

MAYOR & COUNCIL
June 5, 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, Lanier and Waldman. Town Manager Fleetwood, Police Chief Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: David & Susan Waldman, Vince Luca, Peter Haag, Janet & Nate Talley, Randy & Lisa Ellis, John Petito and Steve Litchford.

Mayor Bauer called the meeting to order and Mr. Matthew Waldman performed the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call was performed to confirm there was a quorum. A quorum was established.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bauer commented about the rededication of the State St Park was on May 7th. There were a nice group of residents and people from out of town in attendance. The weather was great for the event. Mayor Bauer thanked everyone that attended and thanked the Delmar Fire Department for sending a fire truck.

He further commented on May 15th the Council unanimously passed the FY'24 Budget. Also, the legalization of marijuana was discussed.

Mayor Bauer said the nomination for the vacant council seat will take place later in this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to approve the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes as prepared. A motion seconded (McClure/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote count of 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Bauer stated this body is working on an ordinance for the changes of the laws regarding the legalization of marijuana. The Delmar, DE Town Attorney is reviewing the suggestions for the ordinance now.

New Business –

Representatives of Delmarva Power Mr. John Petito and Mr. Drew Fiszio, discussed the Reliability Project which is replacing all the pole lines that were built in the 1960's with new steel poles and replace all of the equipment between the lines with updated materials providing customers with better and safer reliable electric. A conversation ensued.

DelDot Chief of Traffic Engineering Representative Peter Haag, discussed data and various East Line Rd. issues. A lengthy conversation including suggestions and feedback occurred.

Mayor Bauer proposed a nomination for Mr. Matthew D. Waldman for a seat on the Mayor and Council. Mayor Bauer described Mr. Waldman's background.

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to nominate Mr. Matthew Waldman to the Mayor and Council. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer read the Council Member Oath and swore in Matthew D. Waldman. Council Member Waldman took his seat at the dais.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley stated the PD is doing a lot of traffic enforcement. PD never wants to look at traffic enforcement as a revenue source. DE is very generous but what PD gets back in return from citations is very minimal. There is nothing given back from the citations given in MD. He further stated citations should not be looked at as revenue.

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) June 16th at 11:00 a.m. is the police academy graduation. 2.) Full-time PCO Kimberly Rojas will work independently tonight. PD is looking forward to adding on to that and going further into the evening with their PCO's so they do not have to depend on other agencies. 3.) Last week PD made an offer to a new recruit Kevin Doman and he will be starting the police academy class on July 5th. Mr. Doman has spent a number of years in the National Guard and came from New Jersey. PD is looking forward to filling the other position as soon as possible. 4.) PD has had some interest from one individual that will be a lateral so it will be minimal training for that individual. 5.) Blue Light Night is scheduled for August 4th at State St. Park. 6.) PD just took possession of the two Durango's that were from the FY'23 Budget. The other two Durango's are still at the dealership but PD is expecting to have them real soon. There were some recall issues that had to be taken care of before they were delivered for outfitting. 7.) PD was informed over the weekend of individuals that moved into the wooded area behind Tidal Health Delmar, DE on the highway. PD contacted property management and PD will help to relocate those individuals.

Chief Barkley said PD is very busy getting ready for the FY'24 Budget. Mayor Bauer asked Chief Barkley how many officers does PD have now. Chief Barkley answered PD is at 16 sworn officers. The new recruits are on the roster but they are not working yet. The two officers that are allotted for FY'24 will bring the total to 18 sworn officers. Chief Barkley further said Delmar PD has come a long way.

Vice Mayor Jones asked Chief Barkley what is the structure on shifts. Chief Barkley answered PD still works 12-hour shifts, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 24 hours a day. As the newer officers get trained the supervisors will be working in between the shifts so they can work more with personnel and keep an eye over personnel moving forward. PD has a young squad and there are some supervisory

vacancies. Also, there are anticipated retirements so, there will be structural changes coming on July 14th. PD will be swearing in the newest officers graduating from the academy. PD will have a couple of promotions and give out a couple of awards for officers that do outstanding work. A conversation ensued.

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

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

Utility Commission Report –

Council Member Lanier reported Town Mgr. Fleetwood will discuss Utility Commission information in the Town Manager’s Report.

Parks and Recreation Report –

Council Member McClure reported: There was no meeting last month but they did trash pick-up at the three parks in Town. He thanked Mayor Bauer, Mrs. Bauer and Commissioner Boothe for helping with the park clean-ups. He said there was some trash in the parks but the majority of the trash was picked up around the school area and train tracks.

Planning & Zoning

Council Member Jones reported there was no May meeting.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) July 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot outside of Delmar Town Hall there will be a “kiddy” parade starting on Pennsylvania Ave. travelling south to Gordy Park. Some flags and patriotic decorations have been procured for the children to put on their bikes. There will be 5 by 7 U.S. flags on the fence on the DE side of Pennsylvania Ave., every 4 by 4 additional flags will be mounted on the State St. side of Delmar Town Hall. Two flags on the front of Delmar Town Hall, two on the Delmar PD building, and all of the trees that are on exterior roads at State St. Park flags will be placed. 2.) The Town of Delmar is close in hiring a new Public Works employee. He said he will meet with him tomorrow. More to follow. 3.) The additional staff that was approved for the FY’24 Budget have been narrowed down to two. The hope is the selected individual will start July 5th. 3.) A high school student that will be a senior next year will be working part-time at the WTP. 4.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood will be appearing back before the Mayor and Council and Mayor and Commissioners in July or August with the part-time person that will be hired from Delmar High School to give that person a commitment letter stating that if they complete the items at the WTP and remain eligible to be employed they will have a promise of an offer of full-time employment going into FY’25. 5.) Teal Construction is in Town and are planning to start Phase 1 of the sewer project Thursday and Friday. The project will start in the Chestnut St. location. This week the Town will put door hangers for the residents on Chestnut St. Door hangers will be put out for residents when the project moves over. When the project is done the residents will have a nice road as well. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he felt confident that the Town of Delmar

will add in the county money on Delaware Ave. from Fifth St. and Eighth St. replacing that sewer as well to be tied into the Phase 1 contract. 6.) There was a sewer back up from a grease trap on State St. and Fourth St. from the restaurant Pizza Pi. There was no residential tie-in and it was a dead-end line. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said restaurants in this Town are aware that they have grease traps and are aware the grease traps have to be cleaned and serviced. He further said he has been to every restaurant in Town and asked for their maintenance record and was shown their grease traps. 7.) June 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Delmar Town Hall there will be a virtual meeting held with MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) regarding the INI issues the Town of Delmar has. 8.) The police academy graduation is June 16th and the swearing in ceremony will be July 14th at 12:00 p.m. at Camelot Hall. 9.) Two summertime employees, high school students, will start June 12th for Public Works. Chief Barkley has provided an electric golf cart that the summertime help will use for traveling. They are not allowed to cross State St., Bi-State Blvd. and US 13 in the golf cart. 10.) June 20th and June 21st open enrollment for health benefits will take place at Delmar Town Hall in the large chamber. 11.) CDC Hardin will retire at the end of June. His replacement has been named, Mr. Twain Evanson. Mr. Evanson is an architect by trade. 12.) June 20th Mayor Bauer, Mayor Jordan and himself will go to Legislative Hall in Dover, DE with representative Tim Dukes to a session. 13.) A camera install at Gordy Park is happening this week. 14.) Heritage Day is scheduled on September 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 15.) Town Hall will be closed June 13th for a Professional Development Day. Department Heads, Town Hall Staff, former Mayor Niblett and former Mayor Brittingham will be traveling to Arlington National Cemetery to witness the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The former mayors who are prior veterans will place a wreath on behalf of the Town of Delmar.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood discussed a presentation for open enrollment regarding Town employee's new health benefits with the new broker.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned he will be on vacation this Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. through Sunday so he will miss Delmarva Day in the Park but could be reached.

Council Comments

Vice Mayor Jones welcomed Council Member Waldman. He said he is a resident of our Town and he is looking forward to hearing Council Member Waldman's thoughts on our Town issues and working together.

Council Member Lanier welcomed Council Member Waldman. He said he will constantly be badgering Council Member Waldman to join them at Delmar High School and it will be a lot of fun working with Council Member Waldman.

Council Member McClure welcomed Council Member Waldman. He mentioned Day in the Park is this Saturday, and Movie Night is June 16th.

Council Member Waldman commented he is happy to be here and serving the Town. He said he will do his best for the community.

Mayor Bauer commented he looks forward to working with Council Member Waldman as well.

Public Comments

1. David Waldman asked if the newsletter still gets mailed out? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered it has just been mailed out and it is available via the Town's website and can be requested.
2. Vince Luca made Chief Barkley aware that he thought our community is happy to see a Delmar Police Officer car driving through their community several time a day. He thanked Chief Barkley for having the courtesy of giving them some police support.

Adjournment

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to move to executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Adjournment

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council