

**Utility Commission
February 1, 2021
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 Madam Chair Pase, Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Smith, Deputy Mayor Unsell, Town Manager Sara Bynum- King and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Smith/Dewald) and carried to approve the minutes. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was pass 3 Ayes 1 Abstain (Unsell).

Unfinished Business –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King noted that the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) project is still in the design phase.

New Business –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported another grant application was submitted to the Maryland Department of Environment on January 29, 2021, seeking funds to complete the next phase of the sewer main replacement project which will address the I&I issues on the west side of the railroad tracks. The Town will also be seeking funds from USDA to address the I&I issues on the Delaware side of Town. Hopefully we will be able to secure necessary funding to allow the Town to continue addressing the I&I issues.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported she did have a chance to speak with our Director of Public Works, Jerome Reid, to get updated on the Water Treatment Plant operations. Mr. Reid reported the plant is running efficiently. The roof replacement project for the water treatment plant is scheduled to be installed early spring. The department has not had to deal with any water main breaks due to the cold weather.

She further reported that the Waste Water Treatment Plant is running efficiently, although the Town is still in violation of our permitted daily flows due to the continued I&I issues. In spite of all the recent rain, the Wastewater Treatment Superintendent, has been able to maintain all of the

water within the plant. The Town Engineer, Jason Loar, is still working with the Superintendent to finalize the surge tank conversion. The conversion of the surge tank to an EQ basin will help tremendously when we have significant rain events; the water will automatically go back to the surge tank, which will serve as a holding tank until the water can be released through the system a little at a time. Currently the Superintendent has to manually release the excessive water to the surge tank.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned we are also searching for a Wastewater Operator. The position has been advertised and the deadline to receive applications is February 4, 2021. A licensed operator is preferred however, the Superintendent has expressed that an individual with some mechanical maintenance skills would be very beneficial.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King further mentioned she did send out the budget workshop schedule. Hopefully, everyone has received and reviewed the schedule. The first Workshop will be held on March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The Department Head will present their FY22 budget request. She informed the Commission she will announce at a later date how the workshops will be set up, either in person or virtual. At this point she believed the workshops will be virtual and in-person that way individuals that wanted to attend could choose their own comfortability. There will be more information forthcoming.

Council Comments –

Madam Chair Pase, hoped that everyone wanting to get the COVID vaccine is able to get it and things get back to normal. She wished for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Commission Member Dewald, hope everyone has a Happy Valentines Day.

Deputy Mayor Unsell mentioned he would be foregoing all in-person meetings at this point until his wife and he is able to get the COVID vaccines. He added they are still anxiously awaiting the vaccine. Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned Somerset County is accepting appointments for Maryland residents. She said she can verify the information tomorrow morning and relay the information back to him. Commission Member Dewald confirmed Somerset County has more vaccines than they have people that's why that county allows anybody from the State of Maryland onto their site. The vaccination site is at Washington High School.

Council Member Smith – Hope everyone gets well and hope everything is moving forward.

Adjournment

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

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer