

MAYOR & COUNCIL
February 6, 2023
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Bauer 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 Jones, Council Members McClure, Morris, Key Personnel: Town Manager Fleetwood, Police Chief Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Phillip Moore, Denise Garner, Sussex County Council President, Michael Vincent, Johnathan Layton, Todd Lanier, Andy O’Neal, Penny Glasgow and Dhara Nakrani. Via teleconference: Chris Brown and Michelle Morgan from Ryan Homes.

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Bauer called the meeting to order and performed a roll call to confirm there was a quorum. A quorum was established.

Mayor Bauer congratulated Police Officer Darrell Powell and Police Officer Zachary Walters on joining our Town of Delmar Police Department. He commented it was an honor and privilege to swear them both in on January 27th.

Mayor Bauer thanked St. Stephens Church and Joy Smith for hosting the event. He commented everything went off without a hitch and the food was fantastic, the cupcakes were really good but so was everything else. He further thanked Pastor Mike Rittenhouse for the blessing for the officers.

Mayor Bauer commented this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., there will be a meeting at Delmar Elementary School to discuss upgrading the Mason Dixon Park. All are welcome to attend. Part of the plan might be to add some pickleball courts.

Mayor Bauer stated we are still taking applications for the Utility Commission and for the vacancy on the Town Council. Some of those candidates are here tonight. So far, we have several applications for the Utility Commission position and one for the Council. He said he has setup interviews with those candidates.

He further said the Town is getting into budget season. Workshops are starting in February.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bauer called for the approval of the November 7, 2022 minutes. He said Vice Mayor Jones is the only person remaining on this Council from that date. A motion was made (Jones) and carried with a vote of 1 Aye.

The amended January 3, 2023 minutes were tabled until the next meeting in March due to more

corrections made by Council Member Morris that need to be reviewed by the Council.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Bauer nominated Brian Green for the Parks & Recreations Council. He said Mr. Green is a lifelong Delmar resident, very involved in the Little League, umpire and chief. He also sits on the Little League board. He further said this nomination will be voted on in March.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said back in calendar year 2022 Council Member Morris had an idea about an action-tracker and it was a fantastic idea.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said CDC Hardin had a concern about the FD back in December 2022 reporting back to him when a fire occurs. The concern has been resolved with the help of FD liaison, Mr. Shawn Johnson.

He further said PW planned to get highlight bars to go above and below the stop sign at Grove St. and Eighth St. to draw more attention to it. The highlight bars have been ordered and once they arrive, they will be installed.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned the State Line Plaza Shopping Center where the new Starbucks will be located has a bush where the old WaWa is located obstructing the view. PW has cut the bush down. Now the view is no longer obstructed. PW will keep maintaining the bush and if it gets worse it will be removed. Council Member Morris asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if the Town has taken the responsibility of maintaining the shrubbery. He answered it is not the Town's responsibility to maintain the shrubbery, it's the Town's responsibility if there is a violation to notify the property owner. He further answered in this situation it is a safety concern and he has spoken to the property owner as well but for the sake of safety it needed to be done. A conversation ensued.

New Business

Sussex County Council President, Michael H. Vincent delivered an update on Sussex County involving reassessment of the properties in the County as well as, funding, grants, housing rehabilitation, economic development and land use-planning and zoning. A conversation ensued. Please see attached.

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to go back into the regular session. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/McClure) and carried by roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Committee Reports:

Student Advisory-

Dhara Nakrani reported: 1.) Next week the students are off for Professional Day. The week after the students are off for President's Day. 2.) February 9th to February 24th Delmar Senior High School will have a food drive for the homeless. Ms. Nakrani said it's the school's clubs that get

together and they also would like to get the Delmar Middle School involved but it's for everyone in the school. Their goal is 1,000 cans which is easy to achieve. 3.) February 23rd the school is also having a blood drive. Mayor Bauer asked where the location is going to be for the blood drive. Council Member Jones answered the small gymnasium.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) January 27th in the morning PD assisted with a nonbreathing, nonresponsive three-week-old baby. The officers responded and performed CPR, the ambulance arrived and the infant was transported but unfortunately did not survive. Last Friday PD did provide a funeral escort for that family. 2.) January 29th PD responded to a home invasion on Shannon St. Two subjects dressed in black kicked in the rear door of the home. There were people at home however, there were no injuries and nothing was taken. The investigation is ongoing. As of this moment the incident appears to be targeted; it was not random. 3.) The light on the stop sign that was reported by Town Mgr. Fleetwood is in place. PD is working with the Town's elected officials, school officials and everyone PD can think of to take a good look at and reassess some of the traffic issues around the school during drop-off and evening pickup that has been an issue for a number of years. PD cannot say they have the solution but they are working towards some type of resolution together. 4.) January 27th Officer Zachary Walters and Officer Darrell Powell were sworn in and are completing the final phases of their DE certifications. PD is hoping they are ready by sometime in March. 5.) PCO Kimberly Rojas is doing well with her training and it may take about another month or so before she is ready to work on her own. 6.) The recruits that are in the academy continue to do well. 7.) Applicant testing was done on January 28th. Out of 19 applicants 7 responded to the notifications and three showed up on Saturday morning. All three applicants did well on physical and written however one has already been eliminated due to prohibited substance use. A couple of applicants that were not selected the last time but did meet all the criteria will be considered for this process. 8.) PD will continue to step up business, residential and traffic checks. A lot of people have gotten a chance to meet new and old officers face to face to discuss driving habits. Council Member Morris commented it was an honor to be a part of the swearing in ceremony.

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

Code Enforcement Officer Report – The report is included in the mail packet. Mayor Bauer gave the highlights from the reports.

Public Works – The report is included in the mail packet. Mayor Bauer added WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton is still teaching at Delmar High School and it's going well. He further added highlights from the PW report.

Utility Commission Report

Council Member Morris reported: 1.) The WTP is working on their record keeping. Council Member Morris mentioned she would like to meet with WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton to see if they can get an SOP in place and mirror to the other departments as well, as far as, record keeping. 2.) Commissioner Shaffer recommended a tankless water heater at the WTP to replace the current water tank. 3.) The PPE masks for the chlorine room have been received and fitted

for all of the employees entering the chlorine room. Council Member Morris asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if there is any funding in the State St. Park restroom rehab for a facelift on the outside of the restrooms. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered it is a priority. A discussion occurred.

Planning & Zoning

Mayor Bauer stated this body will table the discussion for Stillwater because they are seeking more information and Council Member Morris has already spoken with Ryan Homes.

