

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

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Council Member Smith. 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, Vice Mayor Pase, Commissioner Unsell, Commission Member Dewald, Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer.

Council Member Smith took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum and all were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Unsell/Dewald) and carried to approve the May 2, 2022 minutes. Council Member Smith took a roll call vote, and the motion was passed, 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business/ Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned some observations from his first week at Town Hall. He said he made visits to the WWTP and WTP to look at the operational equipment.

He further mentioned that he held a meeting with the department heads of the Town to discuss what's been happening in their respective departments. Town staff is working on utilities such as, the MD water tank valves, which does have issues. There are five valves which the Maryland Rural Water Association will be working on with us to make sure they are functioning and to make determinations for the malfunctioning valves.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said there is a leak on Pine St. which the Maryland Rural Water Association tried to help determine the location. They were unable to do so and they will return tomorrow to bring additional equipment to help isolate where the leak is located.

He further said he thought there needed to be some organization at the WWTP and WTP specifically, all their manuals and safety data sheets. He reported reaching out to a qualified resource and for no charge the expert will be coming sometime over the next few weeks to spend half a day at the WWTP and WTP to help Superintendent Daniels and Superintendent Oberton with organization.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported a flow test on all the fire hydrants is scheduled for July 11th, 12th and 13th for Delmar, MD and July 18th, 19th and 20th for Delmar, DE. The hydrants will also be color coded which is important to the Fire Department to understand the flow. This testing will be done at no cost to the Town. The last time testing was done in Delmar, DE was in 2017 and there is no record for Delmar, MD. There are approximately 264 hydrants in total for MD and DE combined. Citizens will be informed of the testing via social media, town website, and postings in the lobby of Town Hall. Over the course of those two weeks all hydrants will be flushed, exercised, labeled and marked.

He further reported the railroad crossings at Foskey Lane and Chestnut St. will both have the maintenance done on the tracks by the Railroad Administration and the Town will pave what's been disturbed on both sides of the tracks through the efforts of Commissioner Boothe. Per Mike Haulk, Contractor, the maintenance will take place the week of July 11th and both crossings will be closed. The work will be done simultaneously. Town Mgr. Fleetwood clarified the asphalt will be done Thursday or Friday of that week.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said his contacts from MD State Highway, Jay Meredith and Mike Marvel; DelDot contacts Glen Phillips and his Supervisor, Jeff Revel, will be brought together next week to give their perspectives on what can be done about a number of needed projects to include overgrown vegetation on Stage Road on the MD side going South.

Commissioner Unsell asked why Pennsylvania Ave was closed off last Wednesday? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered just south of Town Hall Chesapeake Utilities contractor was onsite and repaired the sidewalk that was disturbed at the time of their new connections. Simultaneously there was also a water leak just south of that location. He said when work is scheduled, we need to do a better job of broadcasting, so we will work on that communication.

Council Comments

Commissioner Unsell had no comment.

Vice Mayor Pase welcomed Town Mgr. Fleetwood. She said she was glad to have Town Mgr. Fleetwood on board. It seems like everything is going in the right direction. Town Mgr. Fleetwood responded he very much strives to be available. The cell phone number and email address of the previous Town Mgr. has not changed and he is committed to what he thinks is the betterment for the Town. He further said he wants to do well for everyone in this Town. Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned he wished we had more input from citizens. Vice Mayor Pase further said our citizen representative, Commission Member Dewald, does a great job and does not hesitate to say what she feels. That's what we need, we have never had a problem with that and she hopes that continued.

Commission Member Dewald commented she is starting her sixteenth year in June and described the way her term commenced until now.

Council Member Smith thanked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for being here. He said he thought Town Mgr. Fleetwood's professionalism and knowledge would help quite a bit, we will get along fine, make some big changes and move forward.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment

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

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer