

Town of Newport
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners
August 15, 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 Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Lisa Spencer, Town Manager Wendy King, and Police Chief Wohner. Commissioner Michael Capriglione and Solicitor Max Walton were absent.

Minutes from the July 18, 2024, meeting were approved via motion from Vice Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Commissioner Spencer.

Town Manager's Report – Conceptual letter was sent to DNREC to outline the projects we would like funded for the energy grant – rooftop solar array, electric vehicle with charging station, and LED lighting for our buildings for a total of \$125,000. The MS4 stormwater management program that we are a co-permittee of will be audited – time to be determined. Senator Mantzavinos did reach back out to DelDOT about S. Walnut Street and they determined they are not responsible. Oliver Evans historical marker was replaced at the gunmount. Budget is in line for this time of year. Some lines will be over because of the increase in overall costs like the medical insurance and liability insurance. Charter amendments have not been signed. Marijuana ordinances from Newark and Milford were in the packet – council should consider moving forward with legislation. Vice Mayor MacDonald asked what the delay was with the E. Ayre Street project. The condition of E. Ayre Street was much worse than the engineers expected so there were a few things they needed to do with the design.

Police Chief's Report – Monthly department statistics for July, 2024. Sgt. Jones accepted a position with a corporation offering more money. We wish him well.

Alderman's Report – Court collections – \$28,382 for July, 2024.

Maintenance Reports – Submitted with no questions. There was no code enforcement report for July, 2024, because business license follow-up was being conducted.

Solicitor Walton was absent from the meeting so there is no report.

Commissioners – Commissioner Chatburn had a question about the marijuana ordinance. The Comprehensive Planning Commission recommended zoning and he was wondering if it had been accepted. The zoning was but an ordinance would be necessary because applications open September 1.

Mayor Banks did not have anything to report on.

Public Comment – Kevin Haigh, resident, asked Chief Wohner if he knew why there were a dozen State police on Ayre Street and if the person in the ambulance was okay. Chief Wohner did know, and the person is okay. Kenneth Arnold made a proposal for another historical marker. His background is in manufacturing and was employed with DuPont at the Newport site for many years. He says the computer chip originated in Newport. DuPont made all the silicon for computer chips up until the

1960s. He left a packet of information that he shared with the council. There was more discussion about the history of Oliver Evans, the DuPont company and general town history.

Mayor Banks asked Mr. Haigh about the community fund. He shared what the former community fund money was used for – assistance with electric bills and rent. He has access to the account. Town Manager King asked who signers on the account were. Mr. Haigh was not sure but emphasized that the money was donated to help the community. Vice Mayor MacDonald asked if there were certain criteria or a form that had to be filled out to receive help. Mr. Haigh said there was, but he was not sure if he had the documentation any longer but would look.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.