Town Manager's Report

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: The Town has received a number of grants. 1.) The Town received a grant from the State of DE for \$100,000.00 for State St. Park to revamp the restrooms. 2.) DE Avenue somewhere between Fourth St. and Eighth St. has a sewer pipe that has had issues for a number of years. The Town has received \$262,000.00 from the State of DE, \$173,000.00 from Sussex County, and the Town of Delmar, DE pledged \$150,000.00 from the ARPA money about a year and a half ago. The funding received will fix the sewer pipe issues. 3.) Phase 2, on the MD side, of the sewer replacement project, the Town will be submitting the estimates to request for funding. The estimate is \$3,000,000.00 for about another mile of pipe. 4.) Becker Morgan, Mayor Jordan and himself will be in a meeting about the community center on the MD side, February 8th to discuss potential designs. 5.) A lot of sand was brought in for State St. Park and West Tot Lot to fill around the two perimeters of the playgrounds. This should make the playground more palatable for the children that will be playing on the playground. Tomorrow refining work will be done at this playground and scheduled Wednesday of this week. The equipment installer with a hydraulic rake will give the sand a smoother texture. 6.) The Town has been promised \$250,000.00 from the State of MD for the community center on the MD side. The Town of Delmar, DE committed \$40,000.00 from the DE side and \$60,000.00 from the Town of Delmar, MD. The sum total for the renovation of this community center is roughly \$350,000.00. 7.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood cordially invited all in attendance on February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. in the large chambers for the 1st Annual Employee Service Recognition Ceremony. Placards will be provided to employees that fit the milestones. There will be cake and ice cream provided. 8.) The Town has also received \$70,000.00 in Safety Grant funding for Gordy Park. The money has to be spent one year after the received date which has not been set yet. 9.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood invited everyone to the Delmar Elementary School February 8th at 6:00 p.m. for a Wicomico County Public Input Session relative to the Mason Dixon Complex. 10.) The Town of Delmar, DE has received \$800,000.00 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funding. Town Mgr. Fleetwood asked the Mayor and the Elected body to start giving thought in deciding where to commit the \$800,000.00 because it has to be committed by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026. Those monies can be spent on anything with exception of pension programs. 11.) The contractor has been to the WTP on York St. for the filter system and will return on February 15th to finish cleaning the exterior of the system. 12.) A contractor was brought in for a Well #3A water check at the WTP. 13.) The Heacock Fest is scheduled for April 30, 2023. The scheduled times are 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 14.) WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton, brand new in that role impressed him because she takes what she is doing very seriously and explores any and all input from people outside of the Town of Delmar such as DBf and other WTPs. A young lady from Dover, DE regulatory side that serviced the Town of Delmar for well over 20 years and was compelled to summon Town Mgr. Fleetwood to the WTP. She made it very

clear that she has never seen something change for the good as what she has seen at the Town of Delmar's WTP. 15.) The State of DE has provided funding for Stage Village Mobile Home Park and Holly Oak Mobile Home Park. This funding is for potential water tie-in. Jason Loar, DBf, and Town Mgr. Fleetwood will meet on Friday. Mr. Loar's initial comments to Town Mgr. Fleetwood was it seems like a fairly easy project. There will be more to follow after the meeting on Friday. 16.) Sharptown, MD reached out to Town Mgr. Fleetwood a month or month and a half ago and asked if the Town of Delmar could help with their wastewater sludge. He reached out to WWTP Superintendent, Frank Daniels and asked his opinion. Mr. Daniels informed Town Mgr. Fleetwood that it is not labor intensive to put the sludge on the Town's drying beds and dispose of it. MDE gave their approval for this to happen. Mr. Daniels said it is not an extensive amount of sludge and will have minimal effect on the WWTP's operation. The Town of Delmar will charge Sharptown, MD.

Council Member Jones asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if the Town heard any response about the action plan from MDE. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered no.

Council Comments

Council Member Jones had no comment.

Council Member Morris informed Chris Brown from Ryan Homes about the conversation with Michelle Morgan from Ryan Homes to table the vote on Stillwater with regards to the three model homes that received favorable recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Michelle Morgan from Ryan Homes joined the conversation.

Council Member Morris commented she wanted to thank Town Mgr. Fleetwood and CDC Hardin for their time in capturing the story board for the Delaware Annexation request, which has been utilized to develop the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Ms. Morris noted that the SOP is a work in progress and when completed it will be routed for review and comments.

Council Member Morris thanked the Town's staff and the PD for all they do each and every day. She invited everyone to a spaghetti dinner on Saturday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., dine in or takeout, at St. Stephens Church on Saturday.

Council Member McClure commented he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting last month. The Citizen of the Year should be announced sometime this month. The event will take place in March. He further commented the Chamber also discussed pushing Day in the Park back a week to the second Saturday. Also, Parks and Recreation had their first meeting in at least 3 ½ years last month and will meet again the end of this month.

Public Comments

1. Andy O'Neal thanked the Town of Delmar, PD, DBf/Josh Taylor, individuals from the FD and the schools. He commented he is really excited about that; trying to help out with what's going on at the end of the day and beginning of the day. He said like Chief said he is unaware if we will solve the problem but we will give it a shot once and for all.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer