

Joint Council
April 27, 2020
Via Teleconference

The regularly scheduled Joint Council meeting, comprised of the Mayor & Council of Delmar, DE and the Mayor & Commissioners of Delmar, MD, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Mayor Wells, Mayor Houlihan, Deputy Mayor Unsell, Vice Mayor Pase, Commissioners Scholl, Tucker and Lenox, Council Members Smith and Boyan, Financial Officer Chandler, Clerk of Council Fisher and Town Manager Bynum-King.

Called to Order

Mayor Houlihan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Joint Council performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Houlihan put it on the record that this meeting was taking place via teleconference. He took roll call of the Delaware Council Members and everyone was present.

Mayor Wells took roll call of the Maryland Commissioners and everyone was present.

Mayor Houlihan also took roll call for Town Manager Sara Bynum-King, Financial Officer Heather Chandler and Clerk of Council Cindy Fisher. All were present.

New Business

Mayor Houlihan said this meeting is for the First Reading of the 2020-2021 Budget. Financial Officer Chandler did send out an email with more in-depth financial information that will be discussed at the Public Hearing next month.

Mayor Houlihan asked if any of the Council Members had questions for either the Financial Officer or the Town Manager in regards to the information emailed to them by the Financial Officer. There were no questions from the Council Members.

Mayor Wells wanted to ensure that the Commissioners understood the Financial Officer's message in regards to the trash pick-up. Mayor Wells said that the trash pick-up cost on the Maryland side is increasing due to two trucks now being used instead of the one. Now both sides of Town will be at the same rate for trash pick-up. The Town Manager said that this proposed increase will cover the next three years. There were no questions from the Commissioners.

Mayor Houlihan read Ordinance # 174 in its entirety. An Ordinance of the Town of Delmar, A Delaware Municipal Corporation, Adopting and Implementing the Budget for the Town of Delmar, DE and the Delmar Utility Commission for the Period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Mayor Houlihan asked for a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance # 174. Council Member Smith made that motion which was seconded by Vice Mayor Pase. By roll call, the motion passed with 4 ayes and 0 absent.

Mayor Wells read Ordinance # 748 in its entirety. An Ordinance of the Town of Delmar, A Maryland Municipal Corporation, Adopting and Implementing the Budget for the Town of Delmar, MD and the Delmar Utility Commission for the Period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Mayor Wells asked for a motion for the acceptance of the First Reading of Ordinance # 748. Commissioner Scholl made that motion which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Unsell. By roll call, the motion passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Mayor Houlihan stated that the Public Hearing for both Ordinances will be held Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Council & Commission Comments

Council Member Boyan said that it was good to “see” everyone and that everyone is safe and healthy.

Mayor Wells asked if May 18th, during the Public Hearing, is the time for the discussion of what is actually in the budget? The answer from the Town Manager was yes.

Deputy Mayor Unsell said that he is glad everyone seems to be doing well.

Mayor Wells informed the Council that she asked the Town Manager to reach out to our nursing homes and assisted living facilities to ensure they have enough PPE’s. The PPE’s will be coming from Wicomico County.

Vice Mayor Pase asked everyone to keep former Council Member Lonnie Figgs’ wife in their prayers. She was flown to Johns Hopkins Saturday night to remove a blood clot from her brain and leg.

Mayor Houlihan thanked the Town Manager and the Financial Officer for all they have done. Here it is April 27th and they are having the First Reading of the Budget. At the budget meeting last week, there was discussion to look at the budget on a monthly basis going forward. In these times when the unemployment is so high and the housing market is questionable, there may be a possibility that some things might have to be cut out of the budget, but we will be cautious.

Mayor Houlihan said that as of 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28th, masks have to be worn in the State of Delaware when entering places of business.

Adjournment

Mayor Houlihan asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Smith made that motion which was seconded by Vice Mayor Pase. By roll call, the motion passed with 9 ayes and 0 absent.

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council