

Town of Newport
Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners
June 18, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Michele MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced that it was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meetings Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michele MacDonald, Vice Mayor Stephanie Banks, Commissioner Michael Capriglione, Commissioner Michael Spencer, Commissioner Lisa Spencer, Town Manager Wendy King, Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Grace Best

Minutes from May 21, 2026, were corrected to say "May 21" instead of "March 21." The corrected minutes were approved via motion by Commissioner Capriglione and seconded by Commissioner M. Spencer.

Town Manager's Report – The Downtown Development District application was submitted on June 8. Minquas Fire Company purchased a 2026 Tahoe and upfit that was funded through the FY2026 Bond Bill. The town had to sign an agreement with DelDOT because the firehouse is in town. An invoice had to be sent to DelDOT so the funds could be deposited into the town's account, and the town had to send payment to the vendor. There are now four licensed food trucks in the Market Street lot. The building inspector posted 221 W. Ayre Street as "unsafe." ARPA closing documents were submitted to the US Treasury. A resident on Market Street sent an email requesting a traffic study be done on Market Street at the curve because of the unsafe speed traveled by many vehicles on that stretch of roadway. Budget notes – Capital and CIBA funding was transferred into General Operating and will be returned when tax payments come in Pension contributions are increased because of three payroll periods in May. Engineering fees are increased because of Comprehensive Plan billing and MS4 billing. Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds is over because of the tree work in the park after the tree limb fell down, Stonehurst hill maintenance and boat ramp tree removal. Office and Court 42 will close for Juneteenth.

Commissioner Capriglione asked if there was a limit on the number of food trucks that would be allowed there and what is stopping other places from allowing food trucks on their properties. Food trucks were not a thing when zoning laws were passed and if council wants to prohibit them in certain areas, the law would need to be changed to reflect that. He suggested the town manager look in other jurisdictions to see what restrictions other towns may have in place. He asked Chief Wohner why there are wooded crates around the telephone poles. Chief Wohner said that's where the electrical service is coming in and he thought it was to protect the service. Commissioner M. Spencer suggested checking with Elsmere and Wilmington. Mayor MacDonald looked by Google and Millville prohibits food vendors except for special events. Delaware City requires a business license, state requirements and must adhere to strict working hours. Greenwood – permits required. Middletown – business license required and for five or fewer events per year, a special use permit is required. Wilmington has to have a mobile food truck permit. Town Manager King said that Active Crane used to rent space to a food truck on their property. Commissioner M. Spencer said that the more you restrict, the more you have to enforce. Mayor MacDonald said that for Elsmere, in addition to the business license, if on private property, you need a signed lease agreement with the property owner. Chief Wohner said that there should be ample parking spots available depending on the size of the food truck. Town Manager King views the situation as temporary as redevelopment takes place, there will be no open lot.

Police Chief's Report – Monthly statistics for May, 2026. The military officer will be deployed October through May if council would like to think about the 7th officer.

Alderman's Report - \$19,079 in court fines for May, 2026.

Maintenance Reports and Code Enforcement Reports – An incorrect address was noted on the Code Enforcement report that reported the Spencer grass was not cut instead of across the street.

Solicitor's Report – Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report – When we return, we will need to start thinking about the appointment of residents and businesspersons to the Newport Economic Advisory Committee if we are granted Downtown Development District status. Researching what can be implemented at the triangle now that the tree is gone. Chief Wohner said he was going to reach out to DelDOT about that and the truck route. Mayor MacDonald also brought up the Market Street study since the resident sent communication to the town about her concerns. The budget process will need to begin when we return and we will need to see if we can reallocate things to see about the 7th officer. We have discussed the potential of a surcharge for trash removal. We need to try to think creatively about generating revenue.

Commissioners – Vice Mayor Banks mentioned that the storm drains on West Ayre Street were clogged. It happened when the fire occurred and also when there are big rains. Commissioner M. Spencer said to advise the resident that Market Street is a state road and arranging a study may take some time. Commissioner Capriglione mentioned a tree down behind 202 E. Market Street. Chief Wohner advised that the red light cameras went live on April 20 and DelDOT is doing an ordinance about the speed.

Public Comment – None.

No Old or New Business.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.