

MAYOR & COUNCIL
November 1, 2021
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase 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 Mayor Houlihan (late arrival), Council Members Smith, Jones and Kemp. Town Manager Bynum-King, Police Chief Barkley, Clerk of Council Spencer and Student Advisory Angel Ibarra-Martinez. Guests: Tom Bauer, Vince Luca, Kristina Wickey, Kennedy Wilson, Anita Heacock-Feaster, Dan Feaster.

Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase called the meeting to order and performed the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was established with four Council Members.

Vice Mayor Pase noted that Mayor Houlihan will be arriving to the meeting this evening late because he was at the Delmar Fire Department swearing in new Line Officers.

Mayor's Comments

Vice Mayor Pase deferred comments until Mayor Houlihan arrived.

Mayor Houlihan announced that former Council Member Lonnie Figgs passed away. He served this Council proudly and we will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as they go through this grieving period.

He further announced Delmar's Christmas parade is coming up on December 4th. At least we are getting back to some sort of normalcy since COVID. The parade is the first Saturday at 2:00 p.m. It's been two years since we have had the parade. He said he will be in touch with everybody as far as what we are going to do, Council and Commission Members.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Mayor Pase called for a motion to approve October 4, 2021 meeting minutes as prepared. A motion seconded (Jones/Kemp) and carried with a roll call vote: 3 Ayes 1 Abstain (Smith) and 1 Absent (Houlihan).

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

None.

Student Advisory –

Angel Ibarra-Martinez introduced himself to the Council and the guests. He reported: 1.) Sunday the school hosted a Trick-or-Treat night for children. Every student who volunteered dressed-up in kid friendly costumes. More than 200 people attended. 2.) Yesterday was also a football game, unfortunately we lost. There is an upcoming game Delmar Varsity Football Team vs. Laurel on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Pase asked was there anything special going on at the school that we would need to attend or be aware of. He answered no. She also explained to him we want to make him comfortable and anything he can bring from the school would be great. She said anything that he would need help with let us know. He said thank you.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) Chief welcomed the new student advisor. 2.) There were very few incidents for Halloween. 3.) Currently the police department is processing the two candidates that did come in for testing for the January Academy session. At this point we are fast-tracking everything we are doing and putting a lot of time into it immediately so we can get them ready in time for the January Academy. 4.) We continue to actively recruit and accept applications. We have still got a long road ahead of us. We did not get here overnight and it's going to take us a while to get everything straight. 5.) Thanks to all that helped make the new contract possible. This will certainly help as we rebuild our organization. The support from our community and our Town Officials does not go unnoticed. Again, we ask for some patience as we go about these tasks and he's asking everyone at the PD to step up efforts to bring officers in. 6.) The only calls of note that we have, the things that are really coming to the surface right now, we are noticing an increase of calls for service coming in from our local bars. He is reaching out directly to the owners and managers so that we can come up with a plan to reduce these incidents. We are spending too many man hours trying to corral unruly individuals. Vice Mayor Pase asked is there a closure time at these bars or can it be if you find that they are later in the night or later in the morning that they are staying open. Chief answered he thought they were staying open until at least one. Most of the incidents that are occurring are happening probably between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Sometimes stuff happens around closing and if it looks like the establishment is getting too out of order, we will just contact management and just shut it down for the evening. 7.) We are also gearing up for the upcoming holidays and what they bring which it's usually pretty interesting the closer it is to Christmas. Council Member Kemp asked were we still offering bonuses. Chief answered yes sir, most definitely. Anybody you know that is looking for a job send them my way. We will at least give them a shot.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – In mail packet.

Public Works – In mail packet.

Utility Commission –

Vice Mayor Mary Lee Pase reported 1.) Some upgrades were completed at the WTP. The chlorine tank needed replacement of the chlorine feed piping. 2.) Repair to the chlorine tank alarm. 3.)

There was a water leak in the chlorine room that was also repaired. 4.) The chlorine booster pump is losing pressure and an outside skilled contractor will be onsite tomorrow to make the repair. 5.) A water main break on West Pine Street on October 15th required an emergency repair and was completed by an outside skilled contractor. 6.) The sewer main replacement project is still on schedule with review and comments were exchanged between MDE and Town Engineers with compliance for primary engineering.

Mayor Houlihan arrived to the meeting and explained he was swearing in Line Officers at the Delmar Fire Department and it's a great honor to do so. He went back to Mayor's Comments before continuing with the Planning & Zoning report.

Planning & Zoning

1. Zeke Wing – Sign Replacement – 502 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE –

Mayor Houlihan called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Zeke Wing – Sign Replacement – 502 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings.

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve – Zeke Wing – Sign Replacement – 502 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings. The motion was made/seconded (Smith/Kemp) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

2. Kristina Wickey – Permanent Sign – 8 E. Grove Street, Delmar, DE –

Mayor Houlihan called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Kristina Wickey – Permanent Sign – 8 E. Grove Street, Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings with the removal of the temporary sign.

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to approve – Kristina Wickey – Permanent Sign – 8 E. Grove Street, Delmar, DE, per the attached drawings with the removal of the temporary sign. The motion was made/seconded (Kemp/Jones) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

3. Kennedy Wilson – New Business (Milk & Honey) – 500 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE – Ms. Wilson stated she is still waiting to hear back from DelDot for the issues regarding parking and the drive-thru. Mayor Houlihan said and Ms. Wilson has the existing business there with the repair and the parking and that's been addressed as well. Ms. Wilson answered we are making arrangements to have additional parking as well to satisfy the Town's requirements. Mayor Houlihan said the other issue was the outdoor seating in the front. Ms. Wilson responded we had CDC Hardin himself come out to take proper measurements to see if they were applicable with the ADA guidelines for handicapped cooks and they did meet those requirements. So, we are hoping to have favor from this Council to consider that to be possible for a safeguard should COVID

restrictions arise. Mayor Houlihan commented in talking with CDC Hardin and Ms. Wilson, because they were open ended, we want you to come back to the November Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to let them review that and put in the recommendation for the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Wilson said her goal with this coffee shop is to impact older students. The other day she counted 40-50 students walking by the shop and she is very blessed that a member of Young Life which is a Christian Organization that really reaches out to kids to counsel them, help them in sports and future endeavors is currently seeking occupancy in our building and are willing to meet with these children every single day. She further said the other goal of Milk & Honey is to provide a safe place for kids with special needs to be able to get some work hours in. Unfortunately, with kids like my very own daughter who is legally blind there is not many options out there, as far as, on site work training. They need these work skills and she thought a coffee shop is a very safe place to bring in one member to work with another person so that they can feel good about themselves, accomplish and learn skills in a safe place. In addition, they want to house an environment where local artists can supply hand crafted items. We really want to focus on local farmer-ship such as Vincent Farms and Wrights Market. We want local handcrafted items such as local organic breads because we want everything organic except a breakfast scrapple, egg and cheese. We want a healthier option for our community. Vice Mayor Pase asked what the hours will be for the coffee shop. Ms. Wilson answered starting out 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and the goal is to have an environment where it could be open until 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. to catch the kids after school instead of them getting introduced to drugs.

Mayor Houlihan called for a favorable recommendation to the Mayor and Council for – Kennedy Wilson – New Business (Milk & Honey) – 500 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE with the contingencies of further investigation of outstanding issues regarding parking and DelDot with the drive-thru and Ms. Wilson will come back at another time with more in-depth information.

Mayor Houlihan called for a favorable recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission from the Mayor and Council for – Kennedy Wilson – New Business (Milk & Honey) – 500 N. Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE, with the contingencies of further investigation of outstanding issues regarding parking and DelDot with the drive-thru and Ms. Wilson will come back at another time with more in-depth information. The motion was made/seconded (Pase/Smith) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Manager's Report

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported the Planning and Zoning meeting for this month will be November 18th, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

She further reported the annual audit is complete and there will be a presentation by the auditors at the December meeting.

She informed the Council we are still in search of a Director for our Public Works Department. We did get a couple of applications in today which she will be reviewing. Upon that review she will be reaching out to the Mayors to coordinate the interviews. She mentioned she started accepting applications for the laborer positions because the department is really short staffed in-terms of the ability to keep up with the work load. She mentioned definitely moving into this new budget round, we will need to review Public Works for new hires as well. There was a gentleman that had CDL's and expressed interest in learning how to drive our streetsweeper and taking care of our streets until our CDL driver returned from medical leave but when he went to take his pre-employment physical his blood pressure was elevated and he could not pass the DOT physical. So, there is another gentleman with CDL's, hopefully he will be scheduling to go and do the pre-employment physical and will not have those issues. The gentleman who sold us the streetsweeper will be providing the training on site. We are behind in the street sweeping. Obviously, we had a very heavy rain and standing water last week and part of that is contributed to the catch basins being covered. Depending on the outcome of this gentleman that has the CDL's we are going to reach out to CES to see if they can come and clean some of our storm drains, especially the troubled areas.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King informed Mayor Houlihan a completed outdoor application for November 13th with a rain date of November 20th from Delmar Christian Center that requires his signature.

She referenced receiving a phone call from DelDot with regards to Stage Road where the road was cut to do the sewer connection for the storage units. The road is settling and DelDot is requiring the Developer and Contractor to video the lines to ensure the storm drain is not compromised. If it is not they will just need to fix the dip in the road and if the storm drain is compromised they will have to dig it up and replace that storm drain.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King announced Town Hall will be closed on November 11th in recognition of Veteran's Day and thanked you everyone who served.

Council Comments –

Vice Mayor Pase, Council Members Kemp, Jones and Smith had no comment.

Public Comments:

- 1.) Tom Bauer commented thankfully the police contract is over with for right now. The Chief usually gives us an update of how many officers we have, and he didn't say it. He said he heard one person resigned. Chief Barkley responded we did lose one, Officer Brown, took a position with the Wicomico Sheriff's Office so we actually have 5 vacancies right now including the two additional we were given.

- 2.) Tina Lambert-Marzec commented the contract is signed. Monumental, history making, very relieved and definitely a huge positive step in the right direction. She also wanted the Town to make sure the Council did know that Officer David Brown would have been 5 years December and he did resign. It's important to keep track of who's coming in and who's leaving so we know where we are at. Still important to mention we still have officers that are working alone. We still as a Town only have coverage until 2:00 a.m. Also, for anyone that is in the room, Maryland Elections are on November 16th so make sure you come out and vote.

- 3.) Kennedy Wilson commented she wanted to let the Council know that should she ever be able to offer any assistance or help to the Town she wanted to do so. She further commented she has spoken to many of the members of the Council already, but she wanted to make them aware she has contacted other joint jurisdictions and Towns that are very similar to Delmar such as Bristol, VA, Bristol, TN, Texarcana, AR, Texas, Texoma, Union City, IN and Union City, OH. She mentioned she has spoken with four of those police department chiefs just to get some information from them to establish a connection between our Town and theirs as far as emergency management and to offer her services in that area. Salisbury, MD and Ocean City, MD do have Delmar roots that may be able to offer the Town services in the emergency management area.

Adjournment

Mayor Houlihan called for a motion to adjourn for a short Executive Session for legal. A motion was made/seconded (Pase/Smith) and carried with 5 Ayes.

A motion was made and seconded by (Smith/Pase) to return to Regular Session from the Executive Session. Council gave the consensus for the Town Manager to work through negotiations on land acquisition with a potential new business owner looking to relocate in Delmar, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded (Kemp/Jones) and carried 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer