

Town of Newport  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners  
May 16, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Stephanie Banks 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 Stephanie Banks, Vice Mayor Michele MacDonald, Commissioner Michael Capriglione, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Lisa Spencer, Police Chief Mark Wohner, Town Manager Wendy King, Solicitor Max Walton.

Minutes from the April 18, 2024, Reorganization Meeting were approved via motion by Vice Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All Ayes. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2024, were approved via motion by Commissioner Capriglione and seconded by Vice Mayor MacDonald. All Ayes.

Town Manager's Report – Newport Monitoring Committee meeting 4/29/2024. KCI Technologies gave a walking tour of the new bridge. Public workshop on 5/21/2024 by Newport Monitoring Committee from 6-8. DNREC Public Engagement Session at Old Town Hall on 5/15/2024 to educate on the Energy Block Grant. We did not attend the ribbon cutting at ShopRite for the EV charging stations. Tax invoices were processed and mailed. Cost estimate for curbing/ADA. Issue on Marshall Street with speeders/drivers going the wrong way. She inquired about a speed bump. FOIA requests regarding parking regulations from 1988-present and record plans for two properties on Copper Drive. Charter revisions were introduced to the senate on 5/9/2024. PLUS review of comprehensive plan was scheduled for 5/22/2024. Commissioner Capriglione was opposed to a speed bump on Marshall Street, as was Commissioner Chatburn. Commissioner Capriglione believed the issue was related more to baseball attendance. Chief Wohner did have a conversation with the coaches last year because there were similar problems. He spoke to the coaches again this year and he contacted AJ Nowell from the Red Clay School District and he said they would put it out on their end as well. Town Manager King expressed concern for the safety of the child already having issues getting to the car without having the additional worry of speeding cars or cars coming down the wrong way on a one-way street. There is signage to address the child at play. Commissioner Chatburn does not see it being practical. Enforcement would be the next logical step and it could be that Conrad have a pay job at that location. Mayor Banks said the fire police could be a possibility. An officer should be there to direct people where to go. It needs to be addressed prior to next year's season.

Police Chief's Report – Monthly department statistics for April, 2024. Last August, the governor signed into law that every police department has to have a Police Advisory Committee. He created a draft of policy for one. There can be no less than five people, no more than 13. There will be 20 hours of training the first year. Quarterly meetings. Not sure if commissioners can serve. POST took the place of COPT. Commissioner Capriglione asked what the PAC's power was. Chief Wohner confirmed the committee is advisory only and will have no power. There is no other authority other than to advise the department on what they see the needs of the community are and possible policy changes. POST oversees police training. Title 11, Section 8400 is what that falls under. Section 8404 Subsection 20 is what requires a PAC.

Alderman's Report - \$18,866 in court collections for April, 2024.

Maintenance Report – No questions on the two reports. Mayor Banks noted the trash can at Ella Johnson Park.

Town Solicitor – No Solicitor report.

Commissioners – No questions or comments.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Banks attended the Delaware League of Local Government dinner. They spoke about Kent County getting hacked and the grant opportunities in place to upgrade cybersecurity. There was a question as to whether the town or police department may benefit from the grant. The police department is covered by the state and the town has cybersecurity insurance as part of the liability insurance plan, so the town manager did not apply for the \$4000 grant. They were also talking about DEMA grants for the police department.

Public Comment – Adam Cowperthwaite, resident, Christian Street, asked about the status of the redevelopment by Harvey Hanna and the train stop.

There was no New Business.

There was no Old Business.

Commissioner Capriglione mentioned that the maintenance building is in disrepair. Town Manager King said she was in touch with Doug Gramiak who is the Director of State Affairs with Barnes and Thornburg and used to be in the governor's office who can get her in touch with DelDOT Real Estate. The demolition process is too tedious since we do not own the property and buildings. Environmental studies are also a requirement.

Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.