

## Council makes Lewis suspension permanent

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Conversations got heated in Newland when the Town Council made the temporary suspension of maintenance supervisor Cecil Lewis permanent. Lewis was put on what the council called "temporary suspension" in December after being arrested and charged with a number of misdemeanors including deer spotlighting and fleeing to allude arrest.

The meeting had barely been called to order before a motion to fire Lewis was made and voted on, no time for discussion given. Lewis and his advocates were not permitted to speak beforehand, nor was he given a reason when he asked why he was fired.

The quick way the issue was handled prompted raised voices and an increasingly passionate debate that soon sent the Council into closed session. The Council returned from closed session upholding Lewis' permanent suspension, but promised to send him a letter detailing reasons. Before departing, Lewis promised the Council would be hearing from his attorney.