

**MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 9, 2023**  
**MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Deputy Mayor Lenox 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 Commissioners Boothe and Shaffer. Town Manager Fleetwood, Chief Barkley, Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer, Town Engineer Josh Taylor and Fire Department Liaison Shawn Johnson were in attendance. Guests: Mayor Bauer, Vice Mayor Jones, Council Member Lanier, Dennis Murray, Ronald Nembhard, Andy O’Neal, Tim Metzner, Steve Miller, Jackie Milter, Wicomico County Director of Administration Bunky Luffman, and Christine Phiefer. Absent: Mayor Jorden and Commissioner Unsell.

Deputy Mayor Lenox performed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked that members of the Delmar, DE Council, and Delmar High School Superintendent Andy O’Neal join them at the dais. He said obviously two states one Town. This weekend we were reminded once again that we can all come together when something happens to any of us, children, and families. Delmar truly is in mourning. He further said please let us join together in a moment of silence in recognition of the children and families in our community.

Delmar High School Superintendent Mr. O’Neal thanked everyone and said he appreciated the support. He said it has been a tough, tough day. There have been a lot of supportive phone calls and people just reaching out non-stop. This is what makes Delmar great, this is what we do here we stick together. He further said he received positive news about the young man that is hospitalized. He mentioned he has also spoken to the family of the young man that passed away and they are hanging in there.

Mr. O’Neal said there will be an update going out tomorrow about the services that they are trying to finalize. He further said he cannot thank the Town of Delmar enough. Mayor Bauer thanked Mr. O’Neal for the update and he said it was great news. This Town has come together and we are all here for the same reason. Delmar is just one community and one Town; we are praying for our community and all of the students.

**Mayor’s Comments –**

Deputy Mayor Lenox commented Mayor Jorden and Commissioner Unsell were absent.

**Approval of Minutes –**

A motion was made, seconded, (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried to approve the September 11, 2023 minutes as circulated by a roll call vote of 3 Ayes 2 Absent (Jorden/Unsell).

## **Unfinished Business –**

None.

## **New Business –**

### **Halloween 2023 Resolution**

Deputy Mayor Lenox introduced and read the Halloween 2023 Resolution.

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to approve the 2023 Halloween Resolution. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Boothe) and carried by a roll call vote of 3 Ayes 2 Absent (Jorden/Unsell).

### **Mason Dixon Complex Update**

Wicomico County Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Steve Miller, explained the planning processes for safety for park users, concepts, and described the parks improvements. He also highlighted the new public staff and public parking lot and its location, lighting, orientation of fields, walking paths, new pickleball courts, new concession stand, next steps, costs and contributions and more enhancements. A lengthy conversation ensued.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Police Chief's Report –**

Chief Barkley mentioned he is very thankful to be apart of this Town to see what is going on, the way that everything comes together, and the way everyone stands up for each other. He said his prayers go out to the affected families.

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) Earlier in the month there was a pedestrian accident on Rt.13 southbound near the Delmar Diner where a female pedestrian was struck and seriously injured. The pedestrian is still in ICU. PD is still working on ways to avoid those pedestrian incidents on that highway that seem to be more frequent as of late. 2.) PD has been working on more school bus safety because there have been complaints about people driving through the flashing lights on the bus when the buses are stopped. 3.) Recruit Doman in the academy this week is beginning his firearms qualification segment in which he is having some challenges. Lt. Alexander, one of Delmar PD's firearms instructors will assist Mr. Doman and help him get through this process. 4.) One of the part-time PCOs started her training last week. Both PCOs were suppose to start their training this week but because of the incidents that occurred from last weekend the process has slowed down. The second PCO in training will get through the process quicker because she has prior experience. Those PCOs will be working weekend hours so the officers will have someone inhouse. 5.) The backgrounds have been completed for the two new recruits for the next academy class. They are having hearing tests this week. 6.) Construction on PD's new pole building is well underway and it is was quality work. 7.) The golf tournament went very well and PD looks forward to next year's tournament. 8.) The school crossing guard has been out for the last four weeks and is expected to be out for a couple more weeks. The officers working day shift have been covering crossing guard duties as well as all their other duties.

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

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

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

**Utility Commission** –

Commissioner Shaffer reported as follows: 1.) Reallocation of funds from Contingency to Capital Outlay to replace the duct tile pipe at the Pine St. lift station for \$23,000 was approved. 2.) A sink hole was discussed at the end of the road by the Holiday Inn Express. Town Mgr. Fleetwood indicated it was not initially as bad as it was thought to be. 3.) The WTP had a compressor break down and reallocation of funds for the amount of \$12,000 was approved to get a new compressor. 4.) New windows have been installed at the WTP. Commissioner Shaffer commented the windows look professional and they make the Town look good. 5.) An update was provided by Town Mgr. Fleetwood for the new sewer pipes on Chestnut St., Pine St., and a small section of Pennsylvania Ave. Town Mgr. Fleetwood indicated that Teal Construction was waiting for pipe that had been ordered. Chestnut St. should be completed by the end of the year. Also, the Town has just closed on the loan for the other part of the sewer project.

**Planning & Zoning** –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported the Planning and Zoning Commission did not meet on September 21, 2023. He said he looks forward to a much busier time later this month.

**Parks & Recreation** –

Commissioner Boothe reported: 1.) The big item that was discussed was a New Year's Eve Ball Drop this year and actually using the highball. This idea was discussed with the Delmar, DE side and they had discussion. The direction will not be a midnight ball drop but ending around 9:00 p.m. and family oriented, possible vendors, and small in size for the first year. Some of the members asked if we could partner with the tree lighting ceremony at State St. Park. Commissioner Boothe said he would have to reach out to former Council Member Smith to get his input. It would be to assist from the Town's side because St. Stephen's put a lot of hard work in the tree lighting. 2.) October 21<sup>st</sup> there is another farmers market. Commissioner Boothe invited everyone to attend.

**Fire Department** – Report is included in the mail packets.

Mr. Shawn Johnson reviewed the Fire Department Report. He mentioned November 4<sup>th</sup> is the Sportsman's Giveaway. Tickets are still available.

**Town Manager's Report** –

Town Manager Fleetwood reported: 1.) The power is on at the PW building on Foskey Ln. The receptacles and lights have been installed. Some work is taking place on the exterior for parking areas

for some of the larger vehicles. 2.) Some renovations are being done to the existing well house. 3.) At the October 2023 Mayor and Council meeting they approved the contractor and awarded the RFP for the State St. Park restrooms making them ADA accessible with the appropriate sidewalk going out to State St. and also to the parking area. Also, the Town is looking to potentially paving the parking area. The work should begin this week and be open before Christmas. 4.) A ribbon cutting was held at Stillwater this past week on the DE side. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he was informed by the sales office that they have significant bookings. Stillwater is not to exceed 30 homes this year and next year the numbers will go up. The numbers for the homes were built in a discussion with MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment). 5.) WTP Superintendent Sophia Oberton has picked up a number of accolades in the last couple weeks. The one that hits home to her the most is DE Rural Water Treatment Plant Operator of the Year. Town Mgr. Fleetwood commented that is a significant accomplishment and he applauds her for that. 6.) Delmarva Power is coming to Breckenridge to replace the lights from the standards to LED which will happen in the next 30 days. 7.) The Maryland Department of transportation is repaving the crosswalks at the intersection at Pennsylvania Ave. and State St. Maryland State Highway offers one model of crosswalk that resembles a keyboard then they will return in 30 days to do the thermoplastic overlay. The next task they will be working on is the intersection at Bi-State Blvd. and Rt.54. 8.) There is a new law that passed for MD based employers called Maryland Time to Care Act which means the State of MD has enacted that employers must give employees paid time off for family medical leave. 9.) The Town of Delmar is working on revamping the employee handbook because it is outdated. Before the end of the calendar year a Joint Session will be scheduled to review proposed changes in the employee handbook.

### **Council Comments** –

Commissioner Boothe commented the lights on Pennsylvania Ave. look amazing. He thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for help with the lights at Breckenridge.

Commissioner Shaffer commented the WTP looks good. He said ride by Foskey Ln. where PW is gradually moving into the new building. Everything looks nice when riding by it is a sense of pride. When riding by East St. the pole building for PD looks really good. He further said he is really proud of the work that everyone is doing and how things are getting done. He mentioned he is getting compliments from people from outside of Town.

Commissioner Shaffer further commented the Mason Dixon Park will be a huge economic driver. The long run of things being able to bring extra tournaments in means more money for local businesses, not having to police the people that would come in and out of Town on a regular basis.

Commissioner Shaffer said he is proud of the work Town Hall is doing. If you go down to PW you will see new vehicles. The Town has saved money on new vehicles which, in his opinion, is based on relationships and the buying power the Town has. He thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood and Town Hall Staff for their work and being mindful of money.

Commissioner Shaffer further said the lights on Pennsylvania Ave. look amazing. The cabin car looks great. It's a sense of pride.

Deputy Mayor Lenox thanked everyone for attending the meeting particularly his colleagues from the DE side. He said it is very important that they are at this meeting.

**Public Comments** –

None.

**Adjournment** –

Mayor Jordan called for a motion moved and seconded (Boothe/Unsell) and carried to adjourn with a roll call vote of 3 Ayes 2 Absent (Jordan/Unsell).

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council  
Vondell Spencer