

President of Council
Remarks
1-4-2018

As President of Council I am very excited about the prospect of starting a new year with this group of council members, all of whom I feel I can call a friend.

It is very important for council to have intelligent debate, ask probing questions and deliberate effectively on issues that affect the citizens of Wilmington. I truly believe that this diverse council made up of both men and women, young and “older” and being members of both political parties will honestly and effectively work together to govern this city in the best way possible.

I think it was best said by retiring councilman Joe Spicer in his remarks at his last council meeting in December, “that upon being elected to his first term as councilman he was offered two pieces of advice...one that came from a Democrat friend who, told him to run for his party, but once you are elected, that party goes away and you represent only the citizens. The second came from the late Bob Mead, who told him to stand for what you think is right, even if you are standing alone. He closed by stating to council, always do what you think is right.

You have all campaigned, been elected by the citizens and therefore been asked to represent their best interests.

I believe that this council should and will heed Joe's advice when making important decisions, not as members of any special interest group, but only as **members of council and more importantly Citizens of Wilmington!**

Just a couple of housekeeping items with this being the first meeting of this council I would like to set some common sense guidelines for citizens addressing council.

I would ask that you be recognized by the chair before making a statement from the floor. I would hope that remarks and comments (unless germane to the discussion at hand) be offered at the end of the meeting during the public comment portion of the meeting. Please keep your comments to 3 minutes (at

which time you will be notified by the Clerk) and no more than 5 minutes. If you feel you are going to need more time, please contact the Clerk prior to council for approval.

I know you all are excited to get started with the meeting so let's get going.