

Utility Commission
March 6, 2023
DELMAR TOWN HALL & VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Commissioner Unsell. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. The phone number and access code have been provided to all the members as well as the public. In attendance were Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Morris and Commissioner Shaffer. Key personnel: Town Mgr. Jeff Fleetwood and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer and guests.

Commissioner Unsell took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum, and all were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Shaffer/Morris) and carried to approve the February 6, 2023 meeting minutes with changes to page 2, line 14; change accepted to approved. Commissioner Unsell took a roll call vote and the motion was passed with a vote of 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood presented Holly Oak and Stage Village Mobile Home Parks located in Delmar, DE to the Utility Commission in reference to water connections. He stated he would like a favorable recommendation from the Utility Commission to the Mayor and Council for the expansion of the Town's water system into both mobile home parks.

He further stated the State of DE is providing Stage Village Mobile Home Park with funding that has been allocated and approved. The State of DE has also planned to fund Holly Oak Mobile Home Park pending their final approval from DNREC. Stage Village Mobile Home Park has only one well so no redundancy can occur and they are battling constant water leaks. Holly Oak's well has PFAS that exceeds the new limits in the treatment system and to treat the PFAS would be extremely costly. Both projects will be designed to the Town's standards and both projects intend to have an individual meter for each mobile home.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said the Town would be doing the billing based on usage. In Stage Village Mobile Home Park there are 31 mobile home sites and Holly Oak Mobile Home Park has

73 mobile homes that need to be connected. Roughly half of Holly Oak Mobile Home Park is connected to Town water currently.

He further said mobile home sites do not have the same usage as a single-family home but the average is a one third equivalent of a single-family home. Both mobile home parks and DBF commented they appreciated the Town for these projects to connect to the Town's water system. This is a big push from DNREC for disadvantaged communities hooking into centralized water systems. A discussion occurred.

Commissioner Unsell called for a motion to recommend Holly Oak Mobile Home Park and Stage Village Mobile Home Park to the Mayor and Council for expansion of the Town's water system into both mobile home parks. A motion was made/seconded (Shaffer/Morris) and carried by roll call vote of 4 Ayes.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) March 20th is the target start date for the Delmar, MD Phase 1 sewer project. There will be a lot of equipment being staged and the staging area will be on Pennsylvania Ave. all the way down to Foskey Lane, between the railroad tracks and Wood Creek. 2.) The paving project that has been awarded for Delmar, DE and Delmar, MD will probably begin at the end of the month, first of April, depending on if the asphalt plants are running. Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he is targeting Connelly Mill Road to be the first road to be done but the shoulders of Connelly Mill Road will be graded from the railroad track to Rt. 675 by Wicomico County Roads at no charge to the Town. The second road he is targeting will be Stage Road from Rt. 675 across Rt. 13 and all the way up to Rt. 54. A conversation ensued.

Council Comments –

Commission Member Dewald, Commissioners Shaffer and Unsell had no comment.

Council Member Morris commented the Joint Council's 1st Budget Workshop for capital outlay on February 22nd was very informative. She thanked WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton and WWTP Superintendent, Frank Daniels, for providing detailed information which painted a clear picture of their respective operations. Council Member Morris said they have made great improvements over the last year.

Council Member Morris further commented it was an honor to attend the DRWA entry level water specialist apprenticeship training program certificate ceremony at the Delmar High School on February 16th. WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton, was training high school students at Delmar High School for an apprentice position. Council Member Morris stated Ms. Oberton has done an outstanding job and she is paving the way for future career opportunities for the younger generation.

Council Member Morris said she had an opportunity to visit one of the Delmar, MD lift stations earlier last week. She mentioned she observed the cleanout of a catch basket. Council Member Morris explained the purpose of the catch basket and how the cleanout is done for the catch basket. She described the job as nasty, dirty and smelly.

She further described what she saw in the catch basket. Council Member Morris mentioned her takeaway from the visit to the lift station was she found a new respect for the Town of Delmar's Public Works Staff. The job should be featured on Mike Rowe's Dirty Jobs.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment –

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

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer