

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
February 14, 2022
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor 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 Lenox, Boothe, Shaffer and Unsell. Town Manager Bynum-King, Police Chief Barkley, Clerk of Council Spencer and Robert Benson Town Attorney were in attendance. Guest: Linda Morris, Paresh and Nila Nakrani, Penny Glasgow, Vince Luca and Chris Brown (via teleconference).

Mayor Jorden performed the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a roll call to confirm there was a quorum. A quorum was established.

Mayor's Comments-

Mayor Jorden commented he was happy to have everyone in attendance and he was glad there were no complications from the snow Sunday.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, (Boothe/Unsell) and carried to approve the January 10, 2022 minutes as circulated by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business-

Town Mgr. Bynum-King followed-up the Wood Creek matter pertaining to the street lights. She said the deposit was received from Mr. Mehta on January 20th; they are supposed to be starting the boring for the conduit this week. Delmarva Power is still working with the storage warehouse in New Jersey to get the decorative lights. Town personnel has released NVR building permits as of January 20th.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King referenced during the meeting last month, Deputy Mayor Lenox mentioned in addition to the Wood Creek Street light plans there are also landscaping plans which requires trees to be planted. She confirmed the landscape plan is a part of the project. She spoke with Mr. Pete Melnick with Ryan Homes, he confirmed they would be planting trees in the spring.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned that as far as Mr. Mehta and TK Construction's outstanding debt, the matter was turned over to Mr. Mehta's insurance carrier Liberty Mutual.

New Business –

None.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) Before last week he submitted Cpl. Keith Heacock's information as a validation for the Sussex County VFW Officer of the Year. 2.) An application was submitted to the National Concerns of Police Survivors so his name would be applied to the National Memorial Wall in early May of this year. 3.) Some officers will be at the Hyatt Inn in Cambridge, MD this weekend attending a Survivors Retreat. A lot of information will be given out and he will be attending a segment that will give us protocols for the ceremonies in May. May will be a trying time for us because at the time of the ceremonies, the trial is slated to begin as well so, we are going to have to figure out where our resources are going to be and at the same time make sure we are covering everything at home. 4.) Recruitment efforts are going well and we are now up to 17 applicants as of today. 5.) We will begin our testing on the first week of March, midweek and a second testing date the following weekend. 6.) There were some issues with some loud parties. One was in the Breckenridge area. A gentleman was renting his property out as an Airbnb and the individuals that leased the property did so for the sole purpose of a massive party which ended up causing some damages to the neighboring properties as well. We did go in and clear it out. Most of the people that left the party then went to Wawa's and we had to respond to that so, we are working with other departments here in Town to address the situation. The same group the following night went to a property on East Jewell Street and the flyer that they put out on the internet was, because we shut them down the night before they were going to continue the following night. That party was also addressed and we had to go back to that same address last weekend. There will be more conversations with the property owner at this point. Mayor Jordan asked was there anything he or the Commissioners could do to help. Chief answered not yet.

Deputy Mayor Lenox mentioned it appeared this past January compared to January a year ago both on the Maryland and Delaware side speeding has tripled. Chief responded some of that he will call the COVID phenomenon. It appears that there are a lot of individuals since COVID started that believe traffic laws are just a suggestion and we have been addressing it more that's why the numbers are up. Deputy Mayor Lenox asked do you think they were down last year, is it typical now that people are glad to get out. Chief further responded he is unaware but they see it a lot so we are trying to get ahead of it and address it and he expects to see the numbers go up even more.

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

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

Utility Commission

Commissioner Unsell Reported as follows: 1.) A family on the Delaware side Mr. and Mrs. Predenda spent more than \$700.00 to get their connection to the street sewer looked at and claimed that the problem was actually out in the street in the Town area. We tabled that pending information from Public Works to see where the clog was at, and they said the clog was in the street on the Town's side, they were asking for reimbursement. They said the clog was from kids putting in

limbs into the sewer and it led to the sewer getting clogged up.

Planning & Zoning

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported as follows:

1. **Paresh/Nila Nakrani – New Home Build – Lot 61, 9116 Swingbridge Lane, Delmar, MD** – Mr. and Mrs. Nakrani presented for a new home build per the attached drawings. The revised site plan was received January 31, 2022.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to accept Planning and Zoning Commission's favorable recommendation to approve – Paresh/Nila Nakrani – New Home Build – Lot 61, 9116 Swingbridge Lane, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

2. **Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Pisa Torre – Lot 351, 9347 Mulligan Way, Delmar, MD** – Ms. Brown presented for a new home build per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to accept Planning and Zoning Commission's favorable recommendation to approve – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Pisa Torre – Lot 351, 9347 Mulligan Way, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Unsell) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

3. **Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Hudson – Lot 383, 9324 Mulligan Way, Delmar, MD** – Ms. Brown presented for a new home build per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked for a motion to accept Planning and Zoning Commission's favorable recommendation to approve – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Hudson – Lot 383, 9324 Mulligan Way, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Unsell) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Bynum reported as follows:

- 1.) The first Budget Workshop is March 1st at 6:00 p.m. at Delmar Town Hall. Workshops are open to the public however no public participation is permitted. 2.) The Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference, those that are attending, received their hotel confirmation. In March we should be receiving registration forms from the Municipal League for the actual

conference. 3.) Our office is closed on Monday, February 21st in recognition of President's Day.

Council Comments

Commissioner Boothe said on February 4th, Commissioner Unsell, Vice Mayor Pase, numerous Town Officials and himself, met with our brokerage company for the Town insurance. Right now, we are going to be looking at some different plans. The goal is to save for the dependent side some of the employee cost. Hopefully they are going to come back with four or five different options; supposed to be by the end of this month, maybe the first week of March so we can have the options when going over the budget. Hopefully we will have some good options to go by.

Commissioner Unsell and Commissioner Shaffer had no comment

Deputy Mayor Lenox – wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Public Comments: -

1. Linda Morris asked is there any update on the property on Providence Church Road, is there a masterplan, have there been any impact studies done on what it's going to do to the Town of Delmar, and can the citizens of the Town of Delmar attend Sussex County meetings. Mayor Jorden answered there was a meeting a couple weeks ago. Right now, himself and Mayor Houlihan have been conversing and trying to get letters out about their opinions and speak with Sussex County Officials letting them know their stance on it. From the meeting a couple of weeks ago they are trying to get some of the language changed back to what it was originally but to date, now he doesn't think anything else has happened. Town Mgr. Bynum-King confirmed Mayor Jorden's answer. She added the participation with Sussex County public meeting which Mayor Houlihan did attend and gave his comments about the impact a development size as proposed would have on our Town's services and resources. Delmar Mayor and Council also submitted a letter to the Sussex County Council expressing our concerns. She also added that Delmar residents should absolutely attend Sussex County meetings to express concerns. Commissioner Jorden added himself and Commissioner Shaffer wrote a letter and sent it to Sussex County opposed to what they wanted to do. Commissioner Shaffer gave a contact phone number for Sussex County.
2. Linda Morris inquired about the vandalism at St. Stephen's Cemetery; any progress on who did it. Chief Barkley responded none yet. He said he believed it was kids when you look at how the damage was caused and he has the photos of the damage that was done and it looks like most of the stones were pushed off of the platform.
3. Penny Glasgow mentioned she noticed at the corner of Foskey Lane and South Maryland Avenue, it's a bunch of solar panels and does anyone know what that's for. The Mayor and Commissioners were unaware of this project, they questioned if she was referring to the

solar panels on Foskey and Connelly Mill Rd. She insisted it was located on Maryland Avenue and Foskey Lane. Commissioners check into her inquiry.

Adjournment

Mayor Jorden called for a motion moved and seconded (Shaffer/Lenox) and carried to adjourn with a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer