

MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS
November 12, 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 and Ronald Nembhard. Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Town Attorney, Robert Benson, Chief Ivan Barkley, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer were in attendance. Guests: Candice Peters and Jonathan Porter. Absent: Commissioner Cory Shaffer.

Mayor Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments –

Mayor Jordan thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of Minutes –

A motion was made, seconded, (Nembhard/Lenox) and carried to approve the October 14, 2024 meeting minutes with a correction under Public Works. The motion carried with a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Shaffer).

Unfinished Business –

Public Hearing , 2nd Reading Ordinance #759 – Amendment to the Delmar Zoning Code
Mayor Jordan called for a motion to open the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Shaffer).

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made/seconded (Lenox/Nembhard) and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Shaffer).

Mayor Jordan called for a motion to adopt Ordinance #759, Amendment to the Delmar Zoning Code. A motion was made/seconded (Boothe/Lenox) and carried by 4 Ayes 1 Absent (Shaffer).

New Business –

None.

Student Advisory

Student Advisor Mr. Braiden Alexander was not present due to a honorary senior event at the high school.

Committee Reports:

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

Chief Barkley reported as follows: 1.) PD has had several parades, homecomings, trunk-or-treats, and that happened without incident. 2.) There have been some serious traffic incidents but no new crime trends to report on. 3.) PD is in a good position with staffing and now it is a matter of getting officers ready for the future. A conversation ensued.

Planning & Zoning –

Deputy Mayor Lenox reported:

1. **Candice Peters/DMV Exclusives, LLC – Proposal for Cannabis Dispensary – 9315 Ocean Highway, Delmar, MD** – Ms. Peters proposed a cannabis dispensary as referenced. Deputy Mayor Lenox directed the Mayor and Commissioners to the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission that determined the dispensary complies with the standards of the State of Maryland for a cannabis dispensary.

Ms. Peters explained originally that property named is where they were previously interested. Since then, they have met with the tenants in the building and they have a clause in their lease that allows them to purchase the building until September 2025. She further explained that may cause some issues and they are in discussion with the tenants. Ms. Peters said they also spoke to the realtor for the Rite Aid building because they looked at that location previously and there is some distance from the church which is behind it.

Ms. Peters explained the footage when mapping the building from the church, how the State of MD maps the distances, not upsetting the community, benefits of both locations, and directing traffic during peak hours.

Town Attorney, Robert Benson discussed the State of Maryland criteria with regard to cannabis, the location on 9315 Ocean Highway, and the location at the empty Rite Aid building. A lengthy discussion occurred.

No motion was made.

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

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

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 chili cookoff/job fair went well. 2.) Movie Night did not happen because the vendor was late. 3.) The New Year’s Eve Celebration will be pushed back for this year. Parks and Recreation would like to put together an outside committee to help plan the New Year’s Eve Celebration for next year. 4.) There will be no Parks and Recreation meeting in December.

Utility Commission – Commission Shaffer is out due to illness so there was no report.

Fire Department – No report.

Town Managers Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported as follows: 1.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood provided the timeline for bulk pickup. 2.) November 19th at 12:00 p.m. a Holiday Employee Luncheon at the 2nd floor of the fire department will take place. 3.) Town Mgr. Fleetwood informed the Mayor and Commissioners he was approached by Kyle Hughes about fireworks in Delmar at Kylan Barn Sunday, June 29, 2025 to tie into his Barn BBQ event the same day. Mr. Hughes shared his thoughts in reference to the fireworks as far as cost/estimates that total between \$15,000 to \$22,000. Town Mgr. Fleetwood informed the Mayor and Commissioners Mr. Hughes would like the town to sponsor the fireworks and to send out flyers for donation assistance. A conversation ensued.

Council Comments –

Deputy Mayor Lenox, Commissioners Boothe and Nembhard wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment –

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

Submitted by:

Clerk of Council
Vondell Spencer