

**Utility Commission**  
**September 5, 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 has been provided to all the members as well as the public. In attendance was Commission Member Moore and Commissioner Shaffer. Key personnel: Town Mgr. Jeff Fleetwood, Planning and Zoning Director Twain Evanson, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Sophia Oberton, DBF Engineer Josh Taylor, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Absent: Commission Member Dewald and Council Member Lanier.

Commissioner Shaffer took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum. A quorum was established with three members present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Unsell stated a quorum was established with three members present but there are not enough members to approve last month's minutes.

**Unfinished Business –**

None.

**New Business/Town Manager Report –**

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said that WTP Superintendent Sophia Oberton, is focused and driven for what she does at the WTP. Ms. Oberton was at a training seminar last week and was presented with two distinguished and prestigious awards. The first award was the Distinguished Service Water Treatment Award and the second was the 2023 Operator of the Year Award for the Chesapeake Region.

Ms. Oberton spoke about no one being nominated for those awards from the Delmar WTP since 2009, the steps she took towards being nominated and the award process.

DBF Engineer Josh Taylor, discussed WTP Superintendent taking the WTP by the reigns and her winning two Operator of the Year Awards being amazing for someone who is fairly new to the industry. He further discussed Ms. Oberton's Town of Delmar work background, and accomplishments. A conversation ensued.

WTP Superintendent Sophia Oberton, shared that she is helping WWTP Superintendent Frank Daniels, by recycling the waste that she is sending from the WTP to the WWTP. She discussed

the backwash system, findings, run times, iron levels, saving energy and water at both the WTP and WWTP, and the lead and copper rule revision plan of action for DE and MD.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) The closing date for the MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) loan for the Phase 1 sewer project is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. 2.) The construction should begin for the new pole building for PD next week. A dozen loads of millings were taken to PD to be spread around the pole building once it is erected. 3.) The preliminary work is being done on potentially redoing the restrooms at State St. Park to make them ADA accessible. 4.) The inaugural farmers market is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at State St. Park. Carolanne Lambrose from Market Master has received 30 applications. 5.) The illumination of the trees on N. Pennsylvania Ave. should begin as early as next week. The power is out there now. 6.) November 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at the Fire Department in the upstairs banquet room the Town of Delmar will have the 2023 Holiday Luncheon. All elected officials are cordially invited. 7.) N. Second St. has been repaved from State St. down to Lincoln Ave.

### **Commission Comments –**

Commission Member Moore and Commissioner Unsell and Shaffer had no comment.

Commissioner Shaffer commented he is really proud of WTP Superintendent Sophia Oberton. He said he has seen what she does. The fact that the building is clean should speak volumes. The Town of Delmar has one of the nicest and cleanest WTP around. He said he thought former Town Mgr. Bynum-King did a really good thing putting Ms. Oberton in her position and it takes talent to recognize talent.

Commissioner Shaffer further commented the Lead and Copper Rule, the EPA has a pamphlet that they put out concerning lead and a lot of businesses hand them out to customers and get a signature stating they were presented with the pamphlet. He suggested if it's worth it, getting a pamphlet made to present or checking to see what other towns are doing. Ms. Oberton responded they were told to make 10 documented touches to the customers/residents.

### **Public Comments –**

None.

### **Adjournment –**

A motion was made, seconded (Shaffer/Moore) and carried to adjourn. By roll call, the motion passed with 3 Ayes 2 Absent (Dewald/Lanier).

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer