

Your city is vibrant, growing and changing. Each month, we will keep you up to date on the challenges, opportunities and successes of Dover, Delaware.

May and June are consumed by budget and related issues. The prices of everything have gone up over the last four years, everyone wants to know will they get bad news from the city as well. The short answer is the city has a stable budget planned with minimal increases in water and electric that reflect inflation we will remain one of the lowest cost providers in the state. No tax increase is in the basic draft budget this year. Budget hearings will have occurred in May and will determine the exact parameters of the budget that will be considered in June. A public hearing on electric rates will occur on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in City Hall. Everything is online at [cityofdover.com](http://cityofdover.com).

The city will not reassess property values this year. It will adopt the county values next year. There is no need to pay to have one's property assessed by the same people by two different governments. It is a waste of money. People need to adjust to the first county assessment in 38 years. The city keeps current by assessing approximately every 5 years so changes in valuation are not dramatic. The city is committed to the reassessment being revenue neutral.

The city is seeking partnerships. Senator Trey Paradee has championed money for university cities to receive public safety grants which will help with our fire department and police department. The approximately 1.5 million dollars helped last year, and we hope it is made permanent. Representative Kerri Evelyn Harris is working with us on a fair deal on adjusting what it costs the city to take care of state stormwater infrastructure. The astronomical costs of new regulations resulted in the short-lived stormwater fee that Council repealed after its first month. Those costs are still real. Senator Eric Buckson is championing a Hope Center style comprehensive approach to homelessness in Dover and Kent County, like now Governor Meyer brought to New Castle County. Senator Buckson is also working with us on addiction treatment solutions.

The city is advocating a uniform local marijuana tax that would be small, but dedicated to local governments, both county and municipal, who bear the costs of legalization. Currently, all taxation goes solely to the state.

The Garrison Oak Business Park and Energy Center has sold out. The jobs and hundreds of millions in investments into the city is very positive and with downtown and other initiatives, will provide the needed revenue in a few years. We received a multi-million dollar assist from our Congressional delegation.

Public safety is a priority, even in an austere budget. The Dover Police Department will have its highest number of officers employed ever. A new dispatcher will be added. The fire department has begun a stipend program to keep the volunteer department viable for years to come.

Your city government is prioritizing your safety, prosperity and keeping your city bills as low as possible. We value your input. You can email city council at [cityclerk@dover.de.us](mailto:cityclerk@dover.de.us) or call 302-736-7006. You can also leave a message at the City of Dover-City Hall Facebook page. Please go to our website [cityofdover.com](http://cityofdover.com) and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter. My opinions are my own and not official city policy.

David Anderson  
4<sup>th</sup> District City Councilman