

Utility Commission
December 5, 2022
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Commissioner Shaffer. This meeting is available to the public, in person and via teleconference. The phone number and access code for accessibility to the meeting for the general public is posted on the meeting agenda. In attendance were Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Morris, via teleconference Commissioner Unsell, Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Mayor Thomas Bauer and Vince Luca.

Commissioner Shaffer took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum and three were present, and via teleconference Commissioner Unsell.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Dewald/Unsell) and carried to approve the November 7, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Shaffer took a roll call vote and the motion was passed 3 Ayes 1 Abstain (Morris).

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business/Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton, Officer Manager, Municipal Clerk, Kimberly Layton, DBf and himself met today to discuss more about the Lead and Copper Rule. He said they have until October 2024 to get their plans/inventory together for the corporate limits of town, MD and DE. That inventory will list: 1.) definitely do not have lead pipes, 2.) unsure probable not lead, 3.) unsure lead.

He further reported they are trying to figure out how they are going to over 300 homes to determine if there is lead from the water main to the meter pit because that is town property and then from the meter pit to the private side. The residents have to be informed three times if they have lead, if that is the case. We have to have something from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) because if the resident asks how they can fix if there is no definitive answer meaning that they have to do it.

Commissioner Shaffer asked if we can adopt an EPA Rule from 1978 and before where it was automatically assumed that the home had lead paint? He further asked if we can adopt that by year of construction in residential homes in the town? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered we have already done that. A conversation ensued.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained on York Street this past week an 8-inch line valve was replaced that was in the middle of the road. This is only one valve which was the original valve that was put in place when the original WTP was built.

He said Maryland Rural Water Association and Ms. Oberton are working on chlorine valves in the WTP as we speak. A.C. Schultes will be in town this week to do a wellness inspection of well #3B which is located at the PW yard. Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained how the wellness check is done.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported the parts have arrived for the inside of the PAC tower at the WTP. The work should begin as soon as all the parts arrive which is any day. A.C. Schultes are also going to be doing the exterior maintenance on the PAC tower.

CES was here this week and will be here tomorrow skimming six of the town's lift stations. There has been a considerable amount of grease at 6 lift stations so far.

Council Comments

Commission Member Dewald had no comments.

Council Member Morris asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if he received any word from MDE on his letter? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered no, it takes a while to get a response from them.

Council Member Morris further asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood about the progress of the written policy for the issuance or commitments for EDUs. Town Mgr. Fleetwood further answered it is in progress but he wanted to hold off before they do any staffing event until he received the letter back from MDE. She inquired if there was a draft that the Commission could look at. Town Mgr. Fleetwood responded yes.

Deputy Mayor Unsell commented he was glad to hear there are only 4 hydrants to be replaced. That is good news. He said he will be back for the meeting December 12th.

Commissioner Shaffer asked how many fire hydrants are still not active. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered we are still down to four. Two of which need to be replaced which we are pulling one from Heron Ponds where that parcel is not being developed. The hookup will still be there but it will be capped. That hydrant will replace one of the hydrants that need to be replaced. Over at Three C's Church there is a hydrant that has never been used and not hooked up to anything, with the permission from the Fire Marshal, we can remove that hydrant and replace the other one that needs to be replaced, which should happen very soon.

Council Member Morris asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if he was saying two hydrants were going to be replaced and one is going to be removed? Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained the four hydrants and how they were going to be replaced or repaired.

Commissioner Shaffer asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood what the timeline was on the rebuild? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered it would probably be within the next month. Commissioner Shaffer asked if the FD was aware of the hydrant situation. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered yes.

Public Comments –

1. Mayor Bauer asked the location of the two fire hydrants that are out and are they affecting any new properties? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered yes, all of them are affecting properties. One is on Pennsylvania Avenue and the other he is unaware of the location.
2. Vince Luca asked why would there be a hydrant where there is no water running to it? Commission Member Dewald explained Perdue was going to build an administrative building and they bought a big piece of property. The Town ran water, sewer and hydrants as far as possible. Perdue was supposed to pay their part of the connection which did not happen. She further explained Perdue resold that land. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added the hydrant at that location/ property was not needed. A conversation ensued.

Adjournment

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

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer