

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
December 9, 2024
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Benjamin Jordan called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Delmar, Maryland to order at 7:00 P.M. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. In attendance were Deputy Mayor Jack Lenox, Commissioners Jacob Boothe, Ronald Nembhard, and Cory Shaffer. Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Town Attorney, Robert Benson, Lieutenant Wade Alexander, Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer, and Student Advisory, Braiden Alexander were in attendance. Guests: Phillip White, Sheila McEwan, Thomas McEwan, Penny Glasgow, Mark Carroll, Mark Murphy, Joyce Nelson, Ray Nelson, and Lloyd Unsell. Absent: Chief Ivan Barkley.

Mayor Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

Mayor Jordan said he hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and he stated this meeting will be the last meeting for this year.

Mayor Jordan wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Jordan honored previous commissioner Lloyd Unsell and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Nembhard/Boothe) and carried to approve the November 12, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion carried with a vote of 3 Ayes, 1 Absent (Lenox), and 1 Abstain (Shaffer).

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Concerns Regarding Song Sparrow Circle

Mr. Ray Nelson thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for allowing him to speak. Mr. Nelson expressed concerns for the repaving of Song Sparrow Circle, and irrigation of the pond that has never been fixed. Mr. Nelson further expressed the residents biggest concern at Song Sparrow Circle is property value not being where it should be because the road is damaged. Mr. Nelson provided examples and discussed how the road is damaged, and hazards that come from the road being damaged.

Mayor Jordan thanked all the Song Sparrow Circle residents for attending the meeting. Mayor Jordan assured Mr. Nelson the town plans to stick with the agreement that was made with the developer to pave the road after he sells the fourth lot. A lengthy discussion occurred.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood clarified the developer will pave when he sells the fourth lot.

Mr. Thomas McEwan asked if there was anyway the town could get the developer to put when he will pave in writing? Mayor Jordan answered the town can compile a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and ultimately email chains work as well. In conclusion, after the fourth house is sold paving will take place and the town takes the residents of Heron Ponds concerns seriously.

Kilteel Estates Subdivision

Mr. Mark Murphy presented and discussed Kilteel Estates Subdivision in which he would like to start in February 2025. Deputy Mayor Lenox stated Mr. Murphy came before the Planning and Zoning Commission and everything the commission responded to was pretty positive and they encouraged any kind of amenity Mr. Murphy wanted to add. He further stated when Mr. Murphy gets something sketched, he needed to go through the town's Planning and Zoning Commission Director, Twain Evanson not only for a building permit but also anything that might need to be reviewed by the town engineer.

Planning and Zoning Director, Twain Evanson clarified Mr. Murphy's allotment for hookups in 2025 is 24. Mr. Murphy responded he has read the Public Works Agreement. Town Mgr. Fleetwood responded to Mr. Murphy when he is ready the Public Works Agreement will be done. A conversation occurred.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood informed all in attendance this subdivision will not be in the Delmar school district which is Delmar Elementary and Delmar Middle & Senior High School. Mr. Murphy stated the students will go to Wicomico.

Wicomico United Recreational Soccer League

Representatives Mr. Joe White and Mr. Mark Carroll introduced and presented the Wicomico United Soccer League Program. They stated they are volunteers that help the youth play youth sports, and they would like to work with the Town of Delmar's Parks and Recreation Committee. A lengthy conversation occurred.

Student Advisory

Mr. Braiden Alexander apologized for not being in attendance the last two meetings. He thanked and shared his appreciation to the Mayor and Commissioners for being a Student Advisor.

Mr. Alexander informed the Mayor and Commissioners of his intention of wanting to expand the academic opportunities for students at Delmar High School because the students have talent but go unrecognized. He said he thought the athletics were amazing the past 3 years but there could be more advanced classes at Delmar High School or competitions.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report – The report is included in the mail packets.

Lieutenant Wade Alexander reported as follows: 1.) Chief Ivan Barkley is out sick today. 2.) The town is approaching the holiday season. PD is increasing property checks and encourage the public to be vigilant as burglaries/robberies increase this time of the year so if the public sees anything please call PD immediately. 3.) There have been a lot of vehicle break-ins so please keep car doors locked.

Mayor Jordan stated some residents have said people are blocking the fire lane at FoodLion. Lieutenant Alexander responded he is aware that was discussed in great detail recently and PD is working on the problem.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – The report is included in the mail packets.

Public Works – The report is included in the mail packets.

Mayor Jordan publicly acknowledged PW for cleaning up after the Christmas Parade. He said they did a phenomenal job and they are appreciated.

Utility Commission –

Commissioner Shaffer reported: 1.) The commission reviewed and discussed the loans for the water/sewer projects in town. He said the town has changed the phases. Phase 2 was supposed to be a Maryland project but funding has not been secured. The \$1.8 million loan for Phase 3 is on the Delaware side. 3.) Surveys are starting and bids will follow. The other loan is a \$362,000 loan on the Delaware side for the Lead and Copper. 4.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned the Delaware Ave. repairs are done and WWTP Director, Frank Daniels has seen significant improvement with flows.

Water Superintendent Report – The report is included in the mail packets.

Parks & Recreation – The report is included in the mail packets.

Commissioner Boothe reported as follows: 1.) The committee discussed moving forward next year. 2.) The committee discussed the basketball court concern. 3.) Commissioner Boothe reached out to the Lyons Club, Council Member McClure reached out to the Delmar Chamber of Commerce in reference to a New Year's Eve partnership for planning in January 2025. 4.) There will be no meeting in December.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported all of the business on the November 21, 2024 agenda was on the Delaware side.

Fire Department – No report.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported as follows: 1.) Sixteen catch basins at Heron Ponds were vacuumed today as well as the screens removed. There are close to 190 catch basins that has been vacuumed over the last 90 days. 2.) On Delaware Ave. and Lincoln Ave. there is an open-air ditch and a culvert with an outfall and the bottom of the ditch was at a different level which was discovered in the 75 feet of open ditch. An oak tree was also discovered in that ditch which tomorrow will be removed, pipe will be laid, and the ditch will be closed. 3.) Friday Town Mgr. Fleetwood will be out of the office for a period of time to Ocean City, MD because his stepson graduates from the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy. 4.) Friday the town will close on Delaware loans. Town Mgr. Fleetwood publicly thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for everything they have done for town staff and the citizens. He informed the Mayor and Commissioners they will have within the next week to 10 days an annual departmental year-end report. The same document will be presented to the Laurel Star for publication for the town citizens.

Council Comments –

- 1.) Commissioner Boothe thanked all the town staff for all their work this year. Also, Commissioner Boothe promised the residents of Heron Ponds the town wants to get their concerns resolved and the Mayor and Commissioners will work with them. Commissioner Boothe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- 2.) Commissioner Shaffer commented to the residents in attendance from Heron Ponds the past cannot be changed but he looked at how the concerns happened. He said it was a lack of a Public Works Agreement being signed between the developer and the town which does not happen anymore because the town is trying to grow. One of the things that makes sure things like this does not happen anymore is putting money in escrow. Commissioner Shaffer further commented he agreed with Commissioner Boothe about the town staff. He said he wanted to acknowledge the Delmar Chamber of Commerce as well because they did a good job on the parade as well and it seems like it has drastically grown over the last 3 years. Commissioner Shaffer wished everyone a Merry Christmas, he said spend time with your family, and remember why we celebrate Christmas.
- 3.) Deputy Mayor Lenox publicly acknowledged Town Mgr. Fleetwood and all the department heads on the draft for the Capital Improvement Program that was circulated to the Mayor and Commissioners which will be really helpful to them. Deputy Mayor Lenox said he and Mayor Jordan will be at a meeting for the Mason and Dixon Complex that is scheduled for this Friday. He further said they are continuing to work with Wicomico County and stay in touch with the Recreation Commission as well.

Public Comments –

- 1.) Ms. Penny Glasgow asked the Mayor and Commissioners why are the Hometown Hero Banners so high on the poles. Mayor Jordan responded it is being taken care of. She further asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if the Maryland Board of Zoning Appeals had all five members because there are only three members on that board. Deputy Member Lenox answered it should be five. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added he does have an application now on his desk and someone else will be filling out an application.
- 2.) Mr. Thomas McEwan thanked the Mayor and Commissioners, Town Mgr. Fleetwood, and the Clerk of Council, Vondell Spencer for being helpful to him. He further said he feels good after speaking to the Mayor and Commissioners about the concerns that were voiced tonight in reference to Heron Ponds because he feels the Mayor and Commissioners stand behind the residents of Heron Ponds.

Adjournment –

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to adjourn which was made/seconded (Boothe/Shaffer) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer