

MAYOR & COUNCIL
May 5, 2025
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Thomas A. 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 Odell Jones, Jr., Council Members Todd Lanier, Mike McClure, and Matthew Waldman. Key Personnel: Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Chief Ivan Barkley, Clerk of Council, Vondell Spencer, and Student Advisor, Joey Morelli. Guests: Brian Morris, Vince Luca, Rodney Brown, Mike Myers, and Joseph Morelli.

Mayor Bauer called the meeting to order, and Chief Barkley led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was established.

Mayor's Comments

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to approve the April 7, 2025 meeting minutes as circulated. A motion was made/seconded (Waldman/McClure) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business

300 N. Eighth St., Delmar, DE Annexation

Mr. Mike Myers stated since the April 7, 2025 meeting, he attended and he has researched his options. A discussion occurred. Mr. Myers further stated he decided to complete the process of annexation. Town Mgr. Fleetwood recommended Mr. Myers appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission May 22, 2025 with a conceptual plan and for Mr. Myers to work with Planning and Zoning Director, Twain Evanson so everyone can be on the same page. Mr. Myers agreed and more discussion occurred. Mr. Myers clarified he would prefer the annexation to happen under the umbrella of the Town of Delmar verses the umbrella of Sussex County. Mayor Bauer said Mr. Myers will return June 2, 2025 to review the results from the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation.

Public Hearing, 2nd Reading Adopting Codification and Revisions of Ordinance #185

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to suspend the rules to go into a public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Waldman) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer read Ordinance #185 Adopting Codification and Revisions. Town Mgr. Fleetwood gave an overview of Ordinance #185.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (McClure/Waldman) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to accept Ordinance #185 Adopting Codification and Revisions of Ordinance #185. A motion was made/seconded (Waldman/McClure) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Tax Incentive for Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members, Approval

Town Mgr. Fleetwood gave an overview of the Tax Incentive for Eligible Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members. A conversation occurred.

Mayor Bauer read the Tax Incentive for the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to suspend the rules to go into a public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (McClure/Waldman) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to accept the Tax Incentive for Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members. A motion was made/seconded (Waldman/Lanier) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Director of Planning and Zoning, Twain Evanson introduced the new Code Enforcement Officer, Kayla Trice.

New Business –

Charter Amendment, Election

Mayor Bauer introduced and explained the charter amendment for DE elections. A discussion occurred.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to change the charter so that instead of ten days it will be changed to thirty calendar days prior to the election to register to run for office. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/McClure) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Nay (Lanier).

Student Advisory

Mr. Joey Morelli reported: 1.) Interim progress reports will be distributed on May 12th. 2.) The school will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. 3.) This week May 5th through May 9th is staff appreciation week. Mr. Morelli thanked everyone who works so hard at the school. 4.) The FFA is currently holding their annual flower sale. The sale runs until May

9th in the school's greenhouse from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The FFA Annual Banquet is May 9th at 6:00 p.m. 5.) The high school band concert is May 15th at 7:30 p.m. 6.) The Junior/Senior Prom was just held at The Fountains in Salisbury, MD on May 2nd. The Grand March was a sold-out success and it was held at the high school this year. The school was closed on May 2nd for a staff in-service day. 7.) The middle school chorus concert is May 6th at 7:00 p.m. 8.) The middle school band concert is May 14th at 7:00 p.m. 9.) The middle school will be holding their dance on May 16th; fifth and sixth grade at 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and seventh and eighth grade from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 10.) Upcoming awards nights: Athletic Awards, May 21st at 6:00 p.m., Fine Arts Awards, May 20th at 7:00 p.m., and Senior Awards, May 29th at 7:00 p.m. 11.) Senior's last day is June 2nd. 12.) Graduation is Thursday, May 5th. 13.) Seniors will be visiting the elementary school in their caps and gowns on May 29th for their Annual Wildcat Walk to share the excitement with the younger students. 14.) NHS Seniors will also assist with the elementary school field day on May 30th. 14.) Baseball's season record is 5 wins, 6 losses. The next game is home vs. Indian River High School May 6, 2025 at 4:15 p.m. 15.) The golf team's record is 5 wins, 4 losses. They play Smyrna High School tomorrow May 6th at 3:30 p.m. 16.) Boys' lacrosse has a current season record of 4 wins 7 losses. They will play Indian River away on May 7th at 7:00 p.m. 16.) Girls' soccer has 10 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss so far this season. They play away versus Sussex Academy on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. 17.) Girls' varsity softball has a record of 10 wins, 4 losses so far. They play a home game next versus Indian River on May 6th at 4:15 p.m. 18.) Mr. Morelli congratulated fellow student Dante Trader who was drafted by the Miami Dolphins.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Chief Ivan Barkley reported: 1.) There are no new crime trends or patterns. Mayor Bauer asked Chief Barkley where most of the tickets were written. Chief Barkley answered between Bi-State Blvd. and Rt.13. 2.) Officers have been doing radar enforcement on Old Stage Rd. and Rt.54 itself which is still limited. Mayor Bauer inquired about foot and bike patrol patrolling streets and developments. Chief Barkley responded officers do bike patrol mostly during the evenings during the warmer months. He further responded if the officers are out on bike patrol the officers are not covering a lot of area like they can in the police car. A conversation occurred. 3.) PD has addressed the bus stop complaints. A conversation ensued. 4.) Chief Barkley and Town Mgr. Fleetwood will start going out to businesses showing their faces and giving out their business cards. Council Member Waldman mentioned the numbers have risen since last year for burglary. Chief Barkley responded that is from the car burglaries from unlocked vehicles. Two to three vehicles had windows broken.

