

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
June 12, 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. Town Manager Fleetwood, Fire Department Liaison Shawn Johnson, Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer, Administrative Assistant Starr Conaway, Planning and Zoning Director Twain Evanson, Lt. Wade Alexander and Robert Benson Town Attorney were in attendance. Guest: Bunky Luffman, Chris Atkins, Cody Shubert, Seth Shubert, Mayor Tom Bauer, Sally Smith, Dennis Murray, Colleen Marsh, Carnie Mars, Charlie & Joann Landherr, Liz Stripling, Chris Carroll, and Darrin & Beth Wyatt.

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 asked those in attendance to take a moment of silence in honor of Deputy Glen Hilliard's one-year anniversary of his tragic death in the line of duty and laying his life down for all of us.

Mayor Jorden welcomed everyone in attendance. He said he was excited to see some new faces and those in attendance may have cake following the meeting.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Boothe/Unsell) and carried to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes as circulated by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

One Digital Representative Mr. Chris Carroll, provided a presentation of the new insurance selected for the Town of Delmar employees. Town Mgr. Fleetwood publicly acknowledged Administrative Assistant Starr Conaway and Mr. Carroll for the work put into the new insurance selected. He said for the FY'24 Budget the Town of Delmar employees are about to receive a significant upgrade as it relates to health benefits.

He further stated for the record no Town of Delmar employee will see an increase in what they are paying for their health benefits but will receive a better benefit package than what they have had in the past. Town Mgr. Fleetwood shared for the FY'24 Budget taxpayers in the Town of Delmar are looking at a guaranteed \$40,000 savings on premiums and health reimbursement accounts. Deputy Mayor Lenox suggested establishing a stabilization reserve to Town Mgr. Fleetwood in reference to the newly selected health care benefits. Town Mgr. Fleetwood supported establishing a restricted reserve for the new healthcare benefits which can be initiated July 1, 2023. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Jordan acknowledged former Delmar, MD Deputy Mayor Bunky Luffman and thanked him for all the work Mr. Luffman has done at the county and the state. Mayor Jordan further acknowledged Vice Mayor Jones and Mayor Bauer from Delmar, DE for attending the meeting.

Attorney Benson read the 2nd reading of Ordinance #754, for adoption, Text Amendment, Contractor's Yard. Mr. Benson explained the ordinance.

Mayor Jordan called for a motion for a public hearing in reference to Ordinance #754, Text Amendment, Contractor's Yard. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Boothe) and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Bauer asked Mr. Benson how Ordinance #754 affects Delmar, DE. Mr. Benson explained that the ordinance only affected Delmar, MD.

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to close the public hearing in reference to Ordinance #754, Text Amendment, Contractor's Yard. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Shaffer) and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to adopt Ordinance #754, Text Amendment, Contractor's Yard. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Unsell) and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Mr. Chris Atkins introduced a potential new business for Delmar, DE, SUNMED. He explained the franchise of SUNMED CBD Store, the owner, in-house chemist, etc. Much more discussion followed.

The founding owners of Totally Rad, Mr. Cody Shubert and Mr. Seth Shubert proposed an event, Fallen Officers Benefit 5K Run, Saturday, October 7th for Corporal Keith Heacock and Corporal Glen Hilliard that lost their life in the line of duty. The donations will go to Operation We Care. Much discussion occurred in reference to location, run map, schedule, rain date and resources needed.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report –

Lt. Alexander commented Chief Barkley could not be present so he is here on his behalf.

Lt. Alexander reported as follows: 1.) Day in the Park was Saturday, June 10th with no incidents

reported. 2.) Full-time PCO Kimberly Rojas has completed her training and is working independently from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. 3.) PD is actively seeking applications for an additional PCO (Police Communications Officer) that was approved in the FY'24 Budget. 4.) Two recruits are graduating from the police academy this Friday, June 16th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ocean City Convention Center. Lt. Alexander invited everyone that could attend, elected body and public. 5.) A new recruit was hired, Kevin Doman, from New Jersey. Mr. Doman will be starting this Wednesday, June 14th and will enter the July academy class. 6.) One additional slot is currently open for a police officer and the PD is currently accepting applications. The application period will end at the end of this month. So far there has been eleven applications submitted. There are two laterals that have showed interest but have not applied.

Deputy Mayor Lenox noted there were a few Wood Creek residents attending the meeting this evening and they appreciated the police effort in Wood Creek. Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Lt. Alexander to figure out what a camera stop sign looks like in Wood Creek. Lt. Alexander responded he will research a camera stop sign. A conversation ensued.

Fire Department –

The report is included in the mail packets. Mr. Johnson reviewed the written FD report. A lengthy conversation ensued in reference to one house that burned in a fire and the houses on either side of the burned home were damaged on Grove St., permit and insurance issues.

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

Community Development Report – The report is included in the mail packets.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood introduced Mr. Twain Evanson, the new Planning and Zoning Director. He noted Mr. Evanson started with the Town of Delmar at the end of June. Mayor Jorden commented the elected body is excited to have Mr. Evanson.

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

Utility Commission –

Commissioner Unsell reported as follows: 1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood, DBF (Davis, Bowen and Friedel), and WWTP Superintendent Frank Daniels, had a virtual meeting with MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) to suggest a plan for the Town of Delmar's INI issues. They are pretty confident that phase one, phase two and phase three of the sewer replacement project is going to solve the majority of the INI issues. If that does not solve the issues the Town will have to cut back on construction and EDU issuance.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported there was no Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in May, so therefore he has not report.

Town Manager's Report –

Town Manager Fleetwood reported: 1.) The contractor that was in Town doing a lot of the concrete work/paving is returning to Town because they have a number of items for a punch list. 2.) The first “Kiddie” Parade (wagons, tricycles, bicycles) is scheduled for July 4th. The parade will start at Delmar Town Hall, go out to Pennsylvania Ave., and head south to Gordy Park. The Town will provide some patriotic tidbits for decorating. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. 3.) The Town is very close to extending an offer to the Public Works candidate allotted in the FY’24 Budget. 4.) The Town Hall are interviews are narrowing down so that means Town Hall is adding one additional person; overall one for Town Hall and one for Public Works. Also, there will be a part-time employee added to the Water Treatment Plant. 5.) June 14th WWTP Superintendent Frank Daniels, DBF, and himself will have a virtual meeting with MDE. 6.) July 14th at St. Stephens Church PD will have a swearing in ceremony that everyone is welcome. 7.) Summer help has started. They are not allowed to cross State St. or Bi-State Blvd. unless there is an adult present. The summer help will be painting fire hydrants, and weed eating with a battery-operated weed eater. 8.) Open enrollment is scheduled for June 20th and June 21st for Town of Delmar employees. There will be a guaranteed issuance of life insurance, one time only. 9.) June 20th Mayor Bauer, Mayor Jorden, DE Representative Tim Dukes and himself will be at Legislative Hall in Dover, DE to attend a session. 10.) Camera installation at Gordy Park is complete and one camera is already not functioning and that camera will be replaced this week. 11.) Heritage Day on Pennsylvania Ave. is scheduled for September 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a live band, tug-of-war, rock climbing wall, basketball tournament and vendors. Town Mgr. Fleetwood invited everyone. 12.) After July 1st the trees on the DE side of Pennsylvania Ave will be wrapped with white lights. 13.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood reached out to a couple of contractors for the cracks in the basketball courts in Gordy Park. A complete redo was recommended for the basketball court. There was a quote received and it is fairly substantial but the last time the court received any attention was 2010. 14.) Today Teal Construction started Phase 1 of the sewer main project on Chestnut St. 15.) August 4th Delmar PD is bringing back Blue Light Night at State St. Park and everyone is welcome. 16.) Tomorrow morning at 6:30 a.m. The entire Town Hall Staff, Police Chief, Police Lieutenant, Superintendent of the WWTP and Superintendent of the WTP and himself will be taking a trip to Arlington National Cemetery to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, tour the training quarters, and the living quarters. Also attending this trip will be the longest serving Mayor of the Town of Delmar, Maryland, Mr. Doug Niblett and former Mayor William Brittingham of Delmar, DE. Both mayors are former veterans and will be placing a wreath on behalf of the Town of Delmar. After that we will tour Fort Myer and the Army Caisson Stables, stop and have lunch and return back to Town Hall.

