

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 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 Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz, Commissioner Michele MacDonald (late), Police Chief Mark Wohner. Solicitor Griffiths was absent.

Minutes from the reorganization meeting of April 18, 2019, were approved via motion by Mayor Spencer and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Mayor Spencer called for a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of April 18, 2019, Commissioner Gretz wanted to make a comment about a comment Mayor Spencer made last month about how he didn't believe there was a drug problem in town, but Commissioner Gretz said that based on the 5-6 drug arrests made by our officers, there is an existing problem. Mayor Spencer responded that he didn't believe he made that comment specifically, but he did not agree with comments being made by non-residents about the condition of the town deteriorating. Commissioner Gretz believed those comments were made in relation to drugs around the apartment complex and her point was that there are drugs in town according to the police report that was submitted and things she sees on her side of town. Mayor Spencer stated that what she indicated have nothing to do with the minutes that were presented for approval. Commissioner Gretz said that Mayor Spencer's comments indicated there were no drugs in town and he replied that that is not what was said at all. He is aware that there are drugs in town as there are drugs everywhere and that he simply disagreed with comments being made by people who don't even live in town. Vice Mayor Joswick made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Czerwinski seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: Email invitation to join the Governor's Council on litter.

Town Manager's Report - Auditors completed the audit sitework. Meeting with Fran Tusi, Mayor Spencer and Harvey about cleaning his storm drain in front of his property on Water Street, Homes were missed on special pickup day and some were due to having inappropriate items out for pickup. The other homes were picked up the following trash day. Tax payments are coming in. Issue with riders from the #5 Dart bus using a resident's driveway was forwarded to DelDot for a study and resolution. Budget notes. Still waiting for yard waste rates from Waste Management.

Police Chief's Report - Monthly statistics were given. Chief Wohner also clarified that while criminal arrests may be made in town in the case of the noted drug arrests, the arrest actually ends up out of town in the case of a traffic stop where drugs were found as pointed out by Commissioner MacDonald or the dealer/supplier gets arrested and they don't live in town, but the arrest is made by a Newport officer. Commissioner Gretz

asked about the limit of jurisdiction and Chief Wohner stated the officers have statewide jurisdiction and an arrest can be made if offense originates in town.

Alderman's Report - \$32,776 in fines/costs collected for April, 2019. Commissioner MacDonald noted an error in April's number and will be corrected in May.

Maintenance Report - He will be meeting with contractor about the clogged storm sewer at Tusi Electric on Water Street. Street light pole on Market Street needs to be replaced.

Code Enforcement - A lot of grass, but getting good results. 301 E. Justis Street - neighbor believes a break-in occurred and Harvey Hanna intends to demolish the structure. Working on 309 E. Justis Street, Typical issues regarding parking. Amtrak will be parking along W. Ayre Street and Old Mill Lane for work being done there. Commissioner Gretz asked Mr. Walker about multiple entries for 202 E, Market Street and whether it was A or B. He replied that he didn't know but he knows the cars that belong to a resident there. Commissioner Gretz said that they are allowing their dogs to roam the neighborhood and has been in contact with animal control a few times because the dogs seem to always get out.

Solicitor's Report - Drafted response to audit letter, reviewed new police policies for handbook, assisted police department with a personnel issue, working with Frank on property maintenance issues at 309 E. Justis Street.

Mayor's Report - Met with Bill Thatcher from DelDot regarding bus stop. Bob Harvey had video of water drainage from 141 overpass and how it floods E. Ayre Street when it rains so he will look into that. Bike Path meeting. Presentation will occur in either June or July. Vice Mayor Joswick asked about a start date for the James Street bridge - Mayor estimates August.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.