

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
December 11, 2017

Mayor Wells called the scheduled meeting of the Mayor & Commissioners of Delmar, Maryland to order at 7:00 P.M. In attendance were Mayor Wells, Commissioners Scholl, Morgan and Tucker, Town Manager Bynum-King, Town Attorney Benson and Clerk of Council Fisher. Absent: Deputy Mayor Unsell. Guests: Delmar Police Chief Barkley, Officer Brown, Vasmi Patel, Emily Williamson, Paul Thornburg and Wicomico County Clerk Mark Bowen.

Call to Order

The Maryland Mayor and Commissioners performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayors Comments

Mayor Wells thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

Oath of Office

Both Delmar, Maryland Mayor Wells and Delmar, Delaware Mayor Houlihan administered the Oath of Office to Ptl. David Brown of the Delmar Police Department.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Scholl made a motion to approve the November, 2017 minutes as circulated. Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

New Business

Ethics Ordinance Update

Town Manager Bynum-King said that the Town received notification from the State of Maryland that there are some changes to the Ethics Law that will impact the local government Ordinance. Currently the new requirements are still under review by the Maryland Attorney. This matter will be addressed at the January meeting.

Police Chief's Report

Delmar Police Chief Barkley said that they are preparing for the Christmas parade. They are excited to be able to celebrate with the athletes. He reported that there are no new crime trends and they are still having some issues with thefts from vehicles.

Mayor Wells said that on social media people are reporting windows being shot out in the area. Chief Barkley said that it is somewhat true. There is an issue in Salisbury, but he is not aware of any reports in Delmar. It may be happening in the County with houses that have a Delmar zip code. It seems that there is a driver that rides around late at night shooting guns from the vehicle just for the fun of it.

Student Advisory Report

Ms. Patel and Williamson from Delmar High School reported that the holiday cookie walk raised a lot of money for the Wellness Pantry to serve families in need. The chorus concert was this past Thursday and it was standing room only.

There have been 2 incidents of fighting in the school this year. Hopefully those situations have gotten under control.

They said as everyone knows the Delmar Girls Hockey Team has won the State Championship, now 2 years in a row. The boys' football team has also won the State Championship for the 7th time.

The high school lunches are now served on Styrofoam trays. Ms. Williamson said that she found biodegradable ones on-line that cost 9 cents each. But the Styrofoam trays cost 1 cent apiece. For the middle school they do serve lunches on the regular trays. The school informed them that they don't have the staff to wash the regular trays to have them available for the high school lunches. Commissioner Tucker said that maybe the school might want to look at the amount of trash output this is causing, they may be saving in one area but increasing expenses in garbage disposal.

Code Enforcement Officers Report

Mayor Wells reviewed the report that was included within the mail packets.

Fire Department Report

No one was present to give a report.

Utility Commission Report

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that the back-up well project deadline was December 4th. The contractors have asked for a 30 day extension.

The Town did receive acceptance from the State of Maryland to award the bid to Teal Construction for the Pine Street Pump Station Project.

The Town Manager did report that 850 linear feet of slip lining was installed on the Delaware side to address some of the I&I issues throughout Town. This is the first section of slip lining that has been done on the Delaware side.

Public Works Report

Mayor Wells reviewed the report that was included within the mail packets.

Planning & Zoning Report

Commissioner Scholl reported that there were no Maryland requests for Planning and Zoning's review.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Bynum-King stated that at the Delaware meeting there was a resident that approached the Council expressing interest in the Council approving banners, like other communities, recognizing veterans. This can be something that can be discussed at budget time.

She also said that the Town received notification from the Maryland Department of Community Block Grants that the Town was successful in the grant application process for housing rehab. This will allow the Town to provide families, who meet certain criteria, to live in safe and healthy living conditions. She put out kudos to Community Development Coordinator Hardin for putting the grant application together.

The Town also was notified by the US Department of Justice that we received a grant for maintaining the SRO in the Delmar School District for 3 more years. The grant is for \$125,000 and comes with a \$43,147 cash match that

will be split between Delmar, Maryland, Delmar, Delaware and the Delmar School District.

The Town also received grant funding to match the funds already set aside for the State Street Park improvements.

Susan Upole, the Director of the Delmar Free Library, sent the Town a letter thanking them for their financial contribution to their operations.

The Town Manager reported that Republic Services will be picking up discarded natural Christmas trees on the normal collection days for the whole month of January for both Delmar, Maryland and Delmar, Delaware.

The Code Enforcement Officer is out on medical leave for 2 weeks.

The Christmas parade has been rescheduled for this Saturday at 2:00 p.m. The Town Manager said that she will need to know how many will be participating so they can contact the Chamber of Commerce as well as knowing how to set up the trailer. She said that she will send an email reminder to everyone. The Town Manager said that on behalf of the Town Employees she wanted to extend their appreciation for the holiday dinner as well as the bonuses that were issued this year.

She informed the Commission that there is currently striping on Connelly Mill Road. A resident who lives in Breckenridge works with Maryland State Highway. He has been trying to negotiate with the Town and Maryland State Highway to get that section of Connelly Mill Road striped. It is now the end of their striping season and Maryland State Highway did stripe that area of Connelly Mill Road at no cost to the Town.

Commission Comments

Mayor Wells stated that they are waiting for 8:00 p.m. for the Oath of Offices to be administered to her and Commissioners Scholl and Tucker. They ran unopposed last month and the Charter calls for the Oath to be administered at 8:00 p.m. She said that it's been a pleasure and honor to serve the residents of Delmar, Maryland. It has been a learning experience and she will try to make things even better in the next 2 years.

Commissioner Scholl welcomed Ptl. Brown to Delmar. He echoed everything that Mayor Wells said and that he is enjoying working with everyone.

Commissioner Morgan congratulated Ptl. Brown and welcomed him to Delmar. He also offered congratulations to the Elected Officials who will be sworn in this evening.

Commissioner Tucker thanked everyone for having him on the Commission and congratulated Ptl. Brown.

Public Comments

Mr. Paul Thornburg identified himself as a member of the Teamster Union from Newark, Delaware and presented a petition to the Mayor and Commissioners for the Police Officers of Delmar, Maryland to be able to organize and unionize. He left the petition with the Town Manager.

Elected Officials- Oath of Office

Town Attorney Bob Benson spoke about Wicomico County Clerk Mark Bowen. He chose not to run for re-election as the Clerk for the Circuit Court. He was first employed in the Clerk's Office in 1983 and was appointed into his current position in 1987. He ran for Office in 1990 and has been reelected ever since. Mr. Benson said as an attorney and citizen he is very fortunate to have Mark Bowen as the Clerk; he has done an excellent job for the

County. He takes the time to find the answers to the questions he does not know. Mr. Bowen has been the top vote getter in Wicomico County. The new Clerk will have large shoes to fill. He thanked Mr. Bowen for his 27 years of service and that he will be greatly missed.

Wicomico County Clerk Mark Bowen administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Wells.

Mayor Wells then administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Scholl and Tucker.

Adjournment

Commissioner Morgan made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Commissioner Tucker. The motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

Submitted by:

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council
Town of Delmar