

**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**May 3, 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 Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pace, Council Members Smith, Jones and Kemp, Town Manager Bynum-King, Police Chief Barkley and Clerk II Donna James.

**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 asked for a moment of silence in memory of Corporal Keith Heacock.**

Mayor Houlihan stated it has been a very tough week for Delmar. He further stated that on behalf of himself, Mayor Wells, Maryland Commissioners, Delaware Council Members, Administrative Team and Town Manager we are devastated with what has happened, words cannot express how we are feeling right now. He said, we have a great town and great community and he understands everyone is hurting and grieving with a lot of emotion with the tragic loss of Corporal Heacock. He recognizes the family and community have a lot of questions. With the deepest respect for the family, we will wait until Corporal Heacock has been laid to rest before having an open forum for dialog with the Heacock family and residents. The process has been started with a local mediator to facilitate a forum to help the town work through the process.

Mayor Houlihan informed the residents that joined the meeting this evening, there will be a period for public comments at the end of the meeting, anyone wishing to speak can do so at that time. He reiterated that this week should be a time to mourn and remember until the service next Monday, after which we will sit down amongst all of us, ask questions, find out the facts and move forward. Mayor Houlihan said that he does not want to answer anything wrong, he doesn't want any assumptions. He knows the media has been pointing fingers for blame and understands that we are all full of emotions and a lot of questions that need to be answered. He will not let individuals divide this town with our police department, we will be unified, stronger and we will move forward.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve April 5, 2021 meeting minutes as prepared. A motion seconded (Smith / Kemp) and carried with a roll call vote count: 5 Ayes 0 Absent.

**Unfinished Business - None**

**New Business**

Mayor Houlihan read in its entirety Ordinance #176 as First reading of Delmar, Delaware / Utility Commission FY 2022 Budget – in packet

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to accept the first reading of Delmar, Delaware/Utility Commission - Ordinance #176 FY 2022 Budget. A motion was made and seconded (Jones/Smith) and carried with a roll call vote 5 Ayes 0 Absent.

### **Committee Reports:**

Student Advisory- No Report. Mayor Houlihan stated Teresa Morelli is a senior and her service to the Town as Student Advisor will end when she graduates in a few weeks. He wishes her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

#### Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley-reported within the last month they have had a significant increase in overdoses. There have been three deaths in Delmar related to overdoses. One instance on Chestnut St the individual was revived with Narcan the next night his brother overdosed and was not able to be revived. Also, an overdose death at the residence on Buckingham from which we had our incident last week. They know they have a problem there and have serious work to do within that home. Chief Barkley stated he has been so engrossed with the situation with Corporal Heacock that he has not noted anything else significant. The funeral is scheduled for Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Church off of route 50. Services will start around noon. This is unprecedented and it will require a lot, but know that while it is going on the Town is covered. MD & DE state police, different agencies from around Sussex and Wicomico Counties have been covering our Town during this difficult time.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – In mail packets.

Parks and Recreation-No Report.

Public Works- In mail packet

Utility Commission Report- Vice Mayor Pace reported the sinkhole and sewer mains on Mulligan Way are in the process of being repaired this week. The Water Treatment plant clarifier has been repaired and the plant is running well. No questions from Council.

#### Planning & Zoning

Town Manager Sara Bynum-King stated that Cory Harpool and John Morris will be appearing before the Board of Adjustments we have advertised that hearing for later on this month.

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to accept the Planning Commission's favorable recommendation to go before the Delaware Board of Adjustments for a café and Ice Cream Shop on the first floor of the building with two apartments on the second and third floor at 207 E State, Delmar, DE. The motion was made/seconded (Pace/Smith) carried by a roll call vote with 5 Ayes.

**Town Manager's Report** - Town Manager Sara Bynum-King sends her deepest condolences to

Corporal Heacock's family. We are all hurting in this.

**Council Comments –**

Council Member Kemp- No comment.

Council Member Jones- Thoughts go out to Corporal Heacock's family. He will cherish his memory.

Council Member Smith-No Comment.

Vice Mayor Pace- Prayers continue to go out to Corporal Heacock's family, son and all the members of the police community. We need to stand together.

**Public Comments: -**

Kathy Heacock, sister of Cpl. Heacock, from Georgetown, DE – She said on behalf of her family she would like to demand the immediate resignation of both Mayors and the Town Manager.

Leah Fisher from St. George Rd Delmar, DE – She stated she appreciates the Mayor and Council listening to the concerns of the town. Her husband worked closely with Keith at the jail. She thinks of him being alone and it's the number one thing that hurts her heart. She thinks of the other officers being alone. She states in her opinion there is absolutely no need to point any fingers. She wants to point out for thought, why can't people outside the town limits pay a tax for police coverage? She is willing to do that if it means that the Town would have two police officers on duty at the same time. Why isn't someone from the Delaware State Police assigned to the lower Sussex county area? This should never happen again and we as a town have got to come together to figure out something, whether it is additional Delmar Policeman or someone from the Delaware State Police covering Sussex. She added she will be involved in every meeting and if there is anything she can do for any of you she would. Ms. Fisher also asked, Why can't we have a sales tax? She said she appreciates your patience listening to her comments.

Angel Calloway, didn't give an address. She stated this man lost his life due to negligence, if you can't afford extra officers, have a body cam. A benefit can be put together to raise funds for body cams, how is the community to know if the community isn't told?

Anita Heacock, sister of Cpl. Heacock, from Mardela, MD – She asked, what happened to the \$170,000.00 of taxes that was supposed to help the police department get unionized? Why isn't it getting done? It was used against the union. Does the Town need to separate like it was in the 60's?

Janice Hughes- We have a great Chief in this town and, what she is going to speak on is not due to Ivan. Sometime in 2006 her father was assaulted in this town by the same guy who assaulted 4 people her father twice we haven't moved forward very much. Fruitland has 30 officers and we have 7. We need to do something to fund the police if we are going to keep developing the town you have to add police. It needs to be made public the Town Manager's salary compared to the officer's that just lost his life.

Tom Bauer 11682 Buckingham Dr- Expresses his condolences, and hopes the budget can be revised.

No further Public Comments

Mayor Houlihan reiterated that they are going to sit down and discuss everything that has happened. Between all of us we are going to get the facts and move ahead. We want the public to voice their input. The forum will be posted on the website and Facebook. People may not agree with him all the time, he tries to do the best he can for this town he moved here in 1994 the spirit of this town is within him. This is the best town in the world. Nobody can take back what has happened here, it is a tragedy and this town mourns. The rest of this week, please remember Keith, his family mourn with them and all of us. We are strong Delmar Strong the only way is up. At the end of the day, I am the Mayor and it ends with me, it is my job. I have strived hard to do the best for this town. God bless Keith Heacock, his family. God bless the Chief and the police officers and God bless this town and the community. Thank you for this evening.

### **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:  
Donna James  
Clerk II