

MAYOR & COUNCIL
May 1, 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, and Lanier. Key Personnel: Town Manager Fleetwood, Police Chief Ivan Barkley and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Roger Martinson, Matt Waldman, Trey Moore, Andy O’Neal, Farrah Morelli, Joe Morelli, Denise Garner, Vince Luca and Chris Atkins.

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

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Bauer stated the Utility Commission met and passed their budget onto the Joint Council in April. The Joint Council met on April 12th to discuss the budget and had the first reading of the budget ordinances on April 24th . The Joint Council will meet again on May 15th for a second reading and public hearing. Following the public hearing the Elected Body will move for budget adoption.

Mayor Bauer further stated the Heacock Fest was rained out this past weekend but it has been rescheduled for August 27th . The gates will open at 3:00 p.m. He said Check Kylan Barn Facebook page for details.

Mayor Bauer commented the State St. Park is in great shape thanks to our Public Works Department and volunteers that pitched in. The Town of Delmar is ready for the rededication this Sunday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m. weather permitting and he hoped to have a nice crowd there.

Mayor Bauer further commented the Delmar, DE Mayor and Council are taking applications for the Council Member vacancy until close of business May 22nd . The appointment will take place at the Mayor and Council’s next meeting on June 5th .

Mayor Bauer said the school board election is May 9th . The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Bauer acknowledged two guests present attending the meeting which were; Delmar School Superintendent, Andy O’Neal and Delmar School Board President Farah Morelli,

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to approve April 3, 2023 meeting minutes as prepared. A motion made/seconded (Lanier/McClure) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mayor Bauer read and signed the Municipal Clerk Proclamation declaring April 30, 2023 through May 6, 2023 the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk's Week.

A motion was made to approve the proclamation declaring the week of April 30, 2023 through May 6, 2023 the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk's Week. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer read and signed the Public Works Proclamation declaring the week of May 22, 2023 through May 26, 2023 National Public Works Week.

A motion was made to approve the proclamation declaring the week of May 22, 2023 through May 26, 2023 National Public Works Week. A motion was made/seconded (McClure/Jones) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Mr. Chris Atkins, perspective business owner of SUNMED, which is a CBD franchise discussed how long he has worked for the franchise, his background with the franchise, background on the CBD franchise, the owner of the franchise, trainings/certifications that have to be in place before working at SUNMED, SUNMED products, SUNMED's chemist, etc. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Bauer initiated a conversation involving legalization of marijuana in DE. A conversation ensued. The discussion focused on whether to allow or not allow dispensaries.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to open the discussion to the public for comments. The motion was made/seconded (McClure/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to close discussion to the public for comments. The motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Committee Reports:

Student Advisory-

Mayor Bauer announced Ms. Nakrani was recently recognized by Delmar High School for the Secretary Scholar Award for outstanding work and achievement.

Dhara Nakrani reported: 1.) Today a Senior meeting was held at the school to discuss May events. 1.) This week and next week AP exams will be held. 2.) Progress reports will be given out on May 12th. 3.) Prom will take place May 19th which is the same day the Delmar Elementary students will visit the school. Prom will be held at the Civic Center. 4.) Senior exams will be the week of May

22nd through May 25th. 5.) Awards will be held May 25th. 6.) The elementary walk will be held the last week as well as the senior breakfast. 7.) The principal has approved cap decorations and officially banned senior pranks. A conversation ensued.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) Last Monday there was a car chase coming out of Laurel, DE that ended in Delmar where the suspects were apprehended. 2.) Last week PD observed the loss of Cpl. Heacock. Chief Barkley said as an agency they all acknowledged and figured out ways to deal with that situation and they move on as they know Cpl. Heacock would want PD to do. 3.) The two new officers are on duty getting it done in our neighborhoods. Chief Barkley shared an email and acknowledged a resident that went on vacation and asked PD to keep an eye on their home. The resident witnessed through their surveillance that almost every night the officers were checking on their home. PD informed the resident that during the check on their home he noticed the HVAC unit was frozen and from that the resident saved thousands of dollars. 4.) The two recruits in the police academy are anticipating a June graduation from the academy. They have practicals to finish. Chief Barkley said typically the graduation is the second week in June. As soon as he receives a date, he will inform the Mayor and Council. 5.) The full-time dispatcher, Rojas, has one last hurdle to finish. PD expects for that to be done in the next few weeks. Then she will be ready for extra coverage. Mayor Bauer said it is nice to see an officer in his neighborhood. Chief Barkley responded it is extra comfort. 6.) PD has a lot of events coming up; May 7th Rededication of State St. Park and June 10th Day in the Park. 7.) For the next three days, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Chief Barkley will be in Dewey Beach, DE at the DE Police Chief Staff Development Conference.

