

Utility Commission

April 27, 2009

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

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Dickerson made a motion to accept the April 6, 2009 Special Meeting minutes as circulated. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes, 0 absent and Commissioner Hodgins abstaining due to her absence at the meeting.

Council Member Thompson amended the February 23, 2009 Utility minutes by changing the dollar amount from \$1,000,000.00 to \$100,000.00 under unfinished business. He also made the motion to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Hodgins seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes, 0 absent and Commission Member Dewald abstaining due to her absence at that meeting.

Unfinished Business

Town Manager Bynum-King updated everyone on the State Street Laundromat EDU usage assessment since their last evaluation 6 months ago. At the business owners' request, the Utility Commission agreed to reduce the Laundromat's EDU's to 15 for a 6 month period. After the 6 month review, the usage history revealed that 15 EDUs were adequate for the Laundromat. There will be no further adjustments to this account, unless there is an increase in consumption.

Town Manager Bynum-King reported as a follow up to a previous request from the Utility Commission regarding when the Commission was founded and how it was structured, her research has led to a document dated November 15, 1947, which outlined the rules and regulations of the Commission. She stated that she is still looking for the documentation when the Commission changed from Water to Utility Commission and from 3 to 5 members

Council Member Pase asked if there was any new development with Tidewater. Council Member Thompson responded that there was not. Town Manager Bynum-King did report that Council Member Payne is still working with the State of Delaware to get funding for the "back-up" well. She also reported that at last month's Joint Council meeting, DB&F spoke about our priority projects lined up for any available stimulus funding. Delaware and Maryland Utilities fell just short of the cut-off for funding. Delaware funding source comes through the Office of Drinking Water and Maryland funding source comes through Maryland Department of the Environment. Through the Delaware funding source, we are the very next project to move up and be available for funding if other projects don't meet their deadlines. Federal guidelines require that all projects are being monitored very closely to ensure projects are ready to proceed in accordance with funding guidelines.

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that the sewer lines on Pennsylvania Avenue have been televised and shows some cracks and breaks in the old terra cotta lines. She said that if repairs are needed, they should be done as the streetscape is being completed. She said that there is a

process called “slip lining” that could repair the lines without being intrusive to the project and less costly since it can be done without digging up the streets. She said that it has been reported this process has been successfully on similar projects in other communities.

Council Member Thompson said that he thinks it would be better to take care of these cracked pipes now rather than later. He said with all the drilling and heavy machinery on Pennsylvania Avenue, due to the age and conditions of the pipes, they could potentially be in worse condition than when first televised. There was some discussion on the time frame in which this process should be completed and it was the consensus of the Commission that it would be beneficial to address the matter sooner than later. The cost of the process would be \$28,800.00.

Commissioner Hodgins made a motion to proceed with the - “Slip Lining” process on Pennsylvania Avenue, Delmar, Delaware prior to the completion of the street-scape project. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion which passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Council Member Pase stated that she does not like the bumped out sidewalks at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and State Street as a part of the streetscape project. She said that she does understand the intent DelDot has for the project, but she doesn’t like how it shoots out and anyone turning has to go wide. Town Mgr Bynum-King said that DelDOT did not install this project without appropriate approvals. They brought this concept to the Mayor and Council for review and approval and it was accepted as proposed.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that she has spoken with Public Works Director Reid, and all the hydrant adapters are in and they are in the process of scheduling the installation of them by the end of the week. She also spoke about contacting Chief Shawn Johnson of the Delmar Fire Department and maybe having some of the Cadets help in the installation process.

Commission's Report

Commission Member Dickerson stated that earlier in the year he had asked for a list of the Town’s bank accounts and as of yet, have not received any. Town Manager Bynum-King stated she was unsure why he had not received the requested information, but that the Municipal Clerk is in the building waiting for the next meeting, she may be able to give for him the items you are requesting before you leave this evening.

Commissioner Hodgins stated that she also wanted to complain on the curbing being done at the Pennsylvania Avenue street-scape project. Town Manager Bynum-King did respond as she stated earlier this project was reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Council. And to date I have not received any complaints about the sidewalk or the inconveniences of the project construction.

Adjournment

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

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council