

Utility Commission
August 2, 2021
DELMAR TOWN HALL & 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 has been provided to all the members as well as the public. In attendance were Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Smith, Deputy Mayor Unsell, Town Manager Bynum- King and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guest: Jacqueline Jankowski-Ford.

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 June 7th meeting minutes. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was pass 3 Ayes 1 Abstain (Pase). Note: There was no meeting in the month of July.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business –

Town Manager Bynum-King asked for approval to amend a clerical error in the WWTP FY22 budget line item under electric which should have been \$120,000 instead of \$12,000. The variance was not recognized because in this year’s budget monies for violations and fines were not included. She asked if the budget line item could be increased by \$57,000 from the investment fund and decreased the contingency line by \$51,000 for a total of \$108,000 to make up the difference.

There were no questions from the Commission Members, Vice Mayor Pase called for a motion to approve amending the FY22 WWTP electric line item as proposed by the Town Manager. A motion was made/seconded (Dewald/Smith) and carried by roll call vote 4 Ayes.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Bynum-King reported the WWTP superintendent has all the operating components of the wastewater treatment plant operational and functioning at 100%. The west and east tertiary clarifiers all now operational. The WWTP superintendent will also be cleaning the west secondary clarifier in preparation to be painted.

Raw pump four is not functioning and has been sent out to Hills for repair. A spare pump is in its place so operations will continue.

The superintendent is in the process of having the valve installed so the surge tank can be converted automatically to a holding tank during heavy rain events. The surge tank can currently be transitioned to a holding tank manually, however once the valve is installed, the superintendent will be able to operate the valve remotely off site.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King also reported that CES is on site removing sludge from the drying beds.

Additionally, there have been some issues within the water distribution system. Last week there was a significant water main leak that needed to be repaired on W. Grove Street. There were two additional water main leaks one on Pine Street and the other one on Spruce Street, both slated to be repaired this week.

Town Mgr. Bynum-King referenced Sophia Oberton, Public Works Special Projects Coordinator and Level 4 Licensed Water Operator and herself went to Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Ms. Oberton presented to the U.S. Senate a prepared five-minute testimony on cybersecurity and the potential impact on small systems. She offered special thanks to Delaware Rural Water and representatives from the National Rural Water Association Affiliates and to Sophia for doing an outstanding job. It was an all-around great experience for both of them. She added it was a wonderful opportunity, in being on a national platform, for the Town of Delmar and the State of Delaware.

Council Comments

Madam Chair Pase- said she hoped everybody is taking care of themselves in this heat.

Commission Member Dewald- said congratulations to Sophia Oberton on representing all small towns across the United States and being the voice of small towns in America.

Deputy Mayor Unsell- had no comment.

Council Member Smith - Also extended his congratulations to Sophia Oberton and the Town Manager for representing the Town and small towns across the country.

Public Comments –

Joy Smith thanked the Town's Public Works for fixing the water leak at the St. Stephens cemetery this evening.

Adjournment

A motion was made, second (Dewald/Unsell) and carried to adjourn. The motion passed with 4 Ayes.

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer