

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
April 14, 2025
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Benjamin Jorden called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Delmar, Maryland 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 Deputy Mayor Jack Lenox, Commissioners Jacob Boothe, Ronald Nembhard, and Cory Shaffer. Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Town Attorney, Robert Benson, Police Chief, Ivan Barkley, Delmar Fire Department Chief Joshua Joyner, Delmar Fire Department Deputy Chief Justin Elliott, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Domingo Arriola; via teleconference: Ronisha Hopkins.

Mayor Jorden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

None.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Boothe/Shaffer) and carried to approve the March 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried with a vote of 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Animal Control Memorandum of Understanding

Town Mgr. Fleetwood introduced and explained the Animal Control Memorandum of Understanding. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to accept and approve the Animal Control Memorandum of Understanding. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Nay (Boothe).

Tax Incentive for Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members

Town Mgr. Fleetwood introduced and explained the Tax Incentive for the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members. A discussion occurred.

1st Reading, Adopting Codification and Revisions of Ordinance # 760 and Ordinance #761

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to go into a Public Hearing for the 1st Reading for Adopting Codification and Revisions of Ordinance #760. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden asked if there were any public comments.

Mayor Jorden introduced the 1st Reading for the Adoption of Codification and Revisions of Ordinance # 760. A discussion occurred and a decision was made not to act on Ordinance #761 because this is not the process for charter changes. Town Mgr. Fleetwood stated he will work with Mr. Benson on that process.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to accept the 1st Reading for Ordinance #760. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by a motion of 5 Ayes.

2025 Municipal Clerks Proclamation

Mayor Jorden read the 2025 Municipal Clerks Proclamation declaring the week of May 4th through May 10th the 56th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

2025 Public Works Proclamation

Mayor Jorden read the 2025 National Public Works Proclamation declaring the week of May 19th through May 23rd National Public Works Week.

Student Advisory –

Student Advisor, Mr. Braiden Alexander, was not present.

Committee Reports:

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

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) There are no new crime trends. 2.) Over the last month there was one suicide and a few unattended deaths. 3.) PD performed a traffic stop more than a week ago on Rt. 54. for a traffic infraction on a truck that was pulling a trailer. Shortly after the officer stopped the vehicle another vehicle arrived, and it was ICE. They removed the officer from his traffic stop and retrieved the driver and all passengers and left. 4.) PD is fully staffed. 5.) Over the next month there will be a lot of service training that will be conducted. Officers will be in and out of PD for training. Chief Barkley said he will be out of the office from April 21st through April 25th for Professional Development Training. Both lieutenants will be available in his absence if not he can be reached on his cell and he will return the call during break hours of his training.

Commissioner Boothe mentioned he received a call from the sheriff's department in Glen Burnie, MD and was informed he missed some court dates. Chief Barkley responded this happens in cycles. PD has not had anything that they are aware of yet. He further responded police will come to see you if you are missing court dates, that was a scam.

Fire Department – Report was given at the meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief, Justin Elliott reviewed the fire department statistics.

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

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

Utility Commission –

The Utility Commission meeting was April 14, 2025.

Commissioner Shaffer reported: 1.) There was no new business or unfinished business. 2.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood informed the commission Phase 3 of the sewer project will begin in the fall. 3.) The minor flooding that has happened on Pennsylvania Ave. washed out a pipe and there were fiberoptic cables in the pipe. The repair was made and has been functioning well. There are some sinkholes in it but the town has been contacting someone from the railroad to make changes in the pipe, but approval is required first.

Water Superintendent Report – The report is included in the mail packets.

Parks & Recreation –

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was March 25, 2025

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) The committee discussed upcoming events. 2.) There is a park cleanup on April 26th at 1:00 p.m. with a rain date of April 27th at 1:00 p.m. The park cleanup has been posted on the town's Facebook page and digital sign. 3.) The head middle school soccer coach attended the meeting, and the committee discussed a proposal with having the recreational league here in town. The committee will support them anyway they can but with it not being inside of town limits it will limit what the committee can do and that goes for flag football as well. As of now flag football will be starting and will be at the Baptist church. 4.) Letters were mailed out to the New Years Eve subcommittee. Commissioner Boothe said he received a good response from the letters. The subcommittee will meet on April 29th. 5.) Dates were discussed for movie night. 6.) Dates were discussed for the chili cookoff.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported:

1. **Domingo Arriola – Home Addition – 9495 Mourning Dove Way, Delmar, MD** – Mr. Arriola presented a home addition as referenced per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission's favorable recommendation to approve – Domingo Arriola – Home Addition – 9495 Mourning Dove Way, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. The motion was made/seconded (Nembhard/Boothe) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported as follows: 1.) Little League cancelled their opening day parade. 2.) Gordy St. Park: April 21st and April 22nd new asphalt will be milled, and overlaying will take place for the basketball courts. The asphalt has to cure for three weeks then epoxy and surface work will be done. The nets for the courts will be replaced then the courts will be opened back up sometime before Memorial Day. 3.) Pennsylvania Ave., MD side: the topsoil is 85% complete. Tomorrow the installation of the irrigation heads will start, next week the fence will be installed, and then sodding will be done. 4.) The new Code Enforcement Officer was onboard today, and her name is Ms. Kayla Trice. 5.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood publicly acknowledged Public Works for painting and cleaning the Gordy St. Park dugouts and concession stands.

Council Comments –

Mayor Jorden, and Commissioners Nembhard, Boothe, and Shaffer had no comments.

- 1.) Deputy Mayor Lenox mentioned he just became aware of the \$200,000 available from the state for the Mason Dixon Complex. He said it moves the town a little closer for that project.

Public Comments –

- 1.) Ms. Ronisha Hopkins questioned if the commissioners would be willing to revisit the topic of allowing Delaware residents to have chickens. A conversation ensued resulting in Ms. Hopkins stating she will try to schedule to be on the upcoming agenda to discuss her topic.

Adjournment –

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to adjourn which was made/seconded (Boothe/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer