

# MAYOR & COUNCIL

## August 7, 2017

Mayor Houlihan called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of Delmar, Delaware to order at 7:00 P.M. In attendance were Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase, Council Members Smith, Boyan and Holmes, Town Manager Bynum-King, and Clerk of Council Fisher. Guests: Delmar Police Chief Barkley, Delmar Police Cpl. Esham and K-9 Attila, Delmar Maryland Mayor Karen Wells, Delmar, MD Deputy Mayor Lloyd Unsell.

### **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Houlihan welcomed everyone to the August, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. He thanked Vice-Mayor Pase for running the meeting last month in his absence. He also thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his father.

### **Oath of office- K9 Attila**

Delmar, Police Cpl. Esham and K-9 Attila were present for the Oath of Office for Attila. Both Delmar, DE Mayor Houlihan and Delmar, MD Mayor Wells administered the Oath of Office to K-9 Attia. (Copies of both Oaths are attached to these minutes)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Boyan made a motion to approve the July, 2017 minutes as circulated. Council Member Smith seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and Mayor Houlihan abstaining due to his absence last month.

### **Unfinished Business**

Town Manager Bynum-King informed the Council that the loan for Phase II of the Grove Street Water Main Upgrade Project went to closing on July 31, 2017.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Student Advisory Report

While there was no one to give a report probably due to the fact that school is not in session, Mayor Houlihan did report that this Friday evening, there will be a meeting at the High School stadium for everyone participating in fall sports. Tryouts and practices will start on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Police Chief's Report

Delmar Police Chief Barkley related an incident that happened on Saturday morning, around 2:42 a.m., when the Officers received a call from another agency trying to stop a vehicle traveling north on Rt. 13 suspected of DWI. They set up stop sticks on Rt. 13 near Chestnut Street. They were able to deflate one of the tires but the driver was able to continue traveling north. Another agency was able to stop the vehicle south of Laurel, DE. The driver was intoxicated and had taken a quantity of narcotics as well as having a substantial supply of drugs in his possession, along with outstanding warrants.

Chief Barkley said that the Friday Delmar National Night Out exceeded his expectations. He was not ready for the amount of people that attended. He said his department learned a lot of lessons for next year. They noted that they

needed more food and ice. They did a sampling from the bikes given away and people were from Delmar, Salisbury, Laurel, Seaford, Princess Anne and Cambridge. He said the event went well with very few glitches. He is grateful for all the help from Public Works, Town Hall, the volunteers and the Elected Officials. It took everyone to make this event as successful as it was. Most of what was done this year will be attempted for next year. There was a lot of thought about changing the date and the venue but he believes he will be sticking with the first Friday in August for next year. He said there was a tremendous outpouring of donations from the Community that made this event successful. There will be a golf tournament on October 21<sup>st</sup> as a supportive effort to keep the Delmar National Night Out going.

Chief reported that they have been responding to the typical domestic calls. Cpl. Heacock is still out of service as a result of his intervention in a domestic call. Chief said that he is not sure when Cpl. Heacock will be returning.

Vice Mayor Pase said that she heard that there might be a lot of new things for next year. Mayor Houlihan said that he is proud of Chief Barkley in that he and his officers have organized the 1<sup>st</sup> annual event.

#### Code Enforcement Officer Report

Mayor Houlihan reviewed the reports that were included within the mail packet.

#### Fire Department Report

Mayor Houlihan stated that no one was present to give a report nor was there one in the mail packet. He did say that during the Friday National Night Out, the alarm went off twice and the Fire Department had to leave.

#### Utility Commission

Vice Mayor Pase said the contractor for the back-up well will be on-site sometime this week. The upgrade for the Pine Street Pump Station will be taking place in September. Well 3A inspection has been completed and the cost was within what was budgeted for. Vice Mayor Pase also informed everyone that Wastewater Treatment Operator Timothy Gates will no longer be working for the Town as of this Friday. Tim has 14 years of service working for the Town.

#### Public Works

Council Member Smith reviewed the report that was included within the mail packet. Mayor Houlihan thanked the Public Works Staff for preparing State Street Park for the National Night Out festivities.

#### Planning & Zoning

Council Member Boyan said that there were no Delaware items for him to report on from the Planning and Zoning meeting in July. Both Mayor Houlihan and Council Member Boyan spoke of Mr. Alberti's Special Exception request of the Delmar, Delaware Board of Adjustments. Council Member Boyan read the motions that were made at the meeting, which will be attached to these minutes in the minute book. Mayor Houlihan, who is also a member of the Delmar, DE Board of Adjustments stated that Mr. Alberti went through the whole history of his property. Zoning Codes were not in place back when Mr. Alberti purchased his property. Now he has a time line to get things closer to code.

#### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that the Delmar, Delaware tax bills have been sent off. Seniors citizens, 65 years and older, who are the property owners and reside in their homes in Delmar, can receive a 5% discount if paid prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

She said that she and the Community Development Coordinator met with a developer who is negotiating with Mr. Mills on the purchase of the “Mills Building”. This developer has experience and provided photos of his work in the restoration on old buildings that he has completed. They are currently in the middle of negotiations on the cost of the building. He has already contacted the State of Delaware for tax credits as well as the USDA which has funding available for the Town to apply for on behalf of the developer for some of the renovations. He wants to maintain the historic significance of the building.

Once the developer has secured funding for the building, she will be having another meeting with him along with CDC Hardin. She asked that Mayor Houlihan be able to make himself available for that meeting. She and CDC Hardin spoke to the same developer about the old pawn shop. It has been a building the Police Department has been interested in for storage. The developer/ investor looked at the property and made contact with the owner. The developer expressed interest in purchasing the building and renovating it to accommodate the Police Department needs and sell it to the Town.

Town Manager Bynum-King said that the church which is being renovated on State Street and S. Maryland Avenue is looking awesome. Whoever is doing the project is doing a terrific job. It has transformed the church both inside and out which is another enhancement to Delmar, Delaware.

Code Enforcement Officer Bounds informed her that the Town needs to update the International Building Code to 2015. She has already forwarded the information to the Delmar, Delaware Town Attorney and will have the Ordinance ready for the first reading in September. The Town Manager said that she is in the process of updating our building permit process. For quite a while it has been a “one size fits all” permit application. The current application does not provide enough information to the applicant on what types of inspections are required and what is needed for a CO. So the application will be revamped.

Our vacant property registration ordinance has been lying dormant. We haven’t been enforcing it as it was designed to be. The Municipal Clerk will provide a report on which properties that have zero water usage can be identified. That list will be given to the Code Enforcement Officer who will send out a letter to the legal property owner on record for the vacant building. The letter will inform the property owner that the Town does have a vacant building ordinance, let them know what it is and the consequences of not abiding by the ordinance. This process will start soon.

Town Manager Bynum-King informed the Council that she will start her vacation this Wednesday and will be back on the following Wednesday. If there are any emergencies, everyone has been instructed to contact the Mayors.

### **Commission Comments**

Council Member Holmes said that the Delmar Police Department did an awesome job with the Friday National Night Out event. It had a nice turnout. He commends the Police Department for the job they did.

Council Member Boyan said that he enjoyed himself at the event as well. He said that it was great to see the Town residents get together as they did.

Council Member Smith commented that the Friday Night event was wonderful. He knows a lot of work went into it. He is looking forward to doing it again next year.

Council Member Smith informed everyone that September 4, 2017 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Stephen's Church in Delmar. They will be having a reception at 11:00 a.m. in Camelot Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup>, which is also Labor Day. Invitations are being sent out. The celebration will be a year- long event and will be incorporated with other events they will be having throughout the year.

Vice Mayor Pase said that Friday Night Out made her feel great and everyone she spoke with was impressed.

She spoke about the construction at the library especially in the area at the end of Grove Street. Town Manager Bynum-King said that she has spoken with the Public Works Director who in turn will be having a conversation with the workers. A suggestion was to perhaps move the trucks off of Bi-State Blvd and onto the Jewell Street and Grove Street areas. It really is dangerous where they are parking now. Grove Street is busy especially when school starts. Also suggested was speaking to the Fire Department and asking if the trucks could park in their gravel parking lots while construction is going on.

Mayor Houlihan said that in less than 2 weeks he will be taking his daughter off to college. She's the first one to leave for college. He stated that tomorrow, August 8<sup>th</sup>, but in the year 1980, he went into the Air Force. 37 years ago.

He also informed the Council that he received a letter from the Delaware Department of Transportation in which they have \$5 Million for Municipal Street Aid, of which the Town will be receiving \$34,828.20.

Mayor Houlihan said that Friday night was a good night. Perception is everything and everyone seemed very comfortable being there.

Town Manager Bynum-King said that it felt like a big wholesome family event. The Town wants the Police Department to be more involved with the community and it definitely took place Friday night.

Mayor Houlihan thanked Rachel Farris from Morning Star Publications for covering the event. She was the only press to show up and do any kind of coverage.

It was noted that the September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, due to the Labor Day holiday.

### **Adjournment**

Upon hearing no public comments, Council Member Smith made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Council Member Holmes. The motion passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Submitted by:

Cindy Fisher  
Clerk of Council