

MAYOR & COUNCIL
February 1, 2021
Via Teleconference

Mayor Houlihan called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of Delmar, Delaware to order at 7:00 P.M. Due to COVID-19, the meeting is being held via teleconference. In attendance were Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase, Council Members Smith and Boyan, Town Manager Sara Bynum-King, Police Chief Ivan Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Teresa Morelli.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Houlihan called the meeting to order and performed a roll call to confirm there was a quorum. A quorum was established. Mayor Houlihan said he hopes everybody is still being safe and healthy as we still plow through COVID. He added, that it feels like a broken record just stuck in time and one day pours into the next day. Hopefully with this vaccine starting to pick up the supply and being administered we will get closer to the light at the end of the tunnel.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve January 4, 2021 meeting minutes with the year change on the 2021 vs. 2020. A motion seconded (Smith/Boyan) and carried with a roll call vote count: 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business – None reported.

New Business – None reported.

Committee Reports:

Student Advisory –

Ms. Teresa Morelli reported: 1.) Delmar High School began hybrid learning as scheduled on January 11, 2021. Some students attended in-person learning for several weeks but due to recent staffing issues the school moved to full remote learning last Thursday. Delmar plans to resume hybrid learning on Thursday, February 4, 2021 but this will depend on staff availability. The boys basketball season began on January 12, 2021. The team won its first three games against Laurel, Indian River and Seaford. They lost their most recent game to Woodbridge 51 to 60. Other winter sports that are currently operating include wrestling and girls basketball. Teacher of the year nominations are currently open and will be until February 19, 2021. The link is on the District Facebook page. Mayor Houlihan asked Ms. Morelli was the issue with staffing because of COVID. Ms. Morelli answered yes. Mayor Houlihan responded that's a shame you guys just went back on January 11, 2021. At least you got a little time back in the school building. Ms. Morelli said about three weeks. Mayor Houlihan said unfortunately he thinks it's going to be a hit and miss for the rest

of the school year.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley: 1.) There has been an increase in overdoses, yesterday and today, they responded to one each. The individual yesterday unfortunately succumb. That was probably the fourth time we responded for that situation to that residence. 2.) Last week at Food Lion we had a couple of individuals who wished to express their political feelings. That culminated with one individual striking another. We did follow through and we did get warrants for the individual who decided to strike the other individual. Hopefully at some point in life we can get to some stability behind this entire mess. We are not immune to what is going on in the rest of the country. Commissioner Member Boyan said sorry to hear about that. Mayor Houlihan mentioned it is still a lot of tension out there. Chief Barkley agreed and added a lot of our citizens don't totally understand the amendment of freedom of speech. They think it means you can say whatever you want and do whatever you want and that is not always the case.

Code Enforcement Officer Report –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported over the past few weeks we have had some issues with feuding neighbors. Some residents are posting signs in their yards that say this property is being protected by a noisy neighbor. Posting signs on properties without securing authorization from the Town is not allowed, we have a permit process for signage. However, the tension between feuding neighbors is escalating. After a lengthy conversation with one of the residents, although she was very upset with her neighbor, she agreed to take the sign down. The same resident called Town Hall to see who owned the sidewalks and could arts and crafts with chalk be done on the sidewalk. The resident was told we do not have an ordinance prohibiting sidewalk chalk; so, she ended up putting her neighbor's name in chalk on the sidewalk. Town Mgr. Bynum-King advised personnel to stay out of matters between feuding neighbors unless a code violation is involved. We want to be sensitive to the needs of our residents at the same time we want to stay neutral. Chief Barkley mentioned the Police Department has not received any calls as of yet however, he will advise his people to look at this issue the same way. Mayor Houlihan agreed with Town Mgr. Bynum-King that staying neutral is the right approach.

Parks and Recreation-No Report.

Public Works –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported Public Works worked yesterday after the snow stopped falling, to clear some of the roads and intersections. They also cleared the parking lot at Town Hall and Police Department. They did not have any major issues with any water main breaks. Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned she did speak with Public Works Director, Jerome Reid about the lift stations, pump stations as well as the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Reid reported that all are functioning efficiently. Mayor Houlihan mentioned he saw Mr. Reid and a crew in front of Milano's on Pennsylvania Avenue. He questioned what Mr. Reid and the Public Works crew were working on. Town Mgr. Bynum-King replied there was a water main issue from the Grove Street water main project. The contractors were scheduled to be back in town last week to get the water main issue

fixed. Mayor Houlihan also commented Public Works is doing a great job working out in the elements.

Utility Commission Report –

Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase reported: 1.) I&I is still in design. An application has been submitted for the second phase of the sewer main replacement project. 2.) The Town is still searching for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. The deadline for applications is February 4th. 3.) Wastewater Treatment Plant is still operating efficiently.

Planning & Zoning – None reported.

Town Manager's Report –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported she did send out the budget workshop schedule. The first workshop will be held on March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. which is the Department Head presentation. She said she did email the library and Fire Department advising that if they have any funding requests that they would like for the Council or the Commission to consider to please get that information to her so that information could be passed on during that budget workshop. As we get closer to the workshop, we will be able to explain how we are going to go through the process whether it's virtual and/or in-person. We will have more information forthcoming for the actual setup.

There is a Board of Adjustment Hearing scheduled for next week on Tuesday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this Administrative Hearing: Administrative staff is requesting the Board of Adjustment Members to determine if the July 18, 2019 Special Use Exception granted to the property owner of 504 N. Pennsylvania Avenue is in violation of their Decision. It was necessary under the advisement of our Town Attorney to have an Administrative Hearing with the Board of Adjustment Members so they can clarify how to proceed forward with the property that staff believes failed to meet the conditions that were outlined in the initial Special Use Exception.

On Thursday, February 11th at 6:30 p.m. there is a very important workshop pertaining to the Delaware Comp Plan updates. We will be working with Planner, Chris Jakubiak. Mr. Jakubiak has been working diligently along with the key personnel and myself to get us to the finish line. We are slightly off our projected schedule. We anticipated having the plan to the state for final processing and being forwarded to the Governor's Office this month however, we got our comments back from the PLUS review which is the state planning office and other state agencies at the end of December making it impossible for us to get all the state comments and recommendations into the draft before this meeting tonight. It is the hope and anticipation that the upcoming workshop will include Planning and Zoning Members, Delaware Council Members and interested citizens. It is going to be a virtual ZOOM meeting and Chris will have the Plan on his monitor so we will be able to see it from his monitor. Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned that she informed Mr. Jakubiak to go through the recommendations and the changes that the state agencies provided to incorporate into plan. We are sitting aside an hour and a half for Mr. Jakubiak to discuss the Comp Plan. He will allow questions and take comments as he goes through the process. This workshop is also necessary to help the town to show our efforts to secure public participation. The workshop has

been advertised on the Town Facebook Page, and our website and hopefully we will get some residents that will join in as well. Mayor Houlihan asked is the evening for the workshop going to focus on the State recommendations that they requested. Town Mgr. Bynum-King answered yes, that is going to be our primary focus, because everything else we have already reviewed, unless there are some questions on other sections of the plan. A copy of the revised Plan for anybody that did not get it or would like to review the proposed changes, it is on the Town Website. Mayor Houlihan said okay.

Mayor Houlihan inquired if this Friday, February 5, 2021, there is a virtual training session at Town Hall. Town Mgr. Bynum-King responded yes that is correct. That training is for the individuals that are participating on the review team for the General Codes, codification project, which includes myself, CDC Hardin which are key personnel, both Mayors and Commissioner Member Lenox agreed to be in the meeting for the Maryland side. This virtual meeting will be held in my office.

Council Comments –

Council Member Smith, the tree has been taken down in the park and he thanked the Town and Public Works for their patience through the process of removing it. He also thanked Town Mgr. Bynum-King, for her assistance in securing the lighted trailer from Georgetown, DE. We greatly appreciate it.

Council Member Boyan, mentioned he hoped everyone who is able to get the COVID vaccine does so. That's something we need to do. We did not have any comment back when Chief Barkley said half of the Police Department is not going to get the vaccine. Just expressing my disappointment. He wished that everyone would get the vaccine.

He also mentioned his trashcan was left in front of his driveway, by the garbage collectors again. He said it seems like whoever he talks to it doesn't matter. He even checked with the garbage company and they told him they are not allowed to put his trashcans back where they found them. This time I had two garbage cans blocking my driveway. It's very disheartening. The garbage cans are always on the sidewalk and this time they were on the sidewalk right in front of the driveway.

Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase, mentioned that she hopes everyone is staying safe not only yourself but the people around you. She added that she is truly not sure what the answer is, but she is hoping the vaccine is it. She reiterated that she just want everybody to stay safe and stay well.

Public Comments: - No Public Comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded (Boyan/Pase) and carried by roll call vote with 4 Ayes.

Submitted by:
Clerk of Council