

**MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 25, 2021**  
**MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Wells called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Delmar, Maryland to order at 6:30 P.M. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. In attendance were Deputy Mayor Unsell, Commissioners Tucker and Lenox. Town Manager Bynum-King, Police Chief Barkley, Clerk of Council Spencer, Robert Benson Town Attorney.

Guests: Mayor Houlihan, Vice Mayor Pase, Council Members Smith, Jones and Kemp, Chief Barkley, Cassandra Barkley, Sgt. Bond, Robin Bond, David Brown Pfc., Justin Smithhart, Pfc., Jennifer Smithhart, Jeffrey Novak, Pfc, Megan Novak, Lt. Wade Alexander and Shannon Alexander, Anita Heacock-Feaster, Matthew Feaster, Joy Smith, Tracey Houlihan, Mary Lou Unsell, Angie Jackson, Carrie Lenox, Penny Glasgow, Tracey West-Ney, Tom Bauer, Angel Calloway, Tina Marzec and Paul Thornburg.

Mayor Wells performed the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked everyone for coming.

**Mayor's Comments –**

Mayor Wells gave a brief history of the process leading up to this event. The officers earned the right to bargain in Maryland in 2007. In 2019 the officers decided to exercise that right in Maryland. The Maryland Commissioners were confused how the bargaining with Maryland only could happen. She further mentioned she was the first to be resistant. It was not because she did not want the officers to have the money or the benefits, it was basically how was Maryland independently going to fund it because the officers do not have collective bargaining rights in Delmar, Delaware. She added in an effort to work with Delmar, Maryland the Delaware Town Council did graciously volunteer to fund their 40% of the Officers' salaries according to the new negotiated pay scale, which is associated with the contract. If the collective bargaining contract is accepted this evening, it will be the second municipal contract enacted in the State of Maryland.

Mayor Wells invited the Delaware Mayor and Council members to join her and the Maryland Commissioners to the council bench because they deserve to be part of this monumental occasion.

**New Business –**

Mayor Wells asked Attorney Robert Benson if he would come forth and present Resolution 2021-10-1, the Acceptance of Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Town Attorney Benson read in its entirety the Acceptance of Collective Bargaining Agreement Resolution 2021-10-1.

Mayor Wells called for a motion to accept the Acceptance of Collective Bargaining Agreement Resolution 2021-10-1. The motion was made/seconded (Unsell/Tucker) and carried by roll call

vote of 4 Ayes.

### **Spouse's Comments –**

Mayor Wells stated it takes a very special woman or man to be the spouse of a police officer. The police officers have to go home and describe the things that they have seen and done. Their spouse is there willing and waiting to listen. She further stated while she did not always agree with what was said by the wives and how they said it she admires each of them that came to the meetings because they stepped up and she appreciates and admires that; she would do the same.

Robin Bond the spouse of Sgt. Michael Bond agreed to speak on behalf of the Officers' wives, she read a prepared statement for the record.

### **Police Comments –**

Mayor Wells gave her condolences to Sgt. Michael Bond for the loss of his mother.

Sgt. Michael Bond agreed to speak on behalf of the Officers, he read a prepared written statement for the record.

Mayor Wells and Mr. Thornberg signed the Collective Bargaining Contracts. Mr. Thornberg thanked everyone for the roles they played to getting the contract finalized. He said he appreciated all efforts. He further said he hoped this will start mending some fences making it a little easier to move on, maybe give the police officers a sense of security.

### **Council Comments**

Commissioner Tucker – No comment.

Commissioner Lenox – A lot of things obviously come to mind in a room like this and a time like this. Thinking of public service, public service takes a lot of different forms. But throughout this difficult time that the Town is coming through and one thing was persistent and that's employees were there every day and many were on the front lines and just doing what they do to serve our community. It's important that public service be recognized and appreciated particularly in this instance for those who chose public service for a career and choosing public service as a career you also deserve your compensation. Just wanted to join all who have gotten us to this point for the important first step and just go from here.

Deputy Mayor Unsell – Agreed with Commissioner Lenox. It's a new day in this beautiful Town. Thank you, Robin Bond, for being an important voice through this whole thing. We need important voices. Thank you to everybody that came out and voiced their opinions on how to get this off Ground Zero and moving ahead and in his opinion, we are in agreement at a very important time in our Town's history. Nowhere to go but forward from here.

Council Member Kemp, stated It's been a long time coming and from day one, he told Chief he had his back. He added his vote has been with Chief since.

Council Member Jones – Thanked everyone for their patience. He is glad to see this contract done and hope we continue to build our relationship back and grow stronger from this.

Council Member Smith – Hope we continue to move forward and not backward. This is just a start and we need to stay on top of what’s going on and keep these ladies and gentlemen on the street safe so they can do the job they’re supposed to do.

Vice Mayor Pase – Tonight showed what the Town does as a community and officers. When we walk out of this room after every meeting, we might have had some times when it was uncomfortable and it hurt our feelings and your feelings were hurt because we weren’t doing what you wanted us to do as fast as everyone wanted but when we walked out that door, we were friends with everybody. Hopefully this is the way everybody saw this process. We will continue working for the community and tonight shows the unification we have gotten to. We have other things coming down the road but it’s a start. Thanks to all attendees for being there.

Mayor Houlihan – It’s been a tough long road for all of us. None of us could ever imagine what happened to Cpl. Keith Heacock on that day. We found out a lot about each other and it’s taken a toll on us but here we are this evening. Our community, our Town and as Sgt. Bond said to him tonight, “Tomorrow the sun is going to come up in Delmar and it’s going to be a new day”. We are going to walk forward together and move in a better direction. Yes, we have work to do but we are going to do that. We are a strong Town and the officers are some of the best individuals he had the chance to be around. So, when they hurt, we all hurt. We will walk together and unify and do the best that we can to grown the Town of Delmar.

Mayor Wells announced they were having a reception following this meeting at the V.F.W. for officers, spouses, and Elected Officials.

## **Adjournment**

Mayor Wells called for a motion moved and seconded (Unsell/Lenox) and carried to adjourn with a roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council  
Vondell Spencer