

Town of Newport
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners
January 15, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Tim Chatburn 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 Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Michael Capriglione, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Commissioner Lisa Spencer, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Lisa Hatfield

Minutes from the December 18, 2025, meeting were approved via motion from Commissioner Capriglione and seconded by Commissioner MacDonald. All Ayes.

Town Manager's Report – New Castle County submitted comments about the Comprehensive Plan after it was submitted to the planning office. They hoped we could address those comments so Ashton Jones from Remington Vernick is addressing them. The second reading of the ordinance to adopt the Comprehensive Plan is planned for the meeting. DePaul and Company was to address the issues pointed out to them from the punch list based on weather conditions. T-Mobile is doing a Phase 1 Environmental Study at the municipal building because they are going to be upgrading equipment. No permit is pulled at this time so scope of work is not identified. The election information has been posted online and submitted to Lori Mercado from the election office. There are two open seats for council and deadline to submit intentions is Friday, March 6, 2026. The support shown to the town manager during the budget process was appreciated as was Chief Wohner's assistance with the worksheets.

Police Chief's Report – Department statistics for December, 2025 as well as the annual report. There was a burglary in the industrial park and a robbery at the Exxon the next morning. There was an apprehension the following day with the assistance of Special Agent Kashner. Upcoming items are the last two years that the state will pay for the mandatory body-worn cameras. The other item is a wellness app that the state is paying for. It should be functional next month and the state will cover the term of three years. Commissioner Capriglione was dismayed at the fact that a requirement of the state will no longer be covered by the state. We don't know what will happen as yet. They may pick up storage but not the cameras themselves. Of course it's the opinion of other agencies as well that state mandates should be covered by the state. This was for informational purposes in case this has to be put in the budget at some point.

Alderman's Report - \$14,453 in court fines for December, 2025.

Maintenance Reports were presented with no questions.

Solicitor's Report – Nothing happening outside of the Comprehensive Plan ordinance being adopted.

Commissioners – Commissioner MacDonald said that the yearend budget looked good and complemented the town manager.

Mayor's Report – No comments.

Public Comment – Jordan Seemans, Harvey Hanna & Associates, wanted to commend the town manager and steering committee of the Comprehensive Plan for the sanctioning of the Comprehensive Plan so it could be sent to the State Planning Office. The New Castle County comments were implemented into the plan and were non-substantive. The plan will be sent to state planning and then sent to the Governor’s office for signing. The old pumphouse adjacent to the back alleyway to the Masonic Lodge will be demolished. The prior permit has expired so another permit will be pulled and the demolition will most likely occur when the weather is better. Commissioner Capriglione said when Wilmington Suburban bought the water system from the town, there were issues with that pump leaking so ties were done to the left and right. Mr. Seemans said he will look into that. Mary Ottinot, Registered Travel Nurse and unit tenant at Larch Corporate Center, advised council of an issue she had with a Newport Police Officer.

Old Business – Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2025-004 – An Ordinance to Adopt the 2024 Newport Comprehensive Plan. Vice Mayor Chatburn read some sections of the ordinance and asked if there were comments. Commissioner Capriglione made a motion to accept as the ordinance was reviewed in detail at last month’s meeting and thanked everyone for their involvement. Mayor Banks seconded. Roll call vote – All Ayes.

No New Business.

Vice Mayor Chatburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Banks seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.