated - the officers assist other agencies which requires them to be out of town.

Alderman's Report - \$51,245 fines collected in February, 2018.

Maintenance Report - No questions.

Code Enforcement - Privately-owned trees are becoming a concern. Trees are generally old and many property owners do not bring in tree contractors because of the expense, but there are a few trees in town that should come down. Ayre Street is looking good, especially with the large auto service business moving out of town.

Legal - Alderman interviews will be taking place next week. Comcast franchise agreement is on the agenda for approval.

Mayor Spencer attended the League of Local Government dinner. HB 177 will be voted on to change the structure of the Board of Adjustment. Purpose was to have more citizens involved as this bill will prohibit mayors and solicitors from serving on the BOA. Solicitor Griffiths explained that if an applicant appeals a board decision to Superior Court, he would not be able to represent the town. There will be a transition period and time for us to recruit and educate individuals who would be interested in serving on the Board of Adjustment. The bridge work is delayed because Deldot did not think they needed Amtrak's approval to work in the right-of-way.

Old Business - Comcast Franchise Agreement- Mayor Spencer read by title. Solicitor Griffiths and Town Manager King have reviewed the terms and are comfortable with the terms. Ten-year agreement. 5% of gross revenue, which is the maximum per statute.

Motion to enter into the franchise agreement with Comcast - Mayor Spencer; seconded by Vice Mayor Spencer.

Sprint would like to co-locate on the monopole. They own Clearwire, which is currently on the tower. Representative wanted to know where there is space on the tower.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.