

Utility Commission September 4, 2018

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Vice Mayor Pase. In attendance were Commission Members Dickerson and Dewald, Council Member Smith, Deputy Mayor Unsell, Town Manager Bynum-King and Clerk of Council Fisher.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Dewald identified some grammatical errors and the minutes were corrected to reflect those changes. Council Member Smith made a motion to accept the August, 2018 minutes as circulated. Commission Member Dewald seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and Deputy Mayor Unsell abstaining due to his absence at last month's meeting.

Unfinished Business

Update- Grove Street Water Main Upgrade

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that originally, this project should have been started in the spring and be completed prior to the start of the new school year. Due to delays beyond our control, the project new start date was to begin in September, causing the project to occur during the winter months. The Town had a pre-bid meeting and there were 6 contractors that attended. Out of the six contractors, only one was willing to bid on the project and work through the winter months. Each of the other contractors were interested in the project, however, it was indicated that they would not be bidding on a project scheduled through the wet wintery months. The Town's engineers, suggested to ensure that the Town gets the best bid prices for the project, withdraw the current advertisement for bids and re-advertise the project in December. Re-advertising in December would result in the bid opening occurring in February and the project award in March. The Town Engineer suggested to the Town Manager that issuing the project award in March would get Delmar on the paving list sooner rather than later. The project without any issues, is slated for 90 days with anticipated completion in early June.

Baron Emery- Car Load Express Update

Town Manager Bynum-King said that following last month's meeting, she sent an email to Mr. Emery informing him that the Utility Commission Members needed additional information about the placement of the work trailer. As of today, she has not received a response from Mr. Emery.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Bynum-King gave a follow-up regarding the meeting she had with the Maryland Department of the Environment last month, on August 15th. She mentioned the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Consent Order for major maintenance projects at the WWTP. She was accompanied to Baltimore by the Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant; Alonzo Hardy and Town Engineer, Jason Loar. She said that she is pleased to report that the meeting was productive. The MDE embraced the Town because of the initiative taken to arrange the meeting. Town Engineer Jason Loar explained the technical components of the treatment plant since the upgrade in 2011. The Town Manager informed the MDE representative that the Town is aware of its' issues and is addressing them through priority areas identified in the I&I Study. She informed the representative that the Town has started the process of slip lining of sewer mains as well as lining some of the man-holes. The MDE representatives were glad to hear

that the Town was taking some initiative to address the issues. The Town Manager also informed MDE that the Utility Commission agreed to proceed with an application for MD State Revolving Loan for a major project to replace a main that was ranked as a high priority in the I&I Study. She informed the representatives the Town's application did not make the State's priority list. MDE Representatives suggested that the Town submit a letter to the MDE Application Review Panel, identifying that our plant is having issues and that we are requesting a Consent Letter for major maintenance and to address permit violations.

During the meeting with MDE, the Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment talked of the challenges the plant faces with unknown substances getting into the Town's system. He mentioned a time when a milky substance got into the plant. No one knows where it came from. There had been some issues a few years ago with illegal dumping in a man-hole located in the Heron Ponds Subdivision. A resident reported seeing a septic truck in the late evening in the area and we were able to address the problem by putting locks across the gated areas to prohibit entrance after hours. It is not unheard of that some septic companies will do illegal dumping and when they do, we don't know what they put into our system.

MDE expressed appreciation that the Town is working to fix our own problems prior to the Town being served with a Consent Order issued by the State for violations. The Town was told that it takes quite a while to get a Consent Order. It could take up to one year, however, because the Town approached the State first, they will use the August 15th date as the date they can move forward with the major maintenance project. The Town can secure bids for the aeration basin pump out. The Town Manager also mentioned, that although the State is working with the Town, we will still be assessed penalties through a Consent Order issued by MDE for permit violations.

Commission's Report

Council Member Smith inquired about a gray cable that was used when the Police Department held their Blue Light Nite in State Street Park. He said that someone nailed the cable to a panel in the tree is running across the Park. He said that an electrician informed him that the cable is not one to be left outside. Council Member Smith said that he thought the cable was put there on a temporary basis, but it is still there.

Town Manager Bynum-King said that she is not aware of a cable running through State Street Park. She said that this is definitely something that should have been brought up prior to this evening so it could have been checked into. She said that she will have a conversation with the Police Chief and the Director of Public Works to discuss this matter with them.

Council Member Smith also informed the Utility Commission that St. Stephen's Church is wrapping up its' year-long 150th birthday celebration. On September 16th, they will be burying a time capsule. Anyone at the Church that day will be able to sign the capsule before it is buried.

Adjournment

Commission Member Dewald made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Unsell. The motion passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Submitted by;

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council