

# JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

## July 10, 2023

The regularly 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 Bauer. In attendance via role call were Mayor Bauer, Deputy Mayor Lenox, Vice Mayor Jones, Commissioners Boothe, Unsell and Shaffer, Council Members McClure, Lanier, and Waldman, Town Manager Fleetwood, Chief Barkley, and Clerk of Council Spencer. Guests: Dennis Murray, Nichole Collingsworth, Shawn Johnson, Jessica Webb, Vince Stewart, Vince Luca, Alicia Zahn, David Waldman, and Betty Robinson. Absent: Mayor Jorden.

### *Called to Order*

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

Mayor Bauer said Mayor Jorden was absence due to illness. Deputy Mayor Lenox said we wish Mayor Jorden a quick recovery and get well soon.

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

### *Mayors Comments*

Mayor Bauer thanked everyone for their understanding and patience for the Delmar, DE Mayor and Council moving their regularly scheduled meeting from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to this evening. He explained the date was changed to allow staff and others to enjoy the Independence Day holiday.

He further thanked Representative Tim Dukes and Senator Bryant Richardson for the Town of Delmar receiving monies in the near future through the Community Reinvestment Fund. The amounts are: \$50,000 for State St. Park restrooms, \$70,000.00 for the Delmar Library, \$100,000.00 for two vehicles for the Delmar Police Department, \$50,000.00 for the Historical Society, \$15,000.00 for a concrete pad for dumpsters at Public Works, \$15,000.00 for sidewalk repairs, and \$9,600.00 for AEDs for the police department. Mayor Bauer thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for pursuing the grant funds on behalf of the Town of Delmar.

Mayor Bauer congratulated the girl's minor and major all-star little league teams for making it to the state tournament. He said the minor all-stars are playing now as we attend this meeting.

Mayor Bauer commented in June the Town of Delmar wished former CDC William Hardin well in his retirement and welcomed the new Planning and Zoning Director Twain Evanson.

Mayor Bauer announced this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at Camelot Hall he and Mayor Jorden have the honor and privilege to swear in the Delmar Police Departments two newest officers, Blain Erdie and John Paul McGrath. There will also be announcements of police officers being promoted. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added everyone is invited to the swearing in and there will also be a meal prepared for those in attendance.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to approve the Joint Council May 15, 2023 minutes with the correction of changing Deputy Mayor Lenox from being absent to attending. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Unsell) by roll call vote of 8 Ayes 1 Absent (Jorden) 1 Abstain (Waldman).

Mayor Bauer asked for a motion to approve the Mayor and Council June 5, 2023 minutes. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/McClure) and carried by 5 Ayes.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to approve the Mayor and Commissioners June 12, 2023 minutes. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Unsell) and carried by 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Jorden).

### ***Unfinished Business***

None.

### ***New Business***

#### **Delmar Public Library**

The Delmar Public Library Director Jessica Webb, described her work history at the library, and length of time at the library. She explained a brochure that was passed out to all in attendance. She thanked the Joint Council for the monies that were allocated to the library from the FY'24 Budget and said the money will be used for a court yard for people to use their devices outside and programming for teens after school and in the evenings. Ms. Webb thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for helping to get the funding for the library.

Ms. Webb thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for helping with the grant that was awarded to the Delmar Public Library from Representative Tim Dukes to renovate the teen area and put glass doors in that area to monitor them and block the noise coming from that area. She said the other \$55,000.00 Town Mgr. Fleetwood helped the library get awarded is going towards a makerspace. She described what a makerspace is.

Ms. Webb described the resources and needs they want to meet for the community such as a social worker once a week. She commented the library is trying to help and fulfill all of the needs of the community. A conversation ensued.

### Gordy Park Basketball Tournament

Mr. Vince Stewart and Ms. Nicole Collingsworth described a possible Gordy Park Basketball Summer Tournament. A lengthy discussion occurred involving age requirements, number of children that would be involved, insurance, dates/times requested, Elected Body concerns, background checks, sharing the courts, security/supervision, staffing for the league, etc.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion by Commissioner Boothe to approve as presented with the following conditions: 1.) The Town of Delmar be listed as an additional insured on the insurance policy for a minimum of one million dollars of liability. 2.) A plan be submitted that outlines intended security and staffing. 3.) Participants be no older than 17. 4.) A plan put in place for trash pickup and that plan collectively is subject to review by the Town Manager and Police Chief. 5.) Public access (if others wanted to use the court). The motion was seconded (Unsell) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Jordan).

Rt. 13, Rt. 54, and Old Stage Road Draft Resolutions and Draft Letter (Speed Limit Resolution)  
Town Mgr. Fleetwood introduced and read a draft resolution and draft letters for Delmar, MD and Delmar, DE involving speed reductions. A lengthy discussion occurred.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to amend the resolution striking out language that involved Rt. 13 and to only involve Rt. 54 and Old Stage Rd. and the same with the draft letter. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lanier and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to table the current discussion due to the speed limit on Rt.13. Also, request Town Mgr. Fleetwood to prepare a future resolution regarding the reduction of speed on Stage Rd. from Rt. 13 to Rt. 54 from 50 mph to 35 mph. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Unsell) and carried by a roll call vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Jordan).

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Police Chief's Report –

Chief Barkley reported: 1.) Traffic enforcement continues. 2.) The police academy started last week and Delmar PD has one recruit in the academy doing well. 3.) Last Saturday, July 8th additional testing was administered for the next round of recruits to be hired. Of eight applicants only three showed for testing and one did not make it through the written testing. Now the PD is down to two applicants. 4.) PD is working on a part-time dispatcher (PCO). PCO Rojas is doing very well independently. The dispatch shifts are covered from 8:00 a.m. to a little after 11:00 p.m. PD would like to fill in gaps to cover Delmar PD during the week and a little further into the early morning hours. 5.) August 4<sup>th</sup> will be Delmar PD's Blue Light Night which is their version of National Night Out. Blue Light Night is the first Friday in August as to where National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August. PD chose Friday because they do not want to conflict with the surrounding Town's and to have a better turnout. 6.) Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Delmar PD will have a swearing in ceremony for the two officers that just graduated as well as promotions, acknowledgements and hand out some accommodations for officers who have

done exemplary work. 7.) There was a burglary at the Delmar Market. The front glass was broken out and tobacco products were stolen. PD is awaiting the video from Delmar Market to move forward.

Mayor Bauer asked Chief Barkley what was going on Buckingham Drive with people going through cars the last few nights. Chief Barkley answered don't leave valuables in the car and lock car doors. A conversation occurred.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Chief Barkley if the recruits that are being tested are for the January 2024 police academy. Chief Barkley answered yes. He further asked how many slots are available. Chief Barkley answered officially one but PD is actually looking at two. They are anticipating the retirement of the Lieutenant. A conversation ensued.

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

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

Utility Commission Report –

Commission Member Unsell reported: 1.) Phase 1 of the sewer main project is underway. The Chestnut St. watermain had to be replaced as well because of a galvanized pipe that is starting to give way. After Chestnut St. is finished Teal Construction will move to Pine St. 2.) Phase 2 on the Delmar, Maryland side SRF funding was not approved; Phase 2 will be delayed. So, Phase 3 will be moved to Phase 2 until the money is secured for Phase 2. 3.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood presented a request for a WWTP budget amendment, \$122,000.00, from the FY'23 Budget to the FY'24 Budget that entails the repairs to the Control Building from previous damages. The WWTP is getting a quote this Friday. The Commission made a favorable recommendation to both Elected Bodies to approve.

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

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) The Town of Delmar Parks and Recreation Committee signed back up with MML (Maryland Municipality League) Parks and Recreation which gives more resources for Parks and Recreation to use. 2.) The Gordy Park basketball tournament was a big topic for discussion in the last meeting. 3.) Movie night has been rescheduled to August 4<sup>th</sup> following Blue Light Night. 3C Church has confirmed they will be in attendance. 4.) Mr. Boise used to have a summer program at the State Street Park for kids. In the future the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to find an individual to start that type of program again and possibly have grant money for a part-time Parks and Recreation Director.

Planning and Zoning Report –

Deputy Mayor Lenox said the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Neither Vice Mayor Jones or himself have anything to bring before this elected body for formal comment or formal action. Deputy Mayor Lenox noted the Planning and Zoning Commission

reviewed property line adjustments involving the Police Department for a new storage building in the back of the department which involves changes to the lots but also discussion of placement and some other details. He said Town Mgr. Fleetwood will be bringing the lot line adjustment before the Mayor and Commissioners for formal action.

Fire Department Report – The report is included in the mail packet.

Shawn Johnson reviewed the Fire Department report. Vice Mayor Jones asked Mr. Johnson what was the fire damage at Delmar Elementary School. Mr. Johnson answered there was fire damage in the roof that went directly to the gymnasium in his opinion the damages are about \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. The repairs are already being done.

Mr. Johnson asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood the number of remaining out of service hydrants. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered one on Gordy Mill Rd. and one on Stage Rd. The hydrants should be repaired in the next few weeks.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood presented a request for the WWTP budget amendment, \$122,000.00, from the FY'23 Budget to the FY'24 Budget that entails repairs to the Control Building from previous damages.

Mayor Bauer read the motion for the Budget Amendment for \$122,000.00 from the FY'23 Budget to the FY'24 Budget. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Unsell) and carried by a roll call vote of 9 Ayes 1 Absent (Jordan).

1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood updated the Elected Body on the Phase 1 sewer project. 2.) There was a progress meeting with Teal Construction regarding Phase 1 of the sewer project. 3.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood reminded everyone about the police swearing in ceremony on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. 4.) A pre-bid meeting for the WWTP repairs for the control building is July 14<sup>th</sup>. 5.) MD SHA (Maryland State Highway Administration) is in Town cleaning storm drains on State St. 6.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood gave an update on the new PD pole building. 7.) ECM began their punch list items for the recent paving project.

### **Council/Commissioners Comments:**

- 1.) Commissioner Unsell announced that he will not attend the August 14<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Commissioners meeting due to vacation and will return for the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He said he will also miss the Utility Commission meeting August 7<sup>th</sup>. He further said Commissioner Shaffer will be conducting the Utility Commission meeting.
- 2.) Council Member Lanier commented he would like to figure out what the next best move would be to address not being able to police certain areas as an Elected Body. A conversation ensued.

3.) Council Member Waldman commented he was at the library today and he was pleased with the turnout and the number of kids that were there. He said it is good to see the library get used.

**Public Comments:**

1.) David Waldman asked why are the lights are on all night at the library and who is paying the fee for that. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered the library pays their own bill and he is unsure why the lights are on all night.

2.) David Waldman commented there is a traffic problem at the nursing home. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Bauer announced the girl's all-star minors won their game this afternoon. He congratulated them.

**Adjournment –**

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Bauer asked for a motion for adjournment. A motion was made/seconded (Jones/Shaffer) and carried by roll call vote of 9 Ayes 1 Absent (Jordan).

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer