

May 18, 2009

**Special Meeting**

*Vice - Mayor Clendaniel presided over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Foster.*

*Vice-Mayor Clendaniel called a special meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 6:10 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.*

*Vice-Mayor Clendaniel asked that the record reflect that all Council members with the exception of Mayor Foster were present.*

**Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication**

**Letter from Janet Fountain**

*Ms. Janet Fountain had written a letter requesting modifications be made to the original infrastructure improvement plans in front of her property located at 530 High Street. Ms. Fountain was present to discuss her concerns with the Council at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council deferred a decision in order to investigate further. The Public Works Director is seeking direction from the Council regarding this matter so the construction can continue. Presently Ms. Fountain is parking in the Town's right of way.*

*Discussion was held regarding cost to accommodate, whether creating a hardship, allowing parking in front yards. Staff advised that the options were to proceed with the project as originally planned, create a bump out or to install a handicap ramp to allow access and to not have to step up over the curb.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Councilman Porter. Further discussion was held as to whether there was enough room to accommodate or could parking be located beside the house.*

*Councilman Clendaniel asked Councilman Branson if he would consider amending his motion to allow for handicap access and to send a letter to the Board of Education about the project and the changes in the traffic pattern and on street parking, so that the Bus Drivers would be aware and use caution.*

*Councilman Branson amended his motion to authorize a depressed handicap cutout and to send a letter to the BOE regarding bus traffic. The amendment was accepted and seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.*

*Staff will move forward with the project construction and draft a letter to be sent to the Board of Education.*

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance #577 FY2010 Appropriation Ordinance**

*An ordinance of the Town of Denton to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget adopted for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010. The Appropriation Ordinance has been amended to reflect the revisions to the Town of Denton General Fund Budget, including the reduction of one cent of tax rate and the appropriation of a third cent to the Highway Fund.*

*The Council was presented a report on the Tourism value to Denton.*

*Staff described the changes that had been made to accommodate the Council's request at the May 13, 2009 special meeting to reduce the budget and make changes to the tax rates. Cuts included training, uniforms, publications, computer workstation, vehicle capital, meeting and conventions, the administrative assistant position, volunteer*

appreciation, website, the town newspaper and the reduction of one position in the Planning Dept. The contributions to the DDC, CEDC, Tourism, DVFD, Summerfest and downtown flowers were reduced as well.

There was also discussion on the changes that the Caroline County Emergency Services are making with the Denton Fire Dept.

After a considerable dialog, the Council directed staff to put \$5,000 back into the meeting and conventions line item so the Council could continue to attend the Maryland Municipal League Conference. To offset this amount, they eliminated the printing and mailing of the Town newspaper. Staff will publish the paper quarterly and post on the town website. Instead of the newspaper, the Town will now issue an annual report once a year. The Council also directed staff to cap the contribution to the fire department to \$95,000 a year and have that amount include the tax donation and the utility bill, instead of providing both.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #577 with the amendments discussed, seconded by Councilman Gregory, the motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance #579 - Water Rate Adjustment**

An ordinance amending the water rates setting the in Town administrative fee at \$10.35 per quarter and the usage rate at \$2.50 per 1000 gallons. Out of town or properties on a variance will have their rate set at double - \$20.70 administrative fee and \$5.00 per 1000 gallons.

Councilman Branson mentioned that by state law an enterprise fund is required to be self sufficient and made a motion to introduce Ordinance #579 as presented, seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.

**Ordinance #580 - Sewer Rate Adjustment**

An ordinance amending the sewer rates, setting the in Town administrative fee at \$9.00 per quarter and the usage rate at \$5.66 per 1000 gallons. Out of town or properties on a variance will have their rate set at double - \$18.00 administrative fee and \$11.32 per 1000 gallons.

Councilman Branson again mentioned that by state law an enterprise fund is required to be self sufficient and made a motion to introduce Ordinance #580 as presented, seconded by Councilman Porter, the motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

**Agenda #1 - FY2010 General Fund Budget**

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt the FY2010 general fund budget with the changes made this evening, seconded by Councilman Porter.

In discussion: On behalf of the employees Chief Cox thanked everyone for their efforts in reaching their goal to reduce the tax rate by \$.01 and making changes to the budget without affecting the employee's.

The Council expressed how much they appreciate what the staff does and for their efforts working on this budget. Staff was asked to advise JOK Walsh that the Town can not continue to support their projects.

The Vice-Mayor called for the vote on the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to approve the reduction in force, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

*The Council advised staff to place the Caroline County Mental Health request for \$2,000 on the June agenda.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Caroline County Commissioners to seek a reduction in the real estate tax admin fee to not exceed \$10,000, seconded Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.*

*Councilman Porter asked staff to prepare a proclamation to the Michael Yates family.*

*Councilman Porter made a motion to lower the Town flag until after the services for Michael Yates on Thursday, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to close the special meeting at 7:43 PM, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith  
Clerk-Treasurer*