

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
September 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 Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz, Acting Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Chris Griffiths

Minutes from the August 16, 2018, meeting were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment - None at this time.

There was no correspondence.

Town Manager's Report - Town Manager King and Solicitor Griffiths met with property owners regarding encroachment and boulders in the street. Resolution will be forthcoming. Tenants of apartments are contacting the town for resolution to issues without contacting the property owner first. A business on E. Ayre Street was operating outside the scope of their business license and an event they were having was shut down after the matter was discussed with the fire marshal's office. Board of Adjustment workshop. Town clean up day.

Commissioner Chatburn wanted to know if there was any way to monitor property owners from allowing other people to drop off things for pickup. Regretfully, it is not possible to monitor activity based on how the event is run.

Mayor Spencer commented further on rental inspections. He noted the lack of resources for enforcement, lack of council agreement on ordinance language and fee schedule and strong audience opposition were factors in the town not moving forward with adopting an ordinance.

Resident Barbara McNally, 102 E. Ayre Street, arrived late for public comment, but had a few items that she wanted to bring to council. There were still many cars running through the stop sign at S. Marshall and E. Ayre Street. Code Officer Frank Walker mentioned that police presence has been higher in the past few months than in the past several years, but there was still great concern that the police department was not spending enough time on that street. Ms. McNally also mentioned the fact that the street sign was missing. There was an emergency and 911 was called and she noted it was a good thing she was there because the sign was missing since she moved in. The sign was ordered and will be installed when it is received. She had been in touch with Town Manager King regarding a matter with her apartment and all of the units in her building. The dryers were not being vented properly according to the International Building Code and wanted to see a certificate of occupancy for the building. She was concerned because her apartment and clothing had mold and for the units

to be done correctly. Commissioner Gretz asked if resolution would be found in a civil court situation and Solicitor Griffiths confirmed yes.

Police Chief's Report - Acting Chief Wohner noted the monthly departmental statistics. He also advised council that the department designed challenge coins that they intend to sell with the proceeds going to fund various causes in the community. He gifted the commissioners and solicitor with a coin.

Alderman's Report - \$38,720 in fines collected in August.

Maintenance Report - Maintenance Supervisor Bob Harvey will be spraying curbs along W. Ayre Street. Thanked Harvey Hanna for filing cabinet donation

Code Enforcement - Code Officer Walker mentioned the curbs. Signs were installed at railroad bridge. There were three water leaks in town that he was working with Suez on.

Solicitor's Report - Property encroachment issue. His administration staff loaded the ordinances and resolutions onto the town's website (all the ordinances that were in the town manager's office). The older ordinances are on the "cloud" scanning storage solution utilized by the town manager. He was working on a FOIA request for the police department and 10 tax monition actions.

Commissioner Gretz mentioned that Red Clay School District busses were turning down S. Walnut from Market Street and using Ayre Street and that she contacted the transportation department about it. She had gotten a rude hand gesture when pointing out to a bus driver that they should not be going that way. A letter was faxed to the transportation office after the town manager received notification that morning.

Mayor;s Report - Mayor Spencer said train stop was back in discussions. He attended a meeting about the bike trail through Newport that will connect to new Jack Markell path. He met with John Sisson to discuss upgrade to the Park & Ride to include new lighting, a possible mural contest for local students/artists and charging stations.

No new business.

Vice Mayor Joswick made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Chatburn seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.