

Town of Newport  
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners  
December 19, 2024

\*There is no recording of the meeting due to an issue with the digital recorder\*  
Below are the written notes made by the town manager and not all discussions were documented.

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

Minutes from the November 21, 2024, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Chatburn and seconded by Commissioner Spencer. All Ayes.

Town Manager's Report –

Police Chief's Report – Department statistics from November, 2024. Funds from a Violent Crime grant supplied rewards for Richey Elementary School's PAWS cart and Chief Wohner and Corporal Betsch manned the cart on reward day. Chief Wohner applied for and received a grant from Office of Highway Safety for \$15,000 for speed/traffic enforcement. More research needs to be done with the speed cameras. They are currently only being used on 95 and only 1 out of 10 vehicles is being cited. The state only has one provider for the camera system. Mayor Banks asked if he was still looking and yes we are. There is a question of getting out of it what we would be putting into it.

Alderman's Report – Court collections – \$16,745 for November, 2024.

Maintenance Reports – Submitted with no questions. Leaf pickup will continue through until right before Christmas.

Town Solicitor's Report – No report

Commissioners – No questions or comments.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Banks commented on the toy drive and that many toys were collected. Half of them went to St. James Church and she was going to check with Peniel to see if there was a need there. She attended a luncheon meeting with Tim Love and Hasan Joarder from Sun Chemical. She said they wanted to be more involved with the town and would like to do a presentation.

Public Comment – Diana DeRose, Ayre Street, commented on the parking situation and how she knows that the town allows anyone to park on the streets, but did not like that the tenants from the apartment across the street were parking in front of her house with cars on the edge of the driveway and blocking it. She asked if the apartments across the street had a parking lot and they do not. Chief Wohner said he would distribute a flyer about the parking issue. Kevin Haigh, Augustine Street, noted that the big tree in the back of 202 E. Market was unstable.

There was a proposal for a new maintenance truck because the 2000 Chevrolet was out of service. The funding to pay for the truck will be coming from ARPA and the quoted price of \$82,000 included plow package, lining, ladder racks, lights. Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2024 maintenance vehicle. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. All Ayes.

Town Manager King also included a proposal for the lighting on the James Street Bridge. It came out less expensive than anticipated and does not need a motion from council as the amount is below the threshold for the town manager to spend without permission. She also presented a new quote for a solar array for the municipal building. She is still waiting for an answer from DNREC regarding the energy grant. The quote is for the north side and south side, but the incentives only cover the south side. There is not enough ARPA funds left to do both sides at the same time so we will likely wait for DNREC to release the grant funds.

There was discussion about the 2025 budget and that it worked out that there would be no tax increase. There will be discussions in the coming months about possibly implementing a fee for trash service, how the county reassessment project may affect our tax rolls, a tax increase for 2026 and possibly outsourcing some services.

Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-002 that passes the FY2025 General Operating budget of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and keeping the tax rate at \$1.2318 per \$100 of assessed value. Commissioner Chatburn seconded. All Ayes.

Mayor Banks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Capriglione seconded. All Ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.