

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
May 12, 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. Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Town Attorney, Robert Benson, Police Chief, Ivan Barkley, Delmar Fire Department Chief Joshua Joyner, Delmar Fire Department Deputy Chief Justin Elliott, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Lloyd Unsell and Justin Polizzi.

Mayor Jorden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

None.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Boothe/Shaffer) and carried to approve the April 14, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried with a vote of 5 Ayes.

Wicomico County Tourism

Wicomico County Tourism Manager, Justin Polizzi introduced himself and discussed the office location, tourism being at 85% with sports and growing that impact number, adding conferences, events, festivals, and ways to make an economic impact for the community and county. A conversation ensued.

Unfinished Business –

2nd Reading, Adopting Codification and Revisions of Ordinance # 760

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to go into a public hearing for the second reading of Ordinance #760 Adopting Codification and Revisions. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden read Ordinance #760; the 2nd Reading for Adopting Codification and Revisions.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to Adopt the Codification and Revisions Ordinance #760. The motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Boothe) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to close the public hearing for the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #760. A motion was made/seconded (Nembhard/Shaffer) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

2nd Reading, Tax Incentive for Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to go into a public hearing for the 2nd Reading for the Tax Incentive for the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Mayor Jorden conducted the 2nd Reading for the Tax Incentive for the Delmar Volunteer Fire Department. Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained the revisions for the tax incentive. A conversation ensued.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to Adopt the Tax Incentive for Delmar Volunteer Fire Department Members. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Shaffer) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Abstain (Boothe).

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Nembhard/Lenox) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

1st Reading, Introduction Charter Changes Resolution 2025-06-09-01 through 2025-06-09-05

Mayor Jorden introduced the Charter Changes Resolutions 2025-06-09-01 through 2025-06-09-05.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood and Town Attorney, Robert Benson explained the charter changes. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to accept the 1st Reading, of Charter Resolutions 2025-06-09-01 through 2025-06-09-05. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

New Business –

None.

Student Advisory –

Student Advisor, Mr. Braiden Alexander, was not present.

Committee Reports:

Fire Department – Report was given at the meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief, Joshua Joyner reviewed the fire department statistics. Mr. Joyner shared his appreciation and thanks for the tax incentive.

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

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) Earlier this evening there was an armed robbery at Hardee's off the highway which is unusual for Delmar. The same suspects hit a Hardee's in Laurel, DE and possibly another restaurant in Seaford, DE. PD has notified all of their local partners and counties to give them a heads up. PD does have a tag on the vehicle however, the tag is stolen from Cambridge, MD. There is other evidence that PD is working with but that may take a little longer to process and possibly identify a suspect.

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

Commissioner Shaffer commented he met the new Code Enforcement Officer; Kayla Trice and she seems to have a good attitude for what she has to deal with. Mayor Jorden added Ms. Trice has jumped into her position.

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

Commissioner Shaffer commented he is very impressed with how public works planted the trees for the street scape project.

Utility Commission –

The Utility Commission meeting was May 12, 2025.

Commissioner Shaffer reported: 1.) Fire hydrants were discussed when there is a fire the upstream hydrants will go dry at lower stream. The elementary school was notified and they had no issues. Neighboring neighborhoods were okay. Commissioner Shaffer thanked the Delmar Fire Department for their communication with Town Mg. Fleetwood. 2.) Connelly Mill Rd. is back open. DBF will meet with town staff about lead service lines to come up with a plan for houses.

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

Parks & Recreation –

There was no meeting for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The Parks and Recreation Subcommittee meeting was April 29, 2025.

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) At the Subcommittee meeting Chairperson Commissioner Boothe, Commissioner Shaffer, and Council Member McClure were in attendance. The Delmar Fire Department, Delmar Police Department, and local civic groups were represented as well. Commissioner Boothe said the meeting was very productive in getting the ball rolling. Commissioner Boothe gave a recap of the subcommittee meeting.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported the meeting was on April 24, 2025 and all of the business was on the DE side as it will be for this upcoming month.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported as follows: 1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood commented the town is mandated both with MDE and DNREC to publish a consumer confidence report (CCR) as it pertains to the town's drinking water and the quality of the water. He further commented the numbers came back A+'s and that report will be going out soon because the town is mandated to provide the report to the residents and the report has to be posted. 2.) Tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. sod will be laid rain or shine. There are 20 pallets of sod at the old police department. 3.) Wednesday of this week town hall will be closed to do a team building exercise in Smith Island. 4.) Thursday town staff will meet with DBF for the lead service line project. 5.) This week town staff and DBF will meet with Colonial Mill about connecting them with town water. 6.) Next Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the chambers at town hall the latest Hometown Hero Banners will be publicly on display for the families. 7.) Wednesday and Thursday of next week open enrollment will take place for employee benefits. 8.) May 22nd at 12:00 p.m. the annual BBQ will take place. Chief Barkley will BBQ hamburgers and hotdogs. There will be chips, and Town Mgr. Fleetwood will make be making milkshakes. The annual BBQ is open to the public.

Council Comments –

- 1.) Commissioner Nembhard complemented everyone involved in the Connelly Mill Rd. issue. He said job well done.
- 2.) Commissioner Boothe thanked Chief Finance Officer, Heather Chandler and town staff for their work on the new budget. Commissioner Boothe echoed comments made by Commissioner Nembhard. He commented on speeding concerns he received from residents on Mar-Lynn Dr. during the detour. Commissioner Boothe questioned detour sign removal. A conversation occurred.
- 3.) Commissioner Shaffer commented the tree planting looks great for the street scape project. He publicly thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for his help with the project.
- 4.) Deputy Mayor Lenox commented the street scape project is looking great. He mentioned reminding DBF of pricing out the sidewalk pass the police station to tie into the Mason Dixon Complex. A conversation ensued.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment –

Mayor Jorden called for a motion to adjourn which was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 10 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer