

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners  
Town of Newport  
January 19, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michele MacDonald, Vice Mayor Michael Spencer, Commissioner Stephanie Banks, Commissioner Michael Capriglione, Commissioner John Joswick. Also in attendance - Chief Mark Wohner, Town Manager Wendy King, and Solicitor N. Christopher Griffiths.

Before the minutes from the meeting of December 29, 2022, were approved, Commissioner Capriglione thought that the minutes were too verbatim and needed to be summarized. Solicitor Griffiths agreed that providing a summary of discussions would be fine for FOIA and if there were parts that anyone wanted stricken could be done via motion and to be specific in what parts should be removed. Commissioner Capriglione outlined the sentences to strike. Vice Mayor Spencer noted that he requested the minutes reflect his statements but agreed with Commissioner Capriglione. There was further discussion on what to keep and how the minutes should read. Motion to strike comments was made by Commissioner Capriglione and seconded by Vice Mayor Spencer. Motion to accept the revised minutes was made by Vice Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Capriglione. All ayes. Mayor MacDonald made mention of the American flag needing replacing and replacing the Navy flag which was missing.

Town Manager's Report – Trash cans were delivered to the residences and working on a surplus to keep at the maintenance yard for replacing those that need to be replaced. Election notices and forms and have been completed, posted and forwarded to the New Castle County Office of Elections. Three open 2-year seats are available with deadline of March 3, 2023, to file intention. Election date is Monday, April 3, 2023. Election Board needs to be appointed by March 3 if changes are desired. Business license mailings were being prepared for mailing. Commissioner Banks asked if Waste Management charged the town for brand new cans and they did not.

Police Chief's Report – December, 2022, department statistics as well as year-end performance. Our candidate is still in the training academy.

Alderman's Report - \$22,258 in court fines collected.

Maintenance Reports – No code enforcement was done during December.

Solicitor's Report – A few items were handled with the police department.

Commissioners – Vice Mayor Spencer advised that the first meeting of comprehensive plan update committee will take place on March 16, 2023, prior to the regular meeting.

Public Comment – Frank Walker, resident, S. Marshall Street, stated that he read the minutes from last month's meeting and the comments about him. He did not believe it was proper to have public officials to talk about town residents in that manner and if someone wanted to say something to him, he was available. He went on to explain the good that the VFW representative does and the organization should not be penalized because the town was not

involved with the ceremony. He made a few other comments about the vice mayor and council in general before his three minutes was up. Commissioner Capriglione did advise Mr. Walker that prior to his arrival at the meeting, it was discussed and determined that the comments from December's meeting would be stricken from the record. Mr. Walker made a few more statements about the positions he has held with the town and Solicitor Griffiths advised him his time was up and the commissioners could vote to allow him to continue if they wished. Council did not vote to allow him to continue. There were a few final exchanges.

New Business – Ordinance 2023-001 by title – An Ordinance to Repeal and Entirely Replace the Existing Town of Newport Ordinance No. 427 and All Amendments Thereto, Providing for the Payment, Collection, and Issuance of Licenses for Engaging in Any Business, Pursuit, or Calling Within the Corporate Limits of the Town of Newport. The body of the ordinance remains the same. The fine structure has been changed to allow the court of jurisdiction to be a Justice of the Peace court. The business categories and fees were updated to reflect what was passed in 2004. Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to accept the first reading. Mayor MacDonald seconded it. There were no questions. All ayes.

Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for a personnel matter. Commissioner Banks seconded.

Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Back to Regular Session at 7:20 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.