Council Member Lanier questioned Chief Barkley about warnings and tickets. Chief Barkley explained the different between warnings and tickets.

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

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

Mayor Bauer reviewed the report that is in the mail packet.

Utility Commission Report

Council Member Lanier reported: 1.) There was a deficit for a lot of the capital investments that the Town made but the good side of high interest rates is the Town's reserve fund was able to grow by a significant margin. That significant margin was used to cover the deficit in what the Town collected this year. 2.) Council Member Lanier mentioned he was able to tour the WWTP and WTP and he was informed by WWTP Superintendent, Frank Daniels and WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton items that were going to be purchased in the FY'24 budget and why. In his opinion, The Town of Delmar has great employees at both locations

Parks and Recreation

Council Member McClure reported: 1.) Trash pick-up will be May 20th at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date of May 21st at 12:00 p.m. The trash pick-up will start in State St. Park and they will be cleaning all the other parks in Town. 2.) A movie night will be held in State St. Park. The first movie night will be June 16th at 8:30 p.m. and the movie that will be shown is “Sandlot”.

Planning & Zoning

None.

Council Member Jones mentioned decks, fences etc. will now be handled in-house instead of appearing at the Planning and Zoning meetings to streamline the process. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added for the customers prospective is a 30-day turn verses a 90 day turn which went into effect a week and a half ago. The homeowner will still need to have a certified site plan and all submittal paperwork in order.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Mgr. Fleetwood acknowledged the review for the FY’24 budget. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their involvement, questions, interests and paving the way for FY’24.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood stated on the Delmar, MD side \$3,400,000.00 has been approved for that budget. On the Delmar, DE side \$2,100,000.00 and the Utility Commission \$3,700,000.00 was approved for a total of \$9,200,000.00. This current fiscal year FY’23 the budget was \$11,000,000.00. There is a \$2,000,000.00 difference between FY’23 vs FY’24 because the Town has a Phase I sewer project in FY’23 that will be starting any day on the Delmar, MD side. Those monies have been procured through a series of grants and low interest loans.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) There has been ongoing work with sidewalks, paving, ADA crossing etc., done in the Town of Delmar for the past two weeks. The intrusive work for the sewer main project was supposed to start two weeks ago but the contractors have been dragging their feet. Hopefully the work that is being done (paving) now paving will end by the time the sewer main project begins. A lot of the grading and filling in sidewalks needs to happen. 2.) Stage Rd. will have an overlay done this week. 3.) Next week Connelly Mill Rd. on the MD side, will have an overlay done and change the elevation about 1 ½ inches to 2 inches. 4.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood reminded everyone in attendance that Sunday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m. is the State St. Park rededication. Those involved in this rededication will be Mayor Bauer, a motorcycle organization called Biker’s Without Orders, possibly a student from Delmar Middle Senior High School to sing the National Anthem, and Delmar Girl Scouts. 4.) Today The Town of Delmar conducted two interviews for William Hardin’s position. There will be more interviews tomorrow. 5.) The Heacock Fest that was postponed over the weekend has been rescheduled to August 27th and that same day will be the street rededication. 6.) Yesterday’s storm caused a tree to fall in Gordy Park that landed across one of the fields. The tree was hollow and two more trees were inspected and found to be hollow as well. Later this week the trees will be removed and new trees will be planted in their place. 7.) The Town of Delmar has received a response back from Maryland Department of

Environment (MDE) and the Town responded back requesting a face-to-face meeting with both the Delmar, MD and Delmar, DE Mayors and himself to resolve the significant issue of infiltration. 8.) Delmar Town Hall will be closed July 3rd and 4th. Both the Delmar, MD and Delmar, DE mayors gave approval for closing on July 3rd.

Mayor Bauer asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood the date Starbuck's will be opening. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered within the next sixty days.

Council Comments

Vice Mayor Jones had no comment.

Council Member McClure commented there was no Chamber of Commerce meeting last month but the Day in the Park will be June 10th.

Council Member Lanier asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if the Town could setup a meeting for the discussion on marijuana or at least have the Mayor and Council speak with the Town of Delmar, DE lawyer. Town Mgr. Fleetwood suggested to Council Member Lanier the Mayor and Council have a discussion and schedule another meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council