

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 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 Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz, Acting Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Chris Griffiths. Commissioner Tim Chatburn was absent.

Mayor Spencer requested that the minutes to be amended to reflect a request by him for the ordinance that sets the tax rate from the 2015 tax increase. Minutes from the November 15, 2018, meeting were approved with the amendment via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Mayor Spencer.

No public comment.

Town Manager's Report - An amended agreement with Deldot was submitted and signed regarding the lighting at the bridge, trash removal for the holidays was delayed a day, transfer of funds to reimburse the general fund (EIDE/Salle, Police Pension), transfer of funds into the capital account. There was discussion as the town manager advised she could transfer \$175,000 and Mayor Spencer rationalized transferring less - \$150,000 and possibly doing more at another time if we were able. Mayor Spencer suggested a capital plan be presented at February's meeting. Mayor Spencer thought that Walnut and E. Ayre needed to be repaved first. Town Manager King wanted clarification if it was E. Ayre where it intersects with Walnut or Walnut AND E. Ayre because she believed there would be backlash if Walnut gets done before Ayre Street (James to Augustine). Mayor Spencer said he would be getting in touch with Tom Hubbard with Suez about the possibility of entering a public/private agreement to replace old water mains and repaving. Mayor Spencer said he would follow up in couple weeks. Commissioner Gretz advised council of issues on her street dipping and trucks making everything shake when it hits the dip in the road. Conversation turned back to traffic light timing in the square. Acting Chief Wohner commented that the bus/truck sign basically only protects Walnut and not Ayre Street. He said that the department could develop a flyer and hand them out to those drivers as informational and suggested that we could ask for assistance from Deldot in exchange for the lift of restriction. Commissioner Gretz felt that signs should be enforced more.

Police Chief's Report - November, 2018, statistics. Acting Chief Wohner reported that Officer Kashner responded to an overdose of a person he knew through other interaction who was visiting. Officer Kashner was able to reach out to other agencies and it was found that there were no open investigations. He was able to determine where the narcotics came from and was able to make an arrest. There was a graffiti incident at Servpro and Officer Davidson was able to make a felony arrest. He visited Richey to explain our challenge coin fundraiser and how the funds could be utilized and if needy families could be identified. He was told that many children arrive to school with no socks or underwear and some come to school in dirty clothing. They discussed the possibility of developing a spirit wear shirt and obtaining sponsors in the business community

that would offset the cost. After the holiday, he will return with Mayor Spencer to meet with the principal. There is one new hire in the New Castle County Police Academy and a certified police officer is starting after the new year.

Alderman's Report - November, 2018 - \$27,482 in court fines/costs collected.

Maintenance - 39 year old sewer pumphouse (Harvey Drive) - \$4600 to fix broken pipe, but floor is caving in and other repairs need to be made. Bob will obtain a quote for replacement after the holiday.

No Code report.

Bob mentioned that 201 N. Mary Street has been cleaned up nicely.

Legal: Solicitor Griffiths spoke to Sprint regarding expanding their presence on the monopole, working with police department on issues, 1 FOIA request.

Commissioners - Vice Mayor Joswick said that he had spoken to Acting Chief Wohner about the issues surrounding the school and that he thought about soliciting businesses for a donation to purchase new appliances. Commissioner Czerwinski asked if they had a "clothes closet" at the school. She said she would like to help out with that, as well as Vice Mayor Joswick. Mayor Spencer questioned if the school could receive direct donations. He mentioned a suggestion made to him by the town manager that a new "community fund" could be established and the funds could be used for "seed money" to fund this. It would have to be registered as a 501c. Mayor Spencer mentioned mentorship with the 87ers.

Mayor Spencer said the preliminary engineering study would be covered in WILMAPCO's 20-21 Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the Septa stop. Commissioner Gretz asked where the stop would be and where parking would be located and if the town would charge for parking. Mayor Spencer advised that charging for parking is not something the town would intend on doing. She asked for clarification when he says parking would be under the viaducts and Mayor Spencer advised that it was underneath 141. Commissioner Gretz asked if it would affect the skatepark and would we not have a skatepark any longer and what would happen. It is too early in the planning phase to determine what will happen with the skatepark if anything.

Bike Grant feasibility estimate came back at \$70,000, but we are able to match the \$20,000 we will get.

Ordinance 444 needs to be added to Deljis with a fine structure with possible workshop or presentation by the town manager for suggested fines.

Old Business - 2nd Reading of FY2019 General Operation Budget. Mayor Spencer read the resolution. Tax rate set at \$1.0712 per \$100 (no increase).

Mayor Spencer made a motion to accept: Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Mayor Spencer opened the public hearing; there was no public comment. Public hearing closed.

Roll call vote to accept - all ayes.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:01 pm.

