

**Utility Commission**  
**May 2, 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, Council Member Smith, Commissioner Unsell, Town Manager Bynum- King, Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer; via teleconference Commission Member Dewald. Guests: Tom Bauer.

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 (Smith/Unsell) and carried to approve the April 4, 2022 minutes as amended with a correction to page one second to the bottom paragraph the word subdivisions. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was pass 4 Ayes.

**Unfinished Business –**

None.

**New Business –**

Town Mgr. Bynum-King announced in conjunction with the DE and MD June regular meeting schedule the Utility Commission will not have a meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will resume on July 5<sup>th</sup> which will be the first meeting for FY23.

**Town Manager Report –**

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported the sewer main replacement project Phase I bids came in significantly higher than the funding for the project. The total funding the Town received was \$1,302,301.00. The lowest bid came in at \$2,446,446.00. Engineers are currently seeking guidance from the state regarding how the Town can secure additional funds for the project. In addition, if the grants are not available the Utility Commission may have to consider a low interest loan from the State revolving loan program or working with Town Engineer's to assess how much of the project can be accomplished with the funds the Town received.

She further reported the Water Treatment Plant, Superintendent, Sophia Oberton is working with both MD and DE Rural Water Associations to perform hydrant flushing's as well as PSI testing to ensure the Town has the most current and accurate information. The Towns hydrant caps will be color coordinated according to the identified pounds per square inch. If anything is changed, we will make those adjustments while in the field.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King said she applied to the American Water and Wastewater Association for a scholarship for Public Works, Foreman/Interim Director, Robert Buck, to attend week-long classes to secure his MD water license. She received notice that Mr. Buck was selected for a full scholarship for the 2022 short course. He will be in classes all week then test at the end of the short course for his water license, currently he has his DE license.

She further said this is her last Utility Commission meeting. Town Mgr. Bynum-King stated she will have the unfinished projects spelled out for her successor. Outstanding projects such as the Phase I, Phase II, Phase III of the sewer main project. The Town will apply for more funding for Phase II and III for FY24 and FY25 those additional phases. Also, the Town has a sewer main replacement project on the DE side which will be in two phases. We are looking at starting on the DE side on N. Second Street. The MD side will be on Chestnut Street from Pennsylvania Ave. moving east on Chestnut Street. The sewer main replacement projects will help the Town eliminate inflow and infiltration issues.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King mentioned in this approved Budget FY23 the DE Ave. sewer main replacement project is proposed to be funded in part by the Town, County and State Bond Bill. The existing sewer line is old terracotta and severely deteriorated.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King stated The Holly Oak Mobile Home Park has PFAS, a chemical substance, in their system, an access of 70 part per trillion. She further mentioned she was approached by the State inquiring if the Town would be willing to provide water to the mobile home park if funding were available. She responded to the State Representative that the Town would be agreeable to serve the mobile home park if funding is available. The Town will be waiting to hear if funding is available from the Clear Water Revolving Loan Fund or the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Both funding sources are principal loan forgiveness programs.

She announced this new fiscal year Public Works will be working on valve exercising which is critical to the Town moving forward. The WWTP is still operating under its pending consent order by the state of MD but under the direction of our new Superintendent, Frank Daniels, the plant has been operating consistently within our permit as issued by the state. Any projects outstanding or pending will be listed, as well, with the funding source of who the contact individuals are.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King thanked the Commission for allowing her to serve under them and their leadership in the Utility Commission. She said this commission has done an outstanding job with the challenges over the years. There is a lot more to be done but she thought the accomplishments they have made together is something to be proud of. She further said she appreciated all the commission members and that her life has been enriched by each of them. She wished the commission the best success moving forward.

### **Council Comments**

Madam Chair Pase commented this Commission could not do what they do without guidance of Town Mgr. Bynum-King. She added that Town Mgr. Bynum-King will be greatly missed.

There is a not project or an issue that the Commission has had that they have not been able to go to Town Mgr. Bynum-King and get an answer and if she didn't get the answer then she would get it. That is what has kept things going.

Vice Mayor Pase announced she is stepping down as the Chairman of the Utility Commission and she asked that Council Member Smith to hold the position for the July, August, September and October meetings. She said she is not saying that she will not pursue another term but there is a likelihood that she will not. She mentioned she has a new great-grand-daughter that just arrived and she will be busy. She further said she has enjoyed her twenty-some years, maybe some people think she's stayed too long. She mentioned she believes that anybody that decides they want to run for office under any agenda, it's more to it than saying they are going to change things, it takes the whole body to do that.

Commission Member Dewald commented Town Mgr. Bynum-King was the best leader that she has ever seen. She said she is very involved in three national organizations and yet the best leader she has ever seen has been Town Mgr. Bynum-King. The Town of Delmar, MD and Delmar, DE will never be the same.

Deputy Mayor Unsell commented he met Town Mgr. Bynum-King for the first time in 2003. He sat down in her office, talked to her for an hour, got to know her and has known very few people in his entire life that he would consider irreplaceable but she is one of them. He further commented they are going to have a heck of a time trying to find somebody to fill her shoes because she has that phenomenal ability to spin the plates and keep them all going. Not too many people can do that. He has never seen a finer example of a multitasker with her thumb on every item in this Town and it's important. She always has the answer and if she doesn't have the answer, she gets it. We are going to miss you.

Council Member Smith commented Town Mgr. Bynum-King will be missed for sure. He further commented he hated to see Town Mgr. Bynum-King go. Her leadership ability has helped him since he's been here and he thought it's helped move the Town in the right direction over the years.

#### **Public Comments –**

1. Tom Bauer asked what the lowest bid was and how many bids there were. Town Mgr. Bynum-King answered \$2,446, 446.00 and two.

#### **Adjournment**

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

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer