

MAYOR & COUNCIL
January 3, 2022
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 was via teleconference due to weather. In attendance were Vice Mayor Pase, Council Members Smith and Jones, Town Manager Bynum-King, Police Chief Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Absent: Council Member Kemp. Guests: Tom Bauer.

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 hoped everybody had a safe holiday thru Christmas and the New Year. He also said he hoped everybody was safe today with this storm that came up on us really fast over the weekend. He is aware we are short in Public Works but we are doing our best to get the streets plowed and he just asks the residents to please be patient with the Town, we will get there. We are short because of medical reasons with two people that are out for Public Works.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve December 6, 2021 meeting minutes as amended adding Vice Mayor Pase to the attendance. A motion seconded (Smith/Jones) and carried with a roll call vote count: 4 Ayes and 1 Absent (Kemp).

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Committee Reports:

Student Advisory- Student Advisor was not in attendance.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley-reported: 1.) Car break-ins in the Breckenridge area during the early morning hours. One of the suspects was apprehended and two suspects got away. We got through the holiday season pretty much unscathed. 2.) Received a phone call that one of the officers may have been exposed, so we are monitoring that right now, see how it works out and we will take further action as it goes

along. He said all the great weather we had, looks like we are paying for it today. Our storm has made a mess of things; even the main highway in spots has some difficult traveling portions. He further said he can only imagine what the secondary roads area like. 3.) For the most part we had to abandon the use of the Chargers in this type of weather. They don't do well in this kind of snow and we have taken to mostly our all-wheel drives and our 4-wheel drive vehicles to get out and service the public. That's good as well. 4.) Not sure if it's going to happen or not but the next academy class is starting and we do have one in a class. Council Member Jones asked how the status of the website was coming along. Chief answered its coming along good sir; the website is expected to be up any time now. He actually expected for it to be up before now; we've also partnered with another company to assist us with recruitment and that's doing fairly well as well. We've got seven additional applications at this point. Council Member Jones mentioned he seen the Police Department's Facebook post advertising. That's a good thing we are getting it out there. Mayor Houlihan thanked Chief for inviting himself and Mayor Jorden to the graduation last month for the fall police academy ceremony.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – In mail packet.

Public Works –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported they are down to three employees in that department. One administration, foreman and one of the laborers, and we do have one employee on sick leave and another out on a personnel matter. We do have multiple applications on hand that we will be looking at in short form and doing some interviews for a laborer position. In the process of that everything is transitioning in that department. We have reached out to outside skilled services to provide assistance to the department in ways of plowing. She said she is unsure how that went today because our foreman has not followed up with her at this point, if in fact we were using that service today or not but it was available to us and she hoped we did take advantage of the opportunity to help get the roadways and subdivisions clear for our residents.

Utility Commission Report

Vice Mayor Pase reported: 1.) The WTP is coming in on target the first twenty days of December. Repairs, maintenance and grades are taken place in the WTP that had been mentioned at last month's meeting. 2.) Due to the holidays and getting back today Town Mgr. Bynum-King really did not have any update on the matter with Wood Creek with the Developer and the Contractor but probably look to have something in February. 3.) Town Mgr. Bynum-King referenced the WTP; over the course of the last several months during the dry season the plant has been running phenomenally. We have been processing well under our permit at about 500, 000 gallons per day. She said she is pretty sure that when we meet next month with all the rain and snow we have had once things start to melt it's going to impact our numbers. Vice Mayor Pase asked is there any way we can mention on our site when a possible storm is coming; we ask any residents to move their vehicles off of the street. Grove Street sometimes has a little problem when the street sweeper comes through. Some areas they can't change but if they could do that it might help the cleaning process. Town Mgr. Bynum-King answered we have tried requesting people that had off street parking to utilize the off-street parking spaces, especially during times of street sweeping and snow removal but because it's really not a mandatory requirement at this point people still tend to disregard. There is nothing that has been implemented to make it mandatory or enforcement if people did not comply. Vice Mayor Pase responded she is aware that people work and they can't

possibly do it if they have an extra vehicle. It's just the fact that sometimes residents are upset because sometimes the street doesn't get clean and we make the effort it's the best the Town can do so, that's all we can do.

Planning & Zoning

Council Member Jones stated he had nothing to report.

Town Manager's Report

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported offices and services will be closed on January 17th in recognition of Martin Luther King Day.

She further reported if we were in person, she would have handed out budget schedules, so she will put a copy in their mailboxes and send them electronic copies tomorrow.

She also mentioned tomorrow morning because we do have several employees that travel quite a distance, she will allow them some leeway in terms of arrival in the morning so people can take their time and be safe.

Council Comments

Council Member Jones had no comment.

Council Member Smith mentioned he was able to get the lights on the tree in the park fixed. There was an issue with the lights at the top of the tree, the necessary adjustments were made and the lights worked fine. The tree lighting ceremony was successful this year. It didn't cost anything for us but we think the church made near \$6, 000.00. He thanked Chief Barkley for bringing Matthew Heacock out for the lighting ceremony, they had him light the tree. Thank everybody for their help and he has thank-you letters going out.

Vice Mayor Pase encouraged everyone to pay attention to our neighbors, if you have neighbors that you haven't seen for a couple days for whatever reason, check on them. She wished everybody a safe new year.

Public Comments: -

1. Tom Bauer commented we did posts and Facebook. We have another communication source over here to try to get people to move their cars off the road if possible, so, maybe we could get some cars off. As far as that budget information is that public information, is that going to be posted on the website. Town Mgr. Bynum-King responded yes, the workshop calendar just the dates that the Joint Council, Delaware Council and Utility Commission will meet will be posted. The workshops are available for public attendance but no comments or input.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded (Jones/Smith) and carried by roll call vote with 4 Ayes 1 Absent.(Kemp)

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council