

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
December 8, 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, Police Chief, Ivan Barkley, and Clerk of Council, Vondell Spencer. Guest: Jessica Webb, Ona Payne, and Betty Robinson.

Mayor Jorden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

Mayor Jorden thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said he hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Approval of Minutes –

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

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Library Initiatives

Delmar Library Director, Jessica Webb asked for the Mayor and Commissioners support and permission/approval to begin a Community Story Walk. She described what a Community Story Walk included. A conversation ensued.

Dog Ordinance #763

Town Attorney, Robert Benson introduced Dog Ordinance #763. He suggested from a previous discussion that the Mayor and Commissioners adopt the Animal Control dog laws from Wicomico County to enforce animal laws within the Town of Delmar Maryland. He further suggested in adopting this ordinance to authorize that the Town of Delmar is adopting the Wicomico County Ordinance in full for the following reasons: 1.) Not all laws that are adopted by a county are enforced on municipalities so it is not a given that the laws of the Wicomico County Animal Control Ordinance are enforceable in the town. 2.) If someone has to be taken to court Animal Control has to be able to say the town has adopted the Animal Control Ordinance.

Commissioner Boothe thanked Deputy Mayor Lenox for his help with the ordinance. A conversation occurred.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to adopt Dog Ordinance #763. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mr. Benson noted when talking to Code Enforcement there are two aspects: 1.) There is a section about dangerous animals/dogs which goes in front of the Wicomico County Board of Appeals. The Town of Delmar needs to make sure the county is willing to enforce that and/or if the county will not do it will they allow the town's attorney to go before their Board of Appeals. 2.) The violations for this ordinance are civil citations. If it goes to court if someone is issued a ticket it gets prosecuted in front of the district court as a civil citation and the county attorney does that. Deputy Mayor Lenox added as a follow-up they would have an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which the county would have to sign off on.

Student Advisor – No report.

Committee Reports:

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

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) PD will be an officer down as of January 15, 2026. He said PD is diligently working to fill that gap however, he does not think that will be before the January police academy. So, it will be the June police academy. Officer John Paul McGrath is going up to Delaware River and Bay. 2.) The issues of theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles continues. There was a theft of a vehicle Friday night on N. Memorial Dr. The car was unlocked with the keys inside. PD does have suspects in mind and they are dealing with juveniles so their avenues to close this up is not going to be easy and quick because he cannot bring them in and interview them. 3.) the Christmas Parade went well, was well attended, and PD is looking forward to Christmas. 4.) Officer Porter's wife will be induced tomorrow. Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Chief Barkley if a public street has a fire hydrant does that curb have to be marked or is it just inherent that no one can park there. Chief Barkley answered it should be marked in front of a fire hydrant.

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

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

Mayor Jorden thanked PW for always doing a great job with the Christmas Parade, blocking streets and making sure everybody is safe.

Utility Commission –

The Utility Commission meeting was this evening at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Shaffer reported: 1.) The State of Maryland is now requiring an MS4 Permit which is mapping of the town's stormwater. Town Mgr. Fleetwood has made some contacts. One of the contacts works in Dover, DE and has expressed interest in the mapping project for the year 2026. 2.) The pumps for completing the WTP project should arrive any day now. 3.) On Lincoln Ave. the

stormwater project should be completed tomorrow.

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

Parks & Recreation – The report is included in the mail packets.

The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was November 26, 2025.

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) The New Year's Eve Celebration will not happen this year. 2.) There will be no meeting in December. 3.) The first meeting in January the new Chairwoman will start and Commissioner Boothe will stay on as a liaison.

Fire Department – No report.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported the meeting was on November 20, 2025. All submittals were on the Delaware side. He noted a rather significant site plan was submitted for Shore Appliance and the Commission recommended approval.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood had no report.

Council Comments –

- 1.) Commissioner Nembhard commented the Christmas Parade was well attended.
- 2.) Commissioner Boothe wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He said new projects are coming up in the next year. There was a project started by Commissioner Shaffer and Town Mgr. Fleetwood on Elizabeth St. by Chestnut Manor which is a drainage ditch that was cleaned out that ran into Wicomico County. He further said he was able to contact the co-owner that graciously signed so the town, or county or a contractor could finish cleaning out the ditch.
- 3.) Commissioner Shaffer commented he had a great time at the Christmas Parade. Mr. Roger Martinson and the Delmar Chamber of Commerce does a great job. There were a ton of entries. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- 4.) Deputy Mayor Lenox commented it is the time where we can look back and see what a productive year it was. He said he looks forward to another year. Tonight, we get to refer to the swearing in that will continue the term and again it's been productive in the past term. He further said he is very glad to be on the team with the men sitting up here. He thanked the Mayor and Commissioners.

Public Comments –

- 1.) Ms. Ona Payne commented she attended the Christmas Parade and she loved it. She said she was amazed at the things she saw in the parade.

Swearing In

Mayor Jorden swore in Commissioner Jacob Boothe.

Swearing In

Mayor Jorden swore in Commissioner Cory Shaffer.

Swearing In

Clerk of Wicomico Circuit Court, Mr. James McAllister swore in Mayor Benjamin Jorden.

Adjournment –

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

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer