

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer.

Corporal Dillon Kashner brought in Patrolman Ryan Jones -new graduate from the police academy- and introduced him to the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Spencer advised that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Mark Wohner, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz Solicitor Chris Griffiths.

Minutes from the meeting of June 20, 2019, were approved via motion by Commissioner MacDonald and seconded by Vice Mayor Joswick.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna and Associates, thanked the town for their support and for allowing them to hold the 10th annual Delaware Kids Fund 5K on Saturday, August 3, 2019, with the mayor providing opening comments. He indicated that sponsorships were approaching \$20,000, so Richey Elementary and other surrounding schools will benefit from a food closet.

There was no correspondence, but Mayor Spencer asked about the Census Bureau communications that come in his name. They are questionnaires regarding property tax collection in a certain timeframe or the issuance of building permits in a specified timeframe. The town manager completes those as they come in.

Town Manager's Report - DNREC visit to implement stormwater management program, upcoming meeting with Remington Vernick regarding paving of E. Ayre Street, Officer Jones graduating from police academy, meeting with deferred compensation plan administrator, risk assessment meeting with DFIT, Polly Drummond yard waste site, budget notes, street sweeper purchase, road route from DeIDOT regarding truck traffic.

Commissioner MacDonald asked what our deferred compensation plan was. It is a type of 401k and contributions are made through payroll deduction. There is no town match.

Chief Wohner clarified that the map from DeIDOT was actually for truck clearance and what we should do with our roadways. He indicated that trucks were not really getting stuck any more since the new signs went up. Council will take under advisement as long as trucks were adhering to the signs.

Mayor Spencer mentioned that the traffic light sequence was still not reviewed or changed.

Commissioner Gretz asked what entailed a stormwater management plan. Town Manager King explained that it is public awareness on what contaminants going into the storm sewer from soap from car washes to pesticides to kill weeds in sidewalk and gutter cracks. For the town, it's those things and in addition, to measure road salt up discharge and keep it property stored, to properly contain road dirt sweepings and establish disposal

procedures and environmental testing annually, have the outfalls inspected for illicit discharge annually according to the permit schedule, to provide educational materials to residents in print and electronic format and other items.

Police Chief's Report - monthly departmental statistics for June, new recruit, news release was issued regarding the victim of elder abuse. The complaint came from a business in town. The elder in question resides in Pennsylvania which is where the abuse took place, so the case will be turned over to law enforcement in the person's jurisdiction.

Alderman's Report - \$29,412 in court fines collected. Mayor Spencer questioned the "blank space" atop of the report page and wondered if the total cases brought forth were ever there. No, the total of cases brought forth are not and were never tracked on this report. It would be a manual count as the system could only track people who actually paid or transferred. Mayor Spencer asked if the fine total should be considered the "new normal." That cannot be addressed until the new office comes off of his ride alongs with current officers.

Maintenance Report was presented with no questions.

Code Enforcement - Mr. Walker was not in attendance, but the solicitor will provide update regarding a property being worked on.

Solicitor's Report - Worked on monopole agreement, one issue for the police department, working with enforcement on 309 E. Justis, did research on code to ensure our aldermen can hear cases and to develop new policy on taking offenders to court, having Frank act as constable and council's comfort level. There was discussion about implementation and appeal process. The appeal would only be for the fine itself with the inspector coming to court to provide photographic evidence. Recommend executive session to discuss two litigation matters.

Commissioners - none

Mayor's Report - Comprehensive Plan update - need to appoint a resident and a business owner.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation; Vice Mayor Joswick seconded.

Executive Session began at 7:32 pm.

Return to Regular Session - 7:47 pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

