

**Utility Commission
December 7, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Madam Chair Pase. Due to COVID-19, this meeting is taking place via teleconference. The phone number and access code has been provided to all the members as well as the public. In attendance were Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Smith, Deputy Mayor Unsell, Town Manager Bynum- King and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer.

Madam Chair Pase took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum and all were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Smith/Unsell) and carried to approve the November 2, 2020 minutes. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was passed with 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business – None Reported.

New Business – None Reported.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported due to the heavy rainfall last week the WWTP performance was impacted causing the daily numbers to exceed the permit. Superintendent, Frank Daniels, shut down certain components of operation to allow the high volume of wastewater to flow through the system to be recirculated to prevent spills within the system. In doing so the recirculation washed out some of the chemicals that keep the plant functioning within the permit. She added, when the Town violates its permit, a five-day letter has to be sent to the State of Maryland explaining the situation and the corrective action taken.

Town Manager Bynum-King mentioned that Mr. Daniels is doing well managing the WWTP. She said he has a software program on his phone and laptop with capabilities to monitor and to make adjustments to the plant operations as necessary from home. She added that Mr. Daniels had to come into the WWTP over the weekend to make sure all the water from the heavy rain was contained in the plant and to ensure no spills occurred.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King said the Wastewater Treatment Plant is down to two employees. She said that Wastewater Operator, Wallace Harris, resigned effective immediately. She mentioned that Superintendent Daniels will start the search for a replacement after the first of the year. She mentioned that the newest Wastewater Operator is performing very well with the testing and many other operational components.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported today was our disconnect day for unpaid utility bills. She said by the end of last week the Municipal Clerk informed her that there were approximately 176 residents that have delinquent accounts. The Municipal Clerk made several calls to the delinquent residents in an attempt to set up payment arrangements or collect payments. She said the list for disconnects was reduced to 86 delinquent accounts. Town Manager Bynum-King said she did speak with both of the Mayors and Utility Chair Pase in reference to the disconnect fee in the amount of \$50.00 being waived. She mentioned that several of the accounts were a couple of quarters delinquent. She further said during the initial stage of COVID there were restrictions on disconnection of services, which caused some residents to fall further behind in their payments. Town Mgr. Bynum-King stated the ultimate goal is to get the bill paid and for families struggling financially to use the \$50.00 disconnect fee in more ways beneficial to their family. Our budgeted revenue is based on the actual user fee collected verses the penalty. The Town is working with families to try to get their accounts current.

Commission Member Dewald questioned Town Mgr. Bynum-King how long Wastewater Operator Mr. Harris was employed at the WWTP. Town Mgr. Bynum-King answered approximately 5 years and he is a 5-A licensed Operator. Madam Chair Pase mentioned how sad this happened at this time of year and she is sorry he felt he had to leave without working out his issues. Town Mgr. Bynum-King added Mr. Harris does have a 5-A license so he should be able to find employment. Madam Chair Pase said she is hopeful everything will work out for Mr. Harris.

Council Comments

Madam Chair Pase-mentioned to Council Member Smith that the tree in the park looks great. She apologized for not being in attendance for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. She said she hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and hopefully 2021 will be a better year for us all.

Commission Member Dewald said she wished everyone a peaceful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Deputy Mayor Unsell said he wished everyone a happy holiday, stay safe, wear your mask and social distance.

Council Member Smith had no comment.

Adjournment

A motion was made, second (Dewald/Unsell) and carried to adjourn. By roll call, the motion passed with 4 Ayes.

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer