

MAYOR & COUNCIL
November 7, 2022
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Houlihan called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of Delmar, Delaware to order at 7:00 P.M. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. In attendance were Vice Mayor Pase, Council Members Smith, Kemp, and Jones, Town Manager Fleetwood, Police Chief Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: State Representative, Tim Dukes, Sussex County Council President, Michael Vincent, Delaware State Senator, Bryant Richardson, Dhara Nakranim Linda Morris, Michael McClure, Tom & Karen Cramblitt, John & Linda Jenkins, Bill & Carol Hamilton, Tina Mazec, Robin Bond, Farrah Morelli, Kennedy Wilson, Mike & Jessica Horton, Peggy Morris, Scott Morris, Penny Truitt, Pat McGee, Carrie Williams, Anita Feaster-Heacock, Danny Bader; via teleconference Saylor Guy, Thomas Bauer, Jr., Stefanie Bauer.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Houlihan called the meeting to order and performed the pledge of allegiance. A roll call was performed to confirm there was a quorum. A quorum was established.

Mayor Houlihan thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve October 4, 2022 meeting minutes as prepared. A motion seconded (Smith/Pase) and carried with a roll call vote count: 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Student Advisory-

Dhara Nakrani reported: 1.) In November there are a lot of school closings. November 8th is Election Day so there is no school, Thursday is returns day so school is open half day, Friday is Veteran's Day so school will be closed. 2. Today is the end of the marking period. 3.) Next Monday is induction day for the honor society. 4.) Thanksgiving break is November 23rd to the 25th.

Committee Reports

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) Arrests occurred from new construction sites in town. The subject was stealing building materials. 2.) Arrests of intoxicated individuals chasing other individuals with a machete was resolved without injury. 3.) PD patrolled and detailed Homecoming. 4.) Kids were fighting in the street. In the last month or so that seems to be the new past time. 5.) Domestic barricade with shots fired, PD spent several hours on the scene. That was resolved without injury and the two-year-old was reacquainted with the mother. 6.) PD has a new crossing guard Mr. Ted Burns. PD really appreciates him giving his time to work for the town now. 7.) As of last week, PD offered positions to two individuals Mr. John Paul McGrath, and Blaine Erdie for the position of police officers in the upcoming academy. 8.) PD has completed the first round for PCO interviews with additional interviews to take place shortly. Chief Barkley said he hoped to have that position filled before the end of the year. 9.) Elections are tomorrow and PD has been getting a lot of intel and advice from most states on how to conduct themselves as far as law enforcement.

Council Member Jones said he thought PD handled the situation on Monday very well.

Fire Department Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Mayor Houlihan mentioned they did have their sportsman giveaway on Saturday. Council Member Smith said the tickets were sold out. Mayor Houlihan commented there were 5,000 tickets sold. He said he hoped they did well with the giveaway and he is aware it's always a big fundraiser for their department. We salute them and he is sure it'll be the first Saturday in November again next year.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Public Works – The report is included in the mail packet.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood acknowledged publicly that Robert Buck was appointed by both mayors as the Town's PW, Director of Public Works. He has been serving in the acting role.

Mayor Houlihan thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood and said that is a great honor and what Mr. Buck does for the Town on a day/night basis 24/7 is very appreciated.

Utility Commission Report

Vice Mayor Pase reported: 1.) PW Superintendent, Sophia Oberton submitted a reallocation of funds request. An unexpected valve replacement was needed. The Council voted unanimously to grant \$10,962.00. She mentioned Ms. Oberton is doing a great job in following through with all the needs so, if there is any way that they could help her and she sees it's going to be better for the Town they will. Vice Mayor Pase thanked Ms. Oberton.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said the MD and DE Mayors met with representatives from Sussex County this week. The topic was sewer and economic and business development. This was a very preliminary meeting. He further said they are scheduled to reconvene on November 16th.

The Town is looking for help with the sewer transmission issue, the old piping across the Town.

He mentioned they also had a meeting this past week and learned there is a new and improved process that used to be slip lining. The new process is called Underground Curing with UV lights. He further mentioned they had a demonstration, it's a big cost savings but there is a time and a place to use that verses doing the full restoration. They will be sending out a link for the Elected Officials that has the information about the process.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood asked Ms. Oberton the date of the original valve that is being replaced. Ms. Oberton answered before the new WTP which was 1997, at least 30 years old. He explained the valve has a slow leak and it is located on York St. The importance of the valve, it shuts off the main water tower.

He said residents and Elected Officials will notice in the Daily Times and Guide there is an ad that has gone out, request for proposal for street paving. There is getting ready to be some street repaved, more on the MD side then the DE side.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood suggested for those in attendance to go over to the WTP and take a look at the outside and inside because there is a huge difference.

Public Works, Superintendent Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Planning & Zoning

Council Member Jones reported:

1. Saylor Guy/Ryan Conway (McCrone) – Lot Line Adjustment and Subdivision– Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE – There was no representative present.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Saylor Guy/Ryan Conway (McCrone) – Lot Line Adjustment and Subdivision – Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Outten) and carried by roll call vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Johnson).

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to accept – Saylor Guy/Ryan Conway (McCrone) – Lot Line Adjustment and Subdivision – Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Pase/Smith) and carried by roll call vote of 4 Ayes 1 Abstain (Houlihan).

Mayor Houlihan explained he abstained because he is an officer in the company of Houlihan Properties. The property across from the brewery and it's between Golden Meadows and the other building that has Eastern Shore Building Systems and the salon. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added in essence it is subdivided between two lots.

Service Recognition

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said from his prospective he has seen the work Mayor Houlihan, Council Member Smith and Vice Mayor Pase have done over the last 20 years. He further said he thanked them for their service to the Town and the work they have done.

Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith were presented a Tribute from State Representative, Tim Dukes, a Tribute from the House of Representatives and signed by the Speaker of the House Schwartzkopf, Chief Clerk, Richard Puffer and himself. Mr. Dukes also thanked them for the work they have done.

Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith were presented a Tribute from Sussex County Council President, Michael Vincent signed by himself. Mr. Vincent also thanked them for the work they have done.

DE State Senator, Bryant Richardson commented he hoped that Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith stay active in the community at some capacity or the other because their talent and their gift is such a gift to the people in Delmar, MD/DE. He thanked them for their service.

Vice Mayor Pase presented the Key to the Town of Delmar to Mayor Houlihan for his 26 years of public service to the Town of Delmar.

Town of Delmar, Municipal Clerk, Kimberly Layton read a farewell speech to Mayor Houlihan.

Comments from Mayor & Council

Council Member Smith commented it's been a pleasure serving Delmar. Twelve years seems like a long time and it goes by very fast.

Vice Mayor Pase commented she appreciated everyone that is in attendance tonight. She said she thought they have been great support for years. The 28 years that she has been on the UT/Council, the last four years of her life have been a struggle with her losses and things in general but just the support that she has received personally from colleagues in the times that are really needed, and still do she cannot say enough about how she feels.

She further said she loved every one of them and she hoped they have accomplished some good things for the Town of Delmar. Her and her colleagues did it because they wanted to serve the community and she sincerely appreciated it.

Mayor Houlihan commented 26 years at the dais, 12 years as the mayor. He said he was blessed to do that. He said he first got on at the WTP and was a part of a ribbon cutting, a very special day. He was a lot younger and really green on the Council but he sat, listened and learned as he went through his tenure. He further commented he has been through two WWTP upgrades and all the commercial growth on the north 13 and south 13 border that has been really good for Delmar. He mentioned he really wanted the Perdue property to happen. He explained why.

He further said when sitting in his seat on Council it was not easy. Some people liked him and some did not. At the end of the day everything he has done was for the citizens of this Town. He has been blessed to have past and present colleagues with him, Council Members Jones, Kemp, Smith and his rock Vice Mayor Pase. Also, MD past and present colleagues, three Town Managers, Roberta Glenn, Sara Bynum-King and Jeff Fleetwood since June.

Mayor Houlihan thanked his wife, Tracy. He said she was always by his side and two daughters born and raised through the whole thing. He explained there were sacrifices and stuff he missed, no replays. Mayor Houlihan mentioned to his colleagues going forward hold that thought and keep that thought, no replays.

He thanked the citizens of the Town and Town Hall Staff. He said my girls. He further said they will always be a big part of his heart. They are the rock, machine and the glue that keep this Town going and that did not go unnoticed by him.

Mayor Houlihan further thanked PW for everything they do. He mentioned he has helped them previously and still will moving forward. He further mentioned Public Safety, PD, he did his best. He further mentioned there are probably some people that do not like him or they do and that's fine. He commented he wanted to do the best for them as well as, all the departments in this Town matter.

He wished luck to the future administration/elected body that was present. There will be challenges good and bad. Make good decisions. Lastly, he thanked Delmar for the privilege of letting him serve.

Council Member Kemp thanked Mayor Houlihan. He said he wasn't going to be in his position long after Mayor Houlihan stepped down but he's here. He said to Mayor Houlihan to keep his phone on.

Council Member Jones thanked Mayor Houlihan for the opportunity and support.

Swearing In (Mayor & Council)

Clerk of Council, Vondell Spencer, read the Oath of Office for Mayor and swore in newly elected Delmar, DE Mayor Thomas Bauer.

Mayor, Thomas Bauer, read the Oath of Office for Council Member and swore in newly elected Delmar, DE Council Members Linda Morris and Michael McClure.

The newly elected officials took their seats at the dais.

Mayors Comments

Mayor Bauer thanked everyone for attending this meeting. He said he is aware that the attendees were attending for previous Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Greg Smith

but he did appreciate everyone staying for the swearing in ceremony.

He further thanked his Lord and savior for allowing him to be here, the voters, in Delmar, DE for putting their faith in him to be able to do the job of Mayor, Council Member Morris for introducing him to so many fine and pleasant people and going door to door with him through all kinds of weather, his wife Linda for helping with the campaign and to several other volunteers going door to door for Linda Morris and himself who chose to remain anonymous, Council Member Jones for being an outstanding opponent and running a fair campaign, the Town Staff for their work during the election, Vince Luca and Carolyn Hamilton for being excellent poll watchers for the campaign, others who wish not to be named, dignitaries in the room Senator Bryant Richardson for endorsing him, Senator Tim Dukes and County Council President Michael Vincent. He said he looked forward to working with them in the future.

Mayor Bauer further said moving forward they will be addressing the limited capacity of the WWTP and replacing the old pipes in the ground to ensure the future of the plant. The plant is fine but there are some pipes in the ground that need replacing. Obviously, this is not our only concern. He commented if the residents of the Town of Delmar have any questions, suggestions, please feel free to email him at tbauer@townofdelmar.us or call his cell (302)500-3483. He further commented he looked forward to serving this Town with his colleagues.

Council Member Linda Morris thanked her Lord and savior. She said her journey on this campaign was so heartwarming to meet new people, make new friends and rekindle with old friends along the way. She further said she also wanted to thank everybody and especially her family for all the support during this process. She commented she looked forward to working with everybody, bringing people and resources together, strengthening partnerships within our community and strengthening our small-town charm. She thanked everyone for giving her a chance to serve our community that we all love so much.

Council Member McClure thanked everyone for their votes in the election and for their support. He said to Mike Houlihan, Mayor Lee Pase and Greg Smith thank you for your years of service and support through the process.

Mayor Bauer appointed Council Member Odell Jones to be the Vice Mayor for the Mayor and Council. He asked for a second (Kemp) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer nominated Linda Morris to the Utility Commission. He asked for a second (Jones) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer read the Oath of Office for the Utility Commission and swore in Linda Morris.

Mayor Bauer nominated Michael McClure to the Parks and Recreation Committee. He asked for a second (Morris) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer read the Oath of Office for the Parks and Recreation Committee and swore in Michael McClure.

Council Member Morris thanked Michael Houlihan for his years of service and she is grateful to Mary Lee Pase and Greg Smith, please don't be strangers, please come.

Council Member McClure commented he ran for office to serve the community and that's his sole purpose.

Council Member Kemp commented congratulations to all three newly elected officials and he looked forward to working with them.

Council Member Jones said last Wednesday he had the pleasure of talking with our Cub Scout Troops and it was very joyful. They were asking about civic duties and responsibilities. He further said he enjoyed the conversation; he received a thank you card from them today and he wanted to publicly acknowledge that. The cub scout troop in town are doing a great job. He further said he wanted to congratulate the field hockey team. They just won the Henlopen Conference Title. It was a great game Saturday, 3 to 2 in overtime, 115 in a row. They are off to the playoffs this Saturday and good things are happening.

He commented to the rest of the new Council welcome on and Luke 12 vs 48 to whom much is given much is required. It's a lot of responsibility here, take a breath, get all the facts and make the best decision.

Mayor Bauer said again he thanked Michael Houlihan and Mary Lee Pase for their many years of service. He further said he looked forward to working with Gregory Smith on the Tree Lightening. Just this past weekend the girl scouts and the cub scouts painted the fence at the State Street Park, they did a beautiful job and thanks to Commissioner Shaffer for helping them along with some of their painting.

He further said he looked forward to working together with the Council, in his opinion, the next two years will be enjoyable and as a team they can do this.

Town Managers Report

Town Mgr. Fleetwood stated to the Council in reality there is no playbook. The fact of the matter is the people that are sitting in this room are your eyes in ears. Take the opportunity, listen to the citizens of the Town. There are five grown adults that take the cares and concerns of the citizens with the resources that we have you, folks will make decisions.

He said sometimes you may not agree with his decision or vice versa, when a vote is taken and a vote is done it's done. He wished the newly elected officials the very best and congratulated them.

Public Comments

1. Joy Smith commented she is from St. Stephens Church and every year they put on the Community Love Light Tree every year. This year it is on November 27th. She said her and her husband Gregory Smith created this event with the blessing of St. Stephens Church. It's always been on the first day of advent which starts the Christmas season and it's also to

remind us of whose birth it is. She further commented this year the tree is being dedicated to the girls' softball team. Through the years they have never asked the Town for any money and they never will. Ms. Smith said they have asked for sponsorship. There have been some issues this year by asking them to move the date but it's done on advent for a reason.

Through the years Representative Tim Dukes has been at the ceremony to support them and it's greatly appreciated. She further said she does not mind change. This year they are changing by having hot chocolate and some crafts for the kids. Hopefully, it will be longer and more fun for the kids and community. She thanked Mr. Houlihan for paying their electric bill for the last ten years. They have raised \$60,000.00 which they put back into the Delmar community. They hope to continue this ceremony but with all the changes people may want to change it, they can move the tree to St. Stephens Church if need be.

Ms. Smith said she does not like being strong-armed and it is something that she does not believe in. This tree is very precious to herself and Mr. Smith. It is for the Christmas season and to recognize the man upstairs who is looking out for us. If the community of the Council does not want the tree there that is fine. But it will be on the Council for the money that does not go back to the community.

Mayor Bauer made a motion for an emergency Joint Session for personnel issues. A motion was made/seconded (Bauer/Jones) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden called the Joint Session meeting to order.

Mayor Jorden asked for a motion to go into an emergency Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. A motion was made/seconded (Unsell/Lenox) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session for Delmar, MD. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to adjourn the executive session and go back to the regular session. A motion was made/seconded (Kemp/Jones) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded (McClure/Jones) and carried by roll call vote with 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council