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

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

Parks and Recreation Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Council Member McClure reported: 1.) Last month was the trash pickup. 2.) Last week was the first

subcommittee New Year's Eve Celebration meeting and there was a good turnout and good ideas. The subcommittee will meet sometime in the future.

Fire Department – No report.

Planning & Zoning –

Vice Mayor Jones reported:

1. **Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation K – Lot 2, 38309 Stillwater Parkway, Delmar, DE** – Mr. Brown presented a new home build as referenced per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation K – Lot 2, 38309 Stillwater Parkway, Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings.

Vice Mayor Jones called for a motion to accept – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation K – Lot 2, 38309 Stillwater Parkway, Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings. A motion was made and seconded (Waldman/Bauer) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

2. **Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation L – Lot 161, 38430 Sandberry St., Delmar, DE** – Mr. Brown presented a new home build as referenced per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation L – Lot 161, 38430 Sandberry St., Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings.

Vice Mayor Jones called for a motion to accept – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Stillwater/Elder/Elevation L – Lot 161, 38430 Sandberry St., Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Waldman/Bauer) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Manager's Report

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) Forthcoming social media policy: The elected body needs to be very cautious and they also need to be very cognizant before adding to the issues. The town is in the process of putting a policy for the staff and elected body in place for social media. 2.) Wednesday of this week Town Mgr. Fleetwood will have an idea of what the town staff's health insurance rates will be. 3.) Pennsylvania Ave. MD side: Next Tuesday sod will be delivered and town staff is invited to help put down the sod. 4.) Next Monday, May 12th there is a 6:30 p.m. Joint Council meeting to adopt the fiscal year budget.

Council Comments

- 1.) Vice Mayor Jones thanked everyone for their positive comments for his Citizen of the Year Banquet last week.
- 2.) Council Member Waldman reminded everyone that this school year will be ending, be careful on the roads, and keep in mind that kids will be more present because the summer is coming. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added Maryland State Highway has approved an additional crosswalk on State St. which will happen once school is out.
- 3.) Council Member McClure commented the Delmar Chamber had it's Citizen of the Year Banquet last month and he congratulated Vice Mayor Jones on his selection. He said next up is Day in the Park June 7th.
- 4.) Council Member Lanier updated the everyone on the Utility Commission's last meeting March 10th. He mentioned the Grand March is sold out, the high school went from a much larger venue to a smaller venue, and they will have to plan for overflow next year.

Council Member Lanier commented Dante Trader was 155th overall to the Miami Dolphins. He congratulated Mr. Trader and commented he is a fantastic kid.

- 5.) Mayor Bauer commented the kids are out now and they are on bicycles. He advised everyone to be careful on the roads.

Public Comments

- 1.) Mr. Rodney Brown commented he can not say enough about the town's police officers and the firemen. He asked if the town has specific celebratory days for them? Chief Barkley responded the officers have Blue Light Night the first Friday in August. Mr. Brown responded that there are so many troubled teens out there and when the police are active in those kids lives, their lives could change. A conversation occurred.
- 2.) Mr. Vince Luca commended Chief Barkley and the Delmar PD officers. Mr. Luca suggested the fire department have a box for monetary donations.

Adjournment

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made/seconded (McClure/Waldman) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer