

**Utility Commission**  
**February 7, 2022**  
**MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Madam Chair Pase. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating 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 Smith, Commissioner Unsell, Town Manager Bynum- King and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Linda Morris, Aaron Prebenda, Sara Prebenda, Cory Shaffer, Benjamin Jorden and Penny Glasgow.

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 (Unsell/Smith) and carried to approve the January 3, 2022 minutes as amended with corrections to page two second paragraph insert the word will. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was pass 4 A yes.

**Unfinished Business –**

Vice Mayor Pase said that Mr. and Mrs. Prebenda requested to be on the agenda to present their reimbursement request for sewer backup that originated from the main and not on their property. She opened the floor for the Mr. and Mrs. Prebenda to address the Commission.

Mr. Prebenda stated there have been two incidents over the last eight months, May 2021 and December 5, 2021, involving the sewer line outside of their property. He said that he was not looking for reimbursement for the first incident, however the second incident was more costly and therefore was seeking to be reimbursed for the expenses he incurred.

Mr. Prebenda referenced in the first case shortly after moving into the house, he had to contact a plumber to come and assess their sewer back up. The plumber snaked the line and found it to be clear. The plumber informed them there was no way the issue could be on their property. Mr. Prebenda said that he contacted the Town to assess the situation and after two unsuccessful attempts to clear the line, the Town contacted CES. CES removed a variety of things out of the line and their conclusion was it looked as if maybe some children stuffed some sticks in the sewer and that's what caused the backup. He added that the line was cleared, and there were no other issues until the second incident.

Mr. Prebenda said the second incident occurred on, December 5<sup>th</sup> they experienced another sewage back-up, this time it was in the bathtub and they couldn't flush toilets or use the washing machine. Once again, he and his wife contacted the plumber to come and assess their sewer situation. The plumber came and snaked and jetted the line out to clear it and the same

conclusion was given. The plumber had suggested the terracotta piping had been damaged and the blockage was happening in front of their house and they fully expect this will happen again.

Mrs. Prebenda added on Sunday morning their plumber and the Town Foreman, Bob Buck, came to their home to attempt to solve the issue. The plumber was a different plumber from the first incident. The plumbing company is East Coast Plumbing Co. and the plumber is certified. He concluded the same as the plumber from the first incident, that the issues are on the Town's side. She did add that Mr. Buck checked the street that runs in front of their property and the very end of the street for clogs again. He said everything looked clear from the Town's perspective. Mrs. Prebenda added that Mr. Buck said that he was going to get CES to come and video the line to determine if there was any cracks or blockages further along the line that he could see, and she would be able to view the video as well. She also added that Mr. Buck did have CES come to the property and video the line and did not allow them to witness as the video was occurring.

Mr. Prebenda added that they used two different companies with the same opinion. East Coast Plumbing marked the street in front of their home where they were certain the problem was in the Town's infrastructure. Mr. Prebenda said they are asking to be reimbursed for the \$1,000.00 they spent on plumber invoices. He added that another sewer back up will probably happen again, so the issue needs to be resolved.

Vice Mayor Pase informed Mr. and Ms. Prebenda the Commission would need more time to investigate and would be in contact with them with an answer. Town Mgr. Bynum-King added the Town Foreman, Bob Buck did give a written statement how he assessed the situation. She said the written statement is in the mail packets.

Vice Mayor Pase moved to the next agenda item, Mr. Myers request for permission connect to the Town's sewer system as an out-of-town customer. She called for Mr. Myers and he was not present in person or via teleconference.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King said Mr. Myers provided information with several questions that he wanted answers to prior to making a decision to proceed with his request. Town Mgr. was unclear if Mr. Myers clearly understood he was supposed to be present to address the Commission. She requested that the Commission table this request until next month.

The Commission tabled the request from Mr. Myers until further notice.

**New Business –**

None.

**Town Manager Report –**

None.

**Council Comments**

Commission Member Dewald, Commissioner Unsell and Council Member Smith had no comment.

Vice Mayor Pase commented it's nice to see an audience tonight, we don't always have that.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **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