

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

April 22, 2024

The scheduled Joint Council meeting, comprised of the Mayor & Council of Delmar, DE and the Mayor and Commissioners of Delmar, MD, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Delmar Town Hall by Mayor Jorden. In attendance were Mayor Bauer, Deputy Mayor Lenox, Vice Mayor Jones, Commissioners Boothe, Nembhard, and Shaffer, Council Members McClure, Lanier, and Waldman, Town Manager Fleetwood, and Clerk of Council Spencer. Guests: Lisa Conley, and Christine Phiefer.

Called to Order

Mayor Jorden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A quorum was established with five members on the Mayor and Council and five members on the Mayor and Commissioners.

Mayors Comments

Mayor Jorden welcomed everyone to the meeting in attendance.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said the MD and DE Mayor's, the representative from the Teamsters, shop stewards from PD, and himself met last week and they came to an agreement on a 3-year contract for the PD that goes into effect on July 1, 2024. Everything that the Teamsters and PD had proposed for the administrative language changes were codified in the contract. He shared all the numbers that were incorporated in the contract for the FY'25 Budget. There was no change except for the one individual that was supposed to retire in the PD that is not retiring so, PD will now have 19 officers instead of 18 for the FY'25 Budget. He further shared the contingencies are fine.

1st Reading of the FY'25 Delmar, Maryland Budget Ordinance

Mayor Jorden introduced and read Ordinance # 756, Delmar, Maryland budget for FY'25. Chief Finance Officer, Heather Chandler highlighted the operating, capital, and totals for everything requested that was earmarked for each fund.

Mayor Bauer asked Ms. Chandler what the ARPA balance was effective July 1, 2024. Ms. Chandler answered the reporting period amounts for MD and DE, revised amounts for MD, and totals for everything earmarked.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to accept the first reading of the FY'25 Budget Ordinance #756. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Lenox) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

1st Reading of the FY'25 Delmar, Delaware Budget Ordinance # 181

Mayor Bauer introduced and read Ordinance #181 for the FY'25 Budget. Chief Finance Officer, Heather Chandler highlighted the operating, capital, and total budgeted numbers for each fund.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to accept the first reading of the FY'25 Budget Ordinance #181. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Lanier) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Cross Connection Control Ordinance Maryland Ordinance #757

Mayor Jorden introduced and read the Cross Connection Control Ordinance #757.

Commissioner Shaffer asked for Section 3 wording to be changed and be reworded concerning a representative from the town shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time. He said he would like it to specify commercial and for a business he does not take issue with entering at any reasonable time. He further asked for Section 8 because he does not think that the individual should be guilty of a misdemeanor and the wording be changed. He said he does agree with the fine but he suggested the wording read each week upon violation a person will be fined. Commissioner Shaffer gave reasons for each of his suggestions.

Mayor Jorden asked if the charge of misdemeanor was a state charge. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered that is something that the elected body has the authority over. The elected body suggested wording changes. A conversation occurred with the DE elected body agreeing with the same changes.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance #757 Cross Connection Control as amended. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Cross Connection Control Delaware Ordinance #182

Mayor Bauer introduced and read the Cross Connection Control Ordinance #182.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to accept Ordinance #182 Cross Connection Control as amended. The motion was made/seconded (Jones/McClure) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Bereavement Policy

Town Mgr. Fleetwood discussed the current Ch. 8 Personnel Rules, Attendance and Leave Policy specifically the bereavement section that was adopted on January 1, 2024. He said Mayor Bauer raised the question if the time allotted was enough. Town Mgr. Fleetwood asked the elected body to decide if the allotted time given in the policy was enough for bereavement. A discussion occurred.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood publicly acknowledged and thanked Mayor Bauer, Mayor Jorden, Deputy Mayor Lenox, and Commissioner Shaffer because if the town needed them, they would be available to assist the town while the P&Z Director, Twain Evanson is out on a leave of absence.

Mayor Bauer called for a motion to change the current bereavement time from 3 days to 5 days. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Shaffer) and carried by a vote of 10 Ayes.

Sympathy Gift/Charitable Donation Policy

Town Mgr. Fleetwood shared the history for the Sympathy Gift/Charitable Donation Policy. He said the trigger is an overnight stay in the hospital. He asked the elected body to keep the policy the way that it is written. A conversation occurred.

Public Comments

1. Lisa Connelly and Christine Phiefer asked the elected body if there could be something written in the by-laws, ordinances, or if Code Enforcement could do something about the abandoned houses in town. A conversation occurred.

Adjournment –

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Jorden asked for a motion for adjournment. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 10 Ayes

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer