

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
January 9, 2023
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, Commissioners Boothe, Shaffer and Unsell. Key Personnel: Town Manager Fleetwood, Police Chief Barkley, Clerk of Council Spencer, Robert Benson Town Attorney and Shawn Johnson were in attendance. Guest: Sarah Boothe, Autumn Boothe, Odell Jones, Mayor Bauer, Vince Luca, Kesha Bailey, Rodney Brown and Joseph Hunt, Andy O’Neal, Dawn Turner, Linda Morris, Mark Welsh, Penny Glasgow and the Delmar Ladies Field Hockey Team.

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 hoped everybody is doing well and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, (Unsell/Boothe) and carried to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes as circulated by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Student Advisory -

Lillian Frazier reported: 1.) Students are back from winter break. 2.) There have been no outbreaks or sickness so the students are doing pretty well. 3.) Boys’ Varsity Basketball record is 3-4. The next game is tomorrow at Delmar High School at 5:45 p.m. against Indian River High School. 4.) Girls’ Varsity Basketball record is 3-2. The next game is at Indian River High School at 5:00 p.m. and admission is \$5.00. 5.) The cheerleaders are doing very well. They are practicing hard. 6.) The next wrestling event is Wednesday January 11th at Indian River High School at 5:00 p.m. The record is 0-2. 7.) The craft club is doing well making door knob place cards. A good number of people have joined. 8.) Underclassman/Junior Caden Roberts was diagnosed with Stage 3 Lymphoma. Please prey or donate, if possible, to his GoFundMe “Support Caden”. Mayor Jorden thanked Ms. Frazier for attending the Mayor and Commissioners meetings every month and giving an awesome presentation. He said he thought it was awesome that her fellow students got to see her present tonight.

The Mayor and Commissioners and the Mayor and Council presented the Delmar High School Girl’s Field Hockey Team with a plaque for their accomplishments. Vice Mayor Jones commented

he enjoyed watching the effort that the Girls Field Hockey Team put in for the last seven years. He further added they have been an inspiration for Delmar High School. Mayor Bauer congratulated the girls for seven straight years, 115 wins and counting. He said this Thursday there will be a special section in the Laurel Star pertaining to the Delmar High School Girls Field Hockey Team. The Girls Field Hockey Team thanked the Mayor and Commissioners and Mayor and Council.

Oath

Mayor Jordan read the Oath for the Maryland Board of Zoning Appeals and swore in Ms. Penny Glasgow.

Audit Overview

Mark Welsh, CPA, UHY, LLP. presented an overview of the audit for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2022 for the Delmar, Maryland and Utility Commission. Please see attached. A conversation ensued.

Unfinished Business-

Mayor Jordan mentioned one looming topic since before his term began. The topic revolves around Wood Creek, a contractor that has been unpaid by the developer.

Mayor Jordan asked for a motion for suspension of permits to Wood Creek in 30 days if the Town does not receive funds and get a favorable resolution from the developer, Mr. Barry Mehta. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Ryan Homes Representative, Rodney Brown stated that Pete from Ryan Homes will be contacting Mayor Jordan to discuss the matter maybe tomorrow or sometime this week. Mayor Jordan responded he is aware Ryan Homes has gotten caught in the middle of this issue and it is not the Town's intention at all because the Town really does value the relationship that Ryan Homes has with the Town. Ultimately, the Town has unsettled debts with the developer. He said the Town appreciates Ryan Homes patience with this issue.

New Business –

None.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report

Chief Barkley said PD made it through the holidays. Thanksgiving was good, Christmas was fantastic and PD got through New Year's.

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) The Fire Dept. and Pam Price & Associates are the biggest partners PD has had this year in assisting PD. PD was able to assist five families during the

Christmas season as well as provide some essential needs to the Delmar Nursing Home and he said he feels really good about it. The big golf tournament that PD has every year, this is part of what they do with the proceeds. A very big part of what PD does is being able to partner with other representatives of the Town, with faith-based systems and businesses to make sure folks of Delmar do well. 2.) There are new additions to the PD, Officer Zachary Walters and Officer Darrell Powell which this body has already met. They graduated from the police academy in December 2022. They are now in field training and doing very well. The new PCO, Kimberly Rojas started last Tuesday and the other two newest recruits began the police academy on that same date, John McGrath and Blaine Erdie. As of right now everybody is still doing good even though they are having some aggressive PT sessions. 3.) The DE body cameras are in and in use. 4.) Now that PD staffing numbers are better PD will start being a little more proactive. Chief Barkley said you will see a lot of vehicles pulled over and a lot of flashing lights to try to bring us back to some normalcy. COVID brought us a dynamic which unfortunately continues and, in his opinion, people got used to the minimal contact and therefore some of their habits may not be the best right now. PD will take an extra effort to make them readjust and bring them back to where they need to be. 5.) There is supposed to be in the area of Eighth St. and State St. a traffic sign. The speed numbers will not come up on it, there will just be a blue flashing light. Right now, it is just collecting traffic data to show what traffic is doing in that area. Depending on what the numbers look like there may be a speed camera go up in that area, again PD has to wait for the study to be completed before PD makes any decisions. Chief Barkley mentioned when we talk about speed cameras they have to be kept in the State of MD because DE does not recognize speed cameras, MD is the only state that does. The cameras have to be in a half mile of a school zone. Chief Barkley said right now, he does not think that area is designated as a school zone but, if need be, that will be something that we push for later. Right now, he believes the camera is only on the eastbound side of the street collecting data. 6.) Patrol checks are up as well. This week you will see an increase of them as PD is going through the neighborhoods. 7.) As we look at the SRO (School Resource Officer) the effort is still there. PD intends to enhance that by adding a backup person for when SRO Jeff Novak goes on vacation, has training or maybe out sick. PD would like to have another officer trained, certified and ready by the beginning of the next school year; then have a second backup officer trained and certified by the following school year just to make sure we are taking care of our kids and schools.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood added him and Chief Barkley had a conversation last week and have a follow-up this week. They discussed the PCO aspect of things, establishing a formal mission statement and also ways of organization itself. Today the authorized headcount is 16 officers.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood further added taking a look at the organizational chart with a plan with everyone's support to increase that headcount from 16 to whatever that number may be, take a look at the chart with a projected growth such as that and keep that motivation going. Also, Chief Barkley and himself will have a discussion with the proposed organizational chart about how can they allow folks to grow professionally and increase responsibilities. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he is looking forward in the near future to sitting with the Mayor and Commissioners and Mayor and Council so they can all hear that direction in a positive fashion.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood stated about two months ago there was an attendee in the audience with genuine concerns, some of which was potentially putting cameras in Gordy Park. The cameras are expensive. Town Mgr. Fleetwood further stated the Town learned today that approval for a

\$70,000.00 Safety Grant through the State of MD was awarded.

Commissioner Boothe commented he got stopped by PD last Thursday. While there he met our new PCO. Very exciting to be in there and to see that. Also, when he was walking back, he got to see Officer Walters and to watch him start a month ahead of time and now you can still see that excitement and dedication which is so uplifting to see. We got our department built back up bigger than it was before.

Commissioner Boothe asked Chief Barkley with the new body cameras from DSP, is the storage through DSP? Chief Barkley answered yes. Commissioner Boothe said he was told there are some very nice features with the cameras. He further asked is there a lot of potential with that system? Chief Barkley answered there is. PD is still in the learning stage. The body cameras came in a week ago Friday. The body cameras are a quality product and better than the body cameras PD had initially received. The officers are excited, wearing them and using them.

Commissioner Shaffer asked Chief Barkley if they discussed the prices of the cameras at Gordy Park. Commissioner Shaffer asked if we are planning the cost to be \$5,000.00 or \$7,000.00 per camera? Chief Barkley answered it is probably going to be around that and with the system they are looking at using because it is a standalone system. He further answered it is going to be a little more expensive but a much better system then what is there now if it works as explained. A conversation ensued.

Fire Department – The report is included in the mail packets.

There are two counties that dispatch the FD. The FD has a system in the water tower and that system has been there for 25 years or more. The current system is getting to the point where it does not reach out to everybody's pagers. So, the FD updated the system so it goes into a computer system. Now there is a delay of 30 to 40 seconds before the pagers go off. The siren goes off before the FDs pagers go off. The FD has to have a siren.

Mayor Jordan asked Mr. Johnson does the FD have a plan in place for a new radio system? Mr. Johnson answered that's county. Wicomico County just replaced theirs and he is unsure what Sussex County is doing. He further answered it really does not have anything to do with the radio system; it's just that's the only way they are going to get an alert without carrying two of everything.

Commissioner Boothe asked is the phones/text faster? Mr. Johnson responded it will come up on PulsePoint before it's dispatched. The county actually pays for that program.

Mayor Jordan asked Mr. Johnson if there is anything that they can do, reach out to Wicomico County? Mr. Johnson answered no, there is nothing to be done. It's just our system. A conversation ensued.

Mr. Johnson announced Sunday, February 5th at 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. there is a beef and dumpling dinner at the VFW to help support the Ladies Field Hockey Team. The price of the dinners will be \$18.00. They are getting jackets, rings, etc. This dinner will be on the VFW Facebook page.

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.) The Utility Commission was asked to approve a transfer from the Outside Skilled Services Account to the Capital Outlay Account for \$11,275.00 to replace a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at the Wood Creek lift station which was approved. 2.) At Well #3A there will be a wellness check in February.

Planning & Zoning

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported:

1. **Kesha Bailey – Addition – 602 Maryland Ave., Delmar, MD** – Ms. Bailey presented an addition per the attached drawings. Deputy Mayor Lenox said the only condition that the Planning and Zoning Commission requested was the rear setback be noted and that has been done. Mayor Jordan asked Ms. Bailey was she planning to rent the addition out. Ms. Bailey answered no, that is her room.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission’s favorable recommendation to approve – Kesha Bailey – Addition – 602 Maryland Ave., Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Jordan/Boothe) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Bramante/Elevation A – Lot 84, 9423 Rolling Green Drive, Delmar, MD – Mr. Brown presented a new home build per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission’s favorable recommendation to approve – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Bramante/Elevation A – Lot 84, 9423 Rolling Green Drive, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Shaffer) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

2. **Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Pisa Torre/Elevation C – Lot 369, 9311 Mulligan Way, Delmar, MD** – Mr. Brown presented a new home build per the attached drawings.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission’s favorable recommendation to approve – Chris Brown/Ryan Homes – New Home Build – Wood Creek/Pisa Torre/Elevation C – Lot 369, 9311 Mulligan Way,

Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

3. **Joseph Hunt – Additions – 9131 New Bridge Drive, Delmar, MD** – Mr. Hunt presented additions per the attached drawings. Deputy Mayor Lenox said essentially the addition is a front porch with an overhanging roof, rearranging walkways not sidewalk distinguished under Ryan Homes as leadwalk.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission’s favorable recommendation to approve – Joseph Hunt – Additions – 9131 New Bridge Drive, Delmar, MD, per the attached drawings. The motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Unsell) and carried by roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager Fleetwood reported: 1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood presented the new sign for State St. Park that came in last week. The sign will be installed very soon in State St. Park. The company that made the sign is called Plak That. Town Mgr. Fleetwood discussed the material the sign is made of. He said the new sign will be mounted in the same location as the previous sign. 2.) The painting of the fence has been completed; they are not done around the new playground equipment nor with the West Tot Lot. They are waiting on the ground to dry so they can get a finisher here to finish off the ground, to make sure the soil gets seeded properly. A conversation ensued. 3.) The equipment is pretty well done at State St. 4.) The Heacock Memorial foundation has been poured for the memorial and is expected to arrive any day. 5.) New grills have arrived and we have new picnic tables that have been ordered. He further said he would like to do a major rededication of that park and it needs to be a joint venture. 6.) A piece of equipment does not match in color in the West Tot Lot and will be taken care of this spring as well. The old equipment at the West Tot Lot needs to be power-washed to get some of the mold off and that will happen in the spring. 7.) Mechanical maintenance and aesthetic maintenance is scheduled to take place between tomorrow and Wednesday for the PAC tower at the WTP. 8.) PD will have a swearing in ceremony on January 27th at 1:30 p.m. at Camelot Hall, everyone is invited. 9.) An annual employee recognition which is a service recognition will take place in February date and time to be announced. Recognition is for one, five and ten year increments thereafter recognizing employee’s longevity with the Town. The employee will receive a little plaque that memorizes the term of service. 10.) At State St. Park three new benches have been installed. 11.) The Mayor and Commissioners should have received their FY’24 budget schedule. The public is invited, it’s a work session for the Mayors, Commissioners and Council and it’s the mayor’s discretion to allow public input. A conversation ensued.

Council Comments

Commissioner Shaffer had no comment.

Commissioner Boothe commented it is very nice to see school Board Member Turner here tonight. A lot of the elected officials on both sides have really been trying really hard to bridge the gap between Delmar School district and also Wicomico but really right now the Delmar School District. He said he really feels the relationship between the towns and the school board is good, strong and

it's growing. That is a positive thing.

Commissioner Boothe further commented he got some time to spend with Superintendent of the WTP, Sophia Oberton last week as well. Ms. Oberton showed him around the plant and she has done a phenomenal job to the water treatment facility. There is a lot of work that goes into it and she is very, very particular about what she does. She does a really good job and we are really blessed to have her here; that is one aspect of her job plus she does special projects which is a lot of it.

Commissioner Booth said tomorrow night the first time in probably about three and a half years the Parks and Recreation Committee has a meeting. We've pretty much got our committee with one more to get sworn in but in his opinion moving forward we are really going to have a strong group and he is looking forward to that, doing new projects and bringing some different ideas to Delmar. Commissioner Boothe commented he is excited to get started. Also, if anybody has nothing to do tomorrow night the public is welcome to attend the meeting and they would love to see them.

Commissioner Unsell wished everyone a Happy New Year. He commented he hoped this year works out better than 2022 did.

Deputy Mayor Lenox commented a Public Input Meeting has been scheduled for the Mason Dixon Complex. The meeting will be held at the Delmar Elementary School. He said they are looking at some masterplan ideas for redoing the whole Mason Dixon Complex that is obviously led by the county but we have a pretty strong role in that as well. The meeting date and time is Wednesday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood commented to the attendees to thank the sponsors at the bottom of the new State St. Park sign if they see them.

Public Comments:

1. Vince Luca commented the Mayor and Commissioners did not give Mayor Bauer of the DE side of Delmar the opportunity to say thank you to the Ladies Field Hockey Team. If Mayor Bauer did not interrupt the Mayor and Commissioners while they were talking no one would have known he was in the room. He further commented Mayor Bauer needed to be acknowledged.
2. Shawn Johnson discussed the Mason Dixon Complex. He said this has been going on for some time. Commissioner Boothe has been involved with meetings, the Mayor and Town Mgr., and the school board. There are a lot of people involved with it. What they want to do is two things. Basically, the Mason Dixon Complex was built in the 1970's. So, the county has bought the property across from the elementary school, there are two lots there and they want to get the kids and parking away from Pennsylvania Ave. for safety issues. They want to turn the softball field and the boy's field. The only field they won't move is the girls' softball field because there were a lot of upgrades done to it so they are going to work around that. The concession stand will move and will be back behind where the pavilion is.

The one small softball field closest to Wood Creek will be turned around as well and pushed back. Basically, it comes down to two different prints they are going with that will be part of the public meeting. On one rendering there are 256 parking spaces that have been planned there. The school board has taken part in this as well because it can help them as well. So, with that it will bring more tournaments to Delmar. So, it can be a win-win for all of us. A conversation ensued.

3. Dawn Turner commented she started coming to these meetings about a year and a half ago when there were so many things going on. Ms. Turner further commented she feels really good about our Town right now. She said just attending this meeting, the feel is different. She appreciates what the Mayor and Commissioners do for the Town and she is excited to see the direction our Town is heading in.

Adjournment

Mayor Jordan called for a motion moved and seconded (Boothe/Unsell) and carried to adjourn with a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer