

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
June 10, 2024
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

Mayor Jorden called the regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Delmar, Maryland to order at 7:05 P.M. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. In attendance were Deputy Mayor Lenox, Commissioners Shaffer, and Nembhard. Town Manager Fleetwood, Town Attorney, Robert Benson, Chief Ivan Barkley, Town Engineer, Josh Taylor, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Dr. Sophia Oberton, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer were in attendance. Guests: Ira Nelson, Denys Powell, and Chase Dykes. Absent: Commissioner Boothe.

Mayor Jorden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

Mayor Jorden apologized for calling the meeting to order a few minutes late. He said Commissioner Boothe is on his way to becoming a grandfather and we are sending our thoughts and prayers to his family.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Nembhard/Lenox) and carried to approve the May 13, 2024 meeting minutes as circulated by a vote of 3 Ayes, 1 Absent (Boothe), and 1 Abstain (Jorden).

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Out of Town Sewer Request – Chase Dykes

Mr. Chase Dykes stated he is seeking final approval for sewer EDUs for three lots on Highland Ave. He mentioned he received a favorable recommendation from the Utility Commission. Commissioner Shaffer noted for the record the Utility Commission met on June 3rd about this out-of-town sewer request. He said they discussed positions with the WTP, MDE, proposal plan with MDE, and WWTP. The proposal helps out the county. He further said Mr. Dykes is not tying into water and the commission agreed this would be classified under fill-in.

Deputy Mayor Lenox asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood for clarity about the property not being in town limits. Town Mgr. Fleetwood responded the property is not in town limits. He further asked if there was a formal agreement in the past on this type of request. Town Mgr. Fleetwood further responded there is nothing in writing. This is more of a policy issue. Town Engineer, Josh Taylor, Town Mgr. Fleetwood, Deputy Mayor Lenox, Mayor Jorden, Commissioner Shaffer, Mr. Dykes, and Town Attorney Benson had a lengthy discussion referencing annexation, all fees/rates for

usage, repair of the roads, the sewer main in the vicinity, county health department rules for septic systems, allowance of services outside of town limits without annexation, existing private septic systems, reservations on annexing into town limits, the county requirements for the proposed lots, sewer capacity, purchasing meters, precedence list, and future policies to set a standard.

A Woodlawn District resident, Ms. Denys Powell expressed her concerns about infrastructure as far as the town's sewer, well system and drainage issues. She said she is aware repair and upgrades have been made. She said Mr. Dykes request would be adding to an over populated town. A conversation ensued.

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to table the sewer request off of Bi-State Blvd. and Highland Ave. from Mr. Chase Dykes. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Boothe).

Lead and Copper Rule Public Question and Answer Session

WTP Superintendent, Dr. Sophia Oberton discussed the lead service line inventory and why inventory is important, what the process involves, financial impact, how residents can help, how participation lowers costs, efficient project management, HydroCorp, and the Cross Connection Control Program. A conversation ensued.

Committee Reports:

Police Chief's Report –

Chief Ivan Barkley reported as follows: 1.) July 9th begins the radio encryption for all of Wicomico County after which it will be the same on both sides. 2.) Last Wednesday PD assisted DSP. DSP had a homicide in Millsboro, DE and identified a suspect and trailed him. The suspect came to Delmar and got captured. When the suspect hit a telephone pole, he then started fleeing on foot, and his weapon had a double feed. There was no more gunfire that morning. The suspect fled into MD but with the assistance from Delmar PD and other officers the suspect was apprehended. 3.) School is ending this week which means PD will have to pay more attention to students for the summer months. 4.) Friday, June 14th is the academy graduation and two recruits will be graduating. Chief Barkley said he will not be attending the graduation he will be out-of-town. The class speaker is a Delmar recruit and both recruits will be receiving extra accolades. This will be the first time PD will have a class speaker at an academy graduation. 5.) PD is getting everything in order for the start of the new budget year to get the new cars to PD quicker. Lt. Bond has been excellent with getting in research, reaching out and informing vendors what PD's needs are, and getting everything set-up. It is going to be a difficult year for many departments to get new vehicles in. 6.) PD served a search warrant for a juvenile on Pine St. and recovered three handguns, stolen vest, and a stolen ID from a retired officer from Anne Arundel County. Also in the house was a missing juvenile female from Seaford, DE that was missing for about a month. The male juvenile has been charged as an adult per the State's Attorney's Office. 7.) Chief Barkley received an email last week from the State of MD and they are asking departments to consider starting a cadet program. They are trying to build a relationship before the cadets turn twenty-one and are able to go through the academy. They are looking for some way to indoctrinate and familiarize them with what PD does and let them make the decision if that is the route they want to go. PD has partnered

with the Criminal Justice Program at Parkside High School in the past and that is a good segway if PD decides to do so. PD already has interns come in the department to complete the Criminal Justice course and also interns come to PD from the college to complete their Criminal Justice Degree Program. Moving forward PD may want one or two cadets down the line to start something to cultivate. Mayor Jordan said he thought it was a great idea. A conversation ensued.

Commissioner Nembhard commented he has seen a lot of police presence. Chief Barkley responded PD is out there. They cannot be everywhere at once but they are making a good effort. Commissioner Shaffer said PD has come a long way and agreed with Commissioner Shaffer. A conversation ensued.

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

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

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

Utility Commission –

Commissioner Shaffer reported as follows: 1.) Town Engineer, Josh Taylor reported I&I, infiltration into the rainwater into the town’s sewer system, current sewer replacements taking place, the second portion of the four blocks of the sewer main, manholes and the laterals, and I&I repair work in DE. 2.) Inaccessible stormwater drain pipe that runs from Sixth St. to Seventh St. was discussed and Mr. Taylor gave the commission an estimated cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000 for pipe busting for the stormwater drain pipe. 3.) Mr. Chase Dykes came before the commission to request sewer tie-in for his property and the commission gave him a favorable recommendation. Commissioner Shaffer mentioned a policy creation for lot tie-ins for lots that are in the county.

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

Mayor Jordan stated Leonard’s Mill is starting to get the process out for restoration.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported Planning and Zoning did meet in May. The Commission did not have business on the MD side. There are seven new homes in Stillwater. Deputy Mayor Lenox said the Planning and Zoning Commission has been reviewing plans with Duncan Donuts on the DE side and they are waiting for a traffic report.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported: 1.) The spur on south Maryland Ave. and Foskey Ln. is being improved. The town reached an agreement with Wicomico County to assist. The town paid for and had that milled down to the ground and the county retrieved the millings. The county is supposed to return to grade out the curve and the town will remove the spur and that will be cleaned up. Town Mgr. Fleetwood thanked Lt. Alexander for that. 2.) July 4th at 10:00 a.m. will be the Kiddie Parade

that will assemble in the Town Hall parking lot and the town will provide accoutrements for wagons and bicycles. No motorized vehicles. The parade will be from Town Hall to Gordy Park. 3.) The Gordy Park restrooms are complete. The parking areas are complete. Striping and fencing were installed today at State St. Park. Town Mgr. Fleetwood thanked Mr. Bill Hearn for redoing the bathrooms at Gordy Park. 4.) Tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. CERCAP will be in the town with a drone inspecting the water towers which is free of charge. 5.) Thursday, June 13th the subcontractor for Teal Construction, HCE Pavers will begin working, milling and paving the areas that they have most recently disturbed on Maryland Ave. and Third St. 6.) Town Hall will be closed June 19th in observance of Juneteenth. 7.) An agreement was reached with MDE last Tuesday with the APFO (Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance). 7.) At the Joint Council meeting on July 8th the 1st reading of the APFO will take place. Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained the two components of the APFO. 8.) Wednesday, July 12th through July 14th Town Mgr. Fleetwood will be out of town.

Mayor Jordan noted he reached out to multiple other companies within Delmar and other areas and did not get a response for the bathrooms for the Little League.

Mayor Jordan mentioned the road that connects Pine St. and Chestnut St. directly in front of Chestnut Manor needs to be addressed sooner than later because of the condition of the road because PD patrols there.

Mayor Jordan asked Chief Barkley if the town has a plan for Blue Light Night. Chief Barkley answered a flyer will be posted on the PD page tomorrow. He further asked Chief Barkley if there was anything planned as far as community outreach other than that event. Chief Barkley answered Blue Light Night and Heritage Day is the big push for community outreach. He further answered there is a young lady that PD will partner with to do more outreach. A conversation ensued.

Commission Comments –

Commissioner Nembhard and Deputy Mayor Lenox had not comment.

Commissioner Shaffer commented he just witnessed his youngest daughter graduate from fourth grade to fifth grade. He said it was nice to see the two states work together for this graduation event because Delmar High School is in the Sussex County, in the Delmar School District and Delmar Elementary School is in the Wicomico County School District.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment –

Deputy Mayor Lenox called for a motion to adjourn which was made/seconded (Shaffer/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Boothe).

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer