

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
March 10, 2025
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Benjamin Jordan 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, Student Advisor, Braiden Alexander, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Doug Marshall, Sadhak Gonzalez, and Les Sherrill.

Mayor Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

Mayor Jordan thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried to approve the Joint Council February 3, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried with a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Abstain (Lenox).

Unfinished Business –

Old PD Update

Mayor Jordan stated work has been started at the old Delmar PD which will be the future community center for Delmar, Maryland. He said the building has been demoed, there is still some cleaning that has to be done, the building was just painted, and there will be more work to come.

New Business –

Continued Use of Side Building

Mr. Doug Marshall updated the Mayor and Commissioners and stated they bought a country store that has been in business since the 1990's. The Groove Restaurant is there as well but they have been using the side building since they made the purchase 8 or 10 years ago. Mayor Jordan asked Mr. Marshall what the intended use is for the side building. Mr. Marshall answered they planned on using the side building for wedding parties, private, and public events throughout the year. He mentioned the side building is an ancillary use to the restaurant.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Mr. Marshall if the side building affects the sewer allotment. Mr. Marshall answered no, they were given 5 EDU's total and they are using a fraction of that. He further answered everything is tied into the pump station. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Jordan asked Mr. Marshall how the lot selling is progressing at Sunset Acres. Mr. Marshall answered they have sold four lots. They had to combine lots two and three in order to sell Lot 3,

Lot 4 recently closed, and they are still sitting on the rest of the lots. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added the agreement that was made with Mr. Mark Murphy will be a part of his Public Works Agreement and Mr. Murphy has committed to worst case scenario August 2025 when he does his base coating over in Kiltel Estate or if he is over at Stillwater prior, he just wants to pay one monetization charge. A conversation occurred.

Building Residential Home

Mr. Sadhak Gonzalez stated the request is to build a house at 506 E. East St., Delmar, Maryland. Deputy Mayor Lenox mentioned that when Mr. Gonzalez applied for a variance and appeared before the Maryland Board of Zoning and Appeals research revealed the lot did not exist so no action was taken.

Mr. Les Sherril stated since the Maryland Board of Zoning Appeals meeting there is a plat on record and he presented the stat sheet for 506 E. East St. A discussion occurred between Mr. Sherril, Mr. Robert Benson, Esq, and council.

In conclusion it was decided by Mr. Benson that he will have an answer by April 1st if 506 E. East St. is a legal lot to avoid an advertising issue for a variance if necessary. Mr. Sherril provided his contact information to Mr. Benson.

Student Advisory –

Student Advisor, Mr. Braiden Alexander said the last meeting he attended was November 2024 when he talked about obtaining and expanding opportunities for students at Delmar High School. He further said he was unable to get the outreach he would like to but he has honed in on the scholarships that he has been working towards for students.

Student Advisory, Braiden Alexander discussed DE students receiving the SEED Scholarships, MD students receiving the PROMISE Scholarships, difficulty obtaining scholarships for students that live in Delmar, Maryland, expanding scholarship opportunities for students that live in Delmar that don't qualify for the PROMISE Scholarship or SEED scholarship due to it's specifications, contacting multiple counselors at Wor-Wic about scholarships, and researching outside entities offering scholarships for students. A conversation occurred in reference to outside resources.

Committee Reports:

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

Commissioner Shaffer inquired about 150% change in narcotics. Chief Barkley responded it only takes a few arrests to make changes in the stats. He further inquired about 250% juvenile arrests. He further responded because our numbers are low either increase in arrests or one or two additional incidents the percentages jump.

Chief Barkley said last Wednesday the town attended the ceremony in Cheswold, DE for Office Manager, Kimberly Layton. Upon his return at Delmar limits a vehicle passed him and Delmar a Police Officer clocked that vehicle at 92 mph.

Mayor Jorden thanked Chief Barkley for all he does. He inquired about DE having terroristic threats. Chief Barkley responded the way the DE law is written the verbal threat is actuable where by again on the MD side it is not so actuable. There are certain things you have to say and do to get charged in threatening on the DE side.

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) No new crime trends or major incidents to report. 2.) Chief Barkley received an email from a Delmar resident in reference to the speed limit at Woodcreek. He stated he is not in power to change the speed limit to what the resident requested. There may be avenues where the town can do so. Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Chief Barkley if there is a minimum speed limit on local streets. Chief Barkley answered 25 mph. He further asked him if the town can post speed limits less than 25 mph. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered they can. A conversation occurred.

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

Commissioner Boothe thanked Planning and Zoning Director, Twain Evanson for stepping into this role along with his position. Town Mgr. Fleetwood stated the town should be interviewing for this role by the end of this week. A conversation occurred.

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

Mayor Jorden said with Dr. Sophia Oberton leaving Public Works has a lot of staff getting their water license through DE and MD. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he had the new Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Mr. Ron Bailey come before the Utility Commission and do a brief introduction, he is onboard, Wednesday and Thursday Mr. Bailey have an overlap with Dr. Oberton, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday John McGee and Jason Loar from Davis, Bowen, and Friedel are coming onsite to do a pass down from their prospective.

Utility Commission –

Commissioner Shaffer reported: 1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood discovered and investigated all concerns the commission had. A conversation occurred.

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

Parks & Recreation –

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) There was a discussion about letters submitted to local businesses for the New Year's Eve Celebration. A subcommittee will be assembled. A DJ was secured for the event. 2.) Another discussion was held about the Wicomico United Recreational Soccer League that presented to the Mayor and Commissioners previously. 3.) April 26th is the town's park clean up. The rain date will be April 27th. The start time for both days will be 1:00 p.m. A conversation occurred about the Wicomico United Recreational Soccer League.

Fire Department – No report.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported all of the business in the February 20, 2025 meeting was on the Delaware side.

Deputy Mayor Lenox updated the commission about a plan for the Delmar Business Center, LLC on the DE side. Deputy Mayor Lenox provided a brief synopsis. Planning and Zoning Director, Twain Evanson added the biggest plus is they plan to put a service road/access road running east to west.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood thanked Mayor Jorden for the work he has put in to the old PD.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported as follows: 1.) When the weather permits, the town will begin work at Pennsylvania Ave. on the MD side. The Gordy Park basketball courts fence is down. The town is waiting for the asphalt plant to open and the vendor should come to town and begin the milling then overlay.

Mayor Jorden publicly acknowledged what Mr. Blair Carey did as far as the mural of Cpl. Keith Heacock on the side of the Bric Row building across from PD.

Mayor Jorden asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood when the city scape project will begin. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered when it begins it will be all hands-on deck.

Council Comments –

Commissioners Nembhard, Boothe, and Shaffer had no comment.

- 1.) Deputy Mayor Lenox commented work is proceeding to the MD Comprehensive Plan. There will be at least one meeting per month with at least one consultant. In a few months they will have something to share and start looking for input.

Public Comments –

None.

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