Parks & Recreation – Report is included in the mail packets

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) There was no meeting last month. 2.) May 20th was the park clean-up. He said he was very impressed and PW is doing a fantastic job of keeping the parks clean. The Parks and Recreation Committee did not find a tremendous amount of trash. 3.) June 16th is the first movie night. He thanked 3C Church for helping with everything technical. The start time is 8:00 p.m. The movie selected is “Sandlot”. A conversation ensued.

Council Comments –

Commissioner Boothe wished Vice Mayor Jones a Happy Birthday. He thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood and Administrative Assistant Starr Conaway for all the hard work concerning the health insurance. He commented it is awesome to see from last year to now getting good insurance which is near and dear to him.

Commissioner Boothe reminded everyone that the railroad has started a tie project and it will be loud and noisy. They have already started about a four-mile stretch going down to Perdue in Salisbury, MD. They will start from Carroll St. and come north so in three to four weeks they will be in the Town of Delmar. The train should be coming through the Town of Delmar at around 4:00 a.m.

Commissioner Unsell commended the Delmar Chamber of Commerce. He said The Day in the Park this year was an outstanding experience. Great music and great events for the kids. The Day in the Park is always the second Saturday in June. It just gets bigger and bigger every year.

Deputy Mayor Lenox noted this has been an incredibly positive meeting and a lot of positive things to look forward to as well. He said he thought it was amazing how everything has come together so much. A lot of work behind the scenes, community volunteers, and staff. It looks like it is only going to get better. Thank you to everyone.

Commissioner Shaffer reminded everyone that the Delmar Fire Department's Sportsman Bash tickets are on sale, buy some tickets and support your local fire company. It's a good event and always a good time.

Commissioner Shaffer asked for everyone's patience with the improvements that are being done on Pine St. and Chestnut St. He said it will be a lifestyle change but that is just what it is and we are going to get a new roadbed. Slow down if you have children, there are going to be some deep holes in the ground that are not going to totally be covered every single night because of the kind of work that is going on. Keep your kids away, it is not a playground.

Commissioner Shaffer commented from what the insurance for the Town of Delmar employees was to what it is now is amazing. It's going to help retain employees and it is awesome to see the change come about.

Mayor Jorden commented the Blue Night is completely free.

Public Comments –

- 1.) Sally Smith commented last year she came to Town Hall meetings whining and crying about Connelly Mill Road's potholes constantly. She said she would call this lady that would send someone out to fill the holes and then it would rain and would wash the filling out of the pothole. When Connelly Mill Road was approved in the FY'23 Budget she would make Mayor Jorden a cake and she made a cake.

- 2.) Bunky Luffman commented when he was elected, Walnut St. project which was the same. Walnut St. had multiple phases and back then they just did not have the money to do it. This community was really patient with that project so he expects the same. Patience is required on both sides. A conversation ensued.
- 3.) Mr. Luffman offered collaboration on roads and basketball courts.
- 4.) Mr. Luffman said the County Executive's Office is going to do a ceremonial county seat for the day. He said they are going to go meet with all the municipalities and staff, the municipality tells them their concerns.

Deputy Mayor Lenox noted that Mr. Luffman is Director of Administration for Wicomico County and does great work for the Town of Delmar.

Adjournment –

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

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer