

June 16, 2003

An Old Fashioned Town Meeting was held on this date at the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept. Doors opened at 5:00 PM for viewing of the displays. Displays were set up by each of the Town Departments, and several out side agencies that provide services to Town citizens. The exhibits were followed by a brief history of the Town of Denton, provided by local historian Mr. JOK Walsh.

At 7:10 PM, Mayor Goldsborough called the meeting of the Denton Town Council to order.

Col. Ed Pelosky led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Reverend Dieder led everyone in prayer

Mayor Goldsborough asked that the record reflect all members were in attendance.

Councilman Horsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2003 meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously, 5-0.

Mayor Goldsborough welcomed the citizens of Denton and thanked them for coming out for this meeting, inviting them to attend all meetings. During the greeting Mayor Goldsborough asked everyone to join her in wishing Councilman Horsey a happy birthday, all joined in the singing of the traditional birthday hymn.

Introduction of the Board - *Mayor Goldsborough introduced current board members, and previous Commissioner Janet K. Hutson Council.*

Introduction of Staff - *Mayor Goldsborough introduced the Town Administrator, Mrs. Terry Fearins. Mrs. Fearins went on to introduce the entire Town Staff.*

Special Recognition - *Councilman Branson commended employee Russell Jews for an outstanding act, stating that he went above and beyond the call of duty after finding an unsupervised small child. Mr. Jews contacted the Police Department and stayed with the child until the PD arrived making sure the child was safe. A certificate from the board will be given to Mr. Jews for this outstanding deed.*

Petitions, remonstrances and communication

The board reviewed a letter received from Ms. Lori Schmidt, of 17 South Eighth Street. Ms. Schmidt was inquiring as to the status of the water, sewage, storm water and road project for the South Eighth St. The board acknowledged the delay in the project but assured that the project is moving forward; the next step will be putting the project out to bid.

The board also reviewed a letter received from Ms. Barbara Manley regarding the proposal by the board to consider charging a fee for trash for rental units. Ms. Manley expressed the need for the board to be fair about assessing a fee. This item is on the agenda for later and will be discussed in more detail at that time.

Resolution and Ordinances

Ordinance #424 Amending Fines - *brought before the board for consideration of adoption proposing to amend sections of the Town Code revising fines and penalties for violations. Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt ordinance #424, seconded by Councilman Horsey, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

Ordinance #425 Repealing Chapter 46, Energy Conservation - brought before the board for consideration of adoption proposing to repeal ordinance #195, deleting Chapter 46 of the Town Code. Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt ordinance #425, seconded by Councilman Horsey, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Ordinance #426 Appropriations Ordinance - Councilman Branson made a motion to hold off on adopting this until the tax rate has been set in agenda item #1, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Resolution #634 - seeking support for a USDA RBEG application was brought before the board for consideration of adoption. Staff provided an overview of the project.

Councilwoman Stockley made a motion to adopt Resolution #634, seconded by Councilman Branson, the motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Horsey abstaining due to membership on the DDC board.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1 - FY04 Budget - Agenda #2 - Trash Collection were combined.

Councilman Horsey made a motion to adopt the FY04 General Fund Budget, seconded by Councilman Foster. Discussion was held: Councilman Branson asked if the budget reflects the proposed \$.03 tax increase and staff advised that was correct. Several property owners spoke about the proposed elimination of trash collection for multi family properties, most against a trash fee, others asking the board to make sure that if a trash collection fee is going to be charged that it should be fair and charged across the board to all property owners. Several were under the misunderstanding that the motion on the floor was eliminating trash collection. Staff advised that this was not the case and that trash collection was scheduled on the agenda next, in which the board had asked for this item to be put on the agenda so that they could gather citizen participation before making a decision. Mayor Goldsborough asked if the property owners would rather pay a trash collection fee or have a tax increase, the response was that as long as it was fair and across the board that was all that mattered. Staff advised the board that if the \$.03 tax increase is adopted it would allow the Town to continue trash collection as it is now. If a fee is not collected for trash then the board would need to defer providing a 1.5% cost of living increase for employees, reviewing revenues received in December.

Mayor Goldsborough asked the board for a vote on the motion on the floor to adopt the FY04 budget. The vote was unanimous 5-0. This reflects a \$.03 real property tax increase, trash collection will continue as it currently is, deferring the COLA till January.

One citizen in attendance asked where the tax increase came from. Staff explained that Councilman Branson inquired about this earlier when the motion was first made. Councilman Branson asked that the record reflect that Councilman Horsey made the motion to increase the real property tax by \$.03, that Branson did not. One citizen asked what the difference would be if they pay a trash collection fee or have the real property taxes raised. Staff advised that a trash collection fee is not tax deductible for property owners however taxes are. Some asked why the town does not use the reserve fund, staff explained the necessity of a reserve fund and that the Auditor recommends the town to have a 15% reserve fund for emergency purposes.

Emergencies such as the snow storm cost this past winter. Presently the town has established a

line of credit to help with the cash flow since funds are so tight. Staff also advised that each year the Town received letters of concern from the Legislative Auditors expressing the need to have a reserve.

Mayor Goldsborough moved onto agenda item #3.

Agenda #3 - Water & Sewer Rates

The Utility Commission has recommended a rate increase to support revenue needs for both the water and sewer fund. Staff provided an overview on the UC proposing an increase in the water from \$1.73 to \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons of usage, increasing the sewer from \$5.18 to \$5.30 per 1,000 gallons of usage. Explaining that the Town is using the capital capacity funds to subsidize, the water towers need to be rehabilitated. The water lines on Market Street need to be upgraded, and with the 8th & 10th St projects. Utility Commission member Mr. Joe Quinn was present and explained that the Town is required to maintain the water towers, to maintain water quality. Presently using funds to pay for replacement meter pits and that presently the water and sewer fund operating in a deficit.

The board asked for staff to draft an ordinance for consideration of introduction at the July 7, 2003 meeting.

Agenda #4 - Other Old Business

Ordinance #426 - Appropriation

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt Ordinance #426, seconded by Councilman Horsey, the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Application to MDE

The Town has an opportunity to file a preliminary application to MDE to seek to refinance the sewer bond financing for the new wastewater treatment facility. The Town presently has a 2.4 million dollar loan for a 40 year term at 4.5% interest. If funds are available, the State of Maryland Dept. of Environment will consider Denton's application to refinance this loan for a 20 year term at less than 1%. The application needs to be submitted this week in order for the State to include in the Public Hearing scheduled for June 27th. This has not been provided to the Utility Commission due to time restraints. Utility Commission member Mr. Joe Quinn expressed that they would be in favor, as this would provide a considerable savings.

Councilman Branson made a motion file a preliminary application with the Maryland Dept. of Environment to refinance and reduce the interest rate, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously, 5-0. The board directed staff to file the application.

Agenda #2 - Industrial Park Funding

Staff from the Town of Denton and the Caroline County Economic Development Corp. have been working with an Industrial Park Client. Staff is requesting approval to appropriate \$20,000 from Denton's Industrial Park Fund to cover a portion of the project cost. Staff advised that taxes generated from the expansion would be approximate \$15,000.

Councilwoman Stockley made a motion to appropriate \$20,000 from the Industrial Park Fund, seconded by Councilman Branson, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Agenda #3 - Water & Sewer Allocation

An application filed by Eric Good to convert a single family home into two units which requires an allocation of water and sewer in the amount of 225 gpd was brought before the board for consideration.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the allocation for Mr. Eric Good, seconded by Councilman Horsey, passing unanimously, 5-0.

Other New Business

Mayor Goldsborough asked Councilman Horsey to introduce two more previous board members that had arrived after the start of the meeting.

Councilman Horsey introduced Mr. Larry Porter and Mr. John Walter Webster Jr. as previous board members, adding that Mr. Webster had given in excess of 20 years of service to the Town of Denton.

Mayor Goldsborough asked if there was any comments from the board, they're being none, she then asked the public. Ms. Sassy Daniels stated that she would like to see this many people attend regular town meetings so that they would know what is going on.

Mr. Carabello of 8th St., thanked town staff for helping on the project for 8th St., expressing that he would like to know when the project is going to start. Staff advised that the design work on 8th St. has been completed; this had been delayed while trying to combine this project with the Market St. project to save on cost. The 8th Street project has been sent up to the State and will go out for bid soon.

Mayor Goldsborough thanked everyone for attending this meeting; expressing the need to work together as a team, citizen involvement is needed and not just when there is a controversial issue.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Goldsborough adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith
Clerk-Treasurer*