

Town of Newport
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners
July 18, 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, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Wohner and Solicitor Max Walton.

Vice Mayor MacDonald asked for clarification regarding the section of Chief Wohner's report where he explained how the PAC will undergo training where it will place the members in a virtual duty call and Chief Wohner stated that it was correct. Minutes from the June 20, 2024, meeting were approved via motion by Commissioner Capriglione and seconded by Commissioner Chatburn. All Ayes.

Town Manager's Report – Charter amendments have not yet been signed by the Governor. They passed the House on 6/27/2024. The town received \$493,000 that was applied for through the FY2025 Community Reinvestment Fund. That money was for ADA and curbing for the Ayre Street project. New Castle County was out at 209 E. Ayre Street to address small underground leaks. Remington Vernick was out there as well and looked at the failing stormwater drain at S. Walnut. The damage is significant and is at risk to total failure if a large vehicle or equipment is parked there. We are getting quotes for an electric vehicle and charging station as well as HVAC and LED lighting for the energy grant that DNREC is offering. Non-compliant businesses will be getting summonses. The liability insurance premium has increased and the annual premium is \$67,581. The state agencies have reviewed the zoning ordinance changes for the comprehensive plan update. DNREC commended the town for including mixed use, electric vehicle infrastructure, clean energy, and public transportation. Complaints of invasive bamboo growth in Stonehurst that began in a resident's backyard and has spread to the neighbor's yard. It will be investigated further in fall. FY2025 Municipal Street Aid funding received was \$27,101.09. Vice Mayor MacDonald asked what was happening with the corners who had ADA curbing installed. They were dug out and the asphalt was not replaced. Commissioner Chatburn mentioned that DelDOT will probably be back around after everything around NCC has been dug out. Vice Mayor MacDonald also mentioned what a mess the Route 4 construction was and that there never seems to be anyone working there. Commissioner Capriglione spoke about how it's affecting the businesses in First State Plaza.

Police Chief's Report – June, 2024, department statistics. He started compiling information for the salary study. It will be broken down by county and department size.

Alderman's Report – Court fines for June, 2024 - \$16,135.

Maintenance Reports were presented with no questions.

Town Solicitor – No report

Commissioners – Vice Mayor MacDonald had a question about the line item in the Police budget not yet reimbursed. Reimbursement has not been made yet.

Public Comment – Senator Spiros Mantzavinos was in attendance and thanked Town Manager King for being available to answer questions when he presented the charter amendments. He took notes about the Route 4 construction. He said there is an issue with getting contractors and some of the suburban street repairs are a year behind. He wanted council to know he was available for questions or things we would like to put on his radar. Commissioner Chatburn noted that it was all the intersections in town that needed DelDOT's attention. Chief Wohner did mention to Senator Mantzavinos the issue with S. Walnut Street and the manhole cover was labeled State Highway Department and that the town manager had been in contact with someone from DelDOT who stated that the area was not theirs, in spite of having done some repairs in years past. Commissioner Capriglione asked if Banning Park was in the Senator's district and it is not. Commissioner Capriglione commented that he and his son spend a lot of time there and that it is not right that they lock up the soccer field and people have to jump the fence and get injured. County Councilman Toole should be able to assist.

Everyone thanked Senator Mantzavinos for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor MacDonald seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.