

August 4, 2003

Mayor Goldsborough called the meeting of the Denton Town Council to order on this date at 7:00 P.M., leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Councilman Horsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2003 meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously, 5-0.

**Petitions, remonstrances and communication**

Mayor Goldsborough read and signed the proclamation in recognition of Pfc. Adonnis Lamont Anderson, for his dedication and service to the US Armed Forces, and for the injuries sustained while serving in Iraq.

Mayor Goldsborough read and signed a proclamation recognizing the success and sportsmanship of the Denton 9 & 10 year old Girls Softball team who recently won 4<sup>th</sup> in the State Championship.

Mayor Goldsborough read and signed proclaiming Friday, August 15 through Saturday, August 16, 2003 as Caroline Summerfest Days in Denton.

**Resolution and Ordinances**

Councilman Horsey made a motion to introduce Resolution #635 for a proposed annexation of 161.967 acres on Foy Road. Seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously 5-0. A special meeting will be held on Monday, September 22, 2003 at 7:00 PM to hold a public hearing and consideration of adoption of this resolution.

**Unfinished Business**

**Other Old Business**

The Town Administrator asked the board to sign the corrected FY04 Appropriations Ordinance, reflecting the adopted budget with the adjustments that were made at the June meeting. This reflects adding the dumpster collection fee and balance forward.

Annexation Hearing will be held on Sept. 22, 2003 for the public and for the board to consider taking action on the resolution.

Mayor Goldsborough extended a thank you to Mr. Morrison for coming out to the Town Council meeting this evening, she had extended an invitation to both Mr. Morrison and Mr. Jack Cole to answer any questions that they have regarding the Town budget and projects that they had recently inquired about in articles in the Times Record. At this time Mr. Morrison expressed that he did not have any questions. Mayor Goldsborough advised that a packet can be provided to explain the police facility project and funding. Councilman Horsey provided an explanation regarding the funding announcement of the \$750,000 recently received for the Old School House, Dollar General Property, 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Crouse Park Projects. The Board directed staff to draft a

letter for the Mayor's signature to the Caroline County Commissioners asking them to reconsider assisting with the projects. Caroline County Commissioner Jack Cole did not attend the meeting.

Councilman Horsey made a motion to have a proclamation given to Russell Jews, declaring a Russell Jews day, giving him a day off with pay for his heroic actions, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley. In discussion the Town Administrator asked who would decide the day, and the board advised that should be done by the Supervisor, Mr. Scott Getchell and staff. With no further discussion, the Mayor called for the final vote, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Retreat - Staff asked the board for a date to reschedule the retreat. The board agreed to reschedule for Sept. 19, 2003, from 12:00-3:00 to be held at the Old Hartford Town Museum.

### **New Business**

#### **Agenda #1 - HVAC Unit for Town Office (Administration Dept.)**

Staff obtained bids for replacement of the HVAC unit in the back, the present unit continues to keep breaking down, it can be repaired, however at ½ the cost of a new unit. Due to the age of the unit, staff is asking for consideration to replace the entire unit. Three estimates were received, with Your Comfort Company having the lowest bid.

Councilman Horsey made a motion to purchase the unit from Your Comfort Company, and for staff to locate the funding to cover it, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

#### **Agenda #2 - Downtown Promotions Committee**

Leanne Allen the Main St. Manager brought before the board a letter submitted by the Downtown Promotion Committee and several members to discuss parking enforcement, suggesting to place a 2 hour parking limit on Saturdays, install municipal parking lots signs and concerns about the property maintenance issues on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Jeannie Mazatenta, owner of Gabby's Books raised concerns about long term parking, questioning the lack of ticketing, and enforcement. While Teresa Goss, owner of Energy in Progress, stated that she has seen the tenants receive tickets, however she questions whether they are paying the fines because they continue to park in the same spots. Some park on the street on Friday evening and stay through Sunday, leaving no parking spots for customers on Saturday. Ms. Mazatenta expressed that she receives a lot of out of Town customers that are not familiar with parking areas, suggesting to put up municipal parking signs around town so that visitors could locate parking. The merchants raised concerns about the messy areas on 4<sup>th</sup> St. from Market to Gay, creating an un-welcoming area, out of state tags on the vehicles located in this area all of the time. The Downtown Promotions next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 25, 2003, and the Board asked if Scott Getchell could attend to discuss and help to find some solutions. Councilman Horsey recommended placing parking signs with arrows next to the traffic light on Market indicating the directions of municipal parking lots. At the present time Saturday and Sunday parking are free, unless the board recommends

changing. Staff advised that bids are due in soon for the 4<sup>th</sup> St. improvement projects that should clean up this area. Staff also advised that one of the property owners has been notified to clean up their area by the end of the week. The merchants indicated that they have written down tag numbers and supplied to the Police, the Police ticket the vehicle and they still continue to park there. In the past the Town considered hiring a meter maid, but there wasn't any funding available. They even pursued going through the Green Thumb program, but was also unsuccessful. Ms. Goss suggested that the board consider hiring someone and giving them a percentage of the meter funding collected. Ms. Mazatenta questioned how are traffic guards handled, and staff advised that the Town does not have traffic guards, at the present time the Police Dept. assist with the bus traffic at Lockerman School. Mr. Morrison questioned about impounding vehicles that park illegally, staff said they would have the Police Dept. check on legal status. Staff advised that if tickets are issued and not paid that the Police Dept. can flag with the MVA and the owners would not be allowed to renew their vehicle registration until satisfied. Councilman Horsey asked if the loading and unloading spaces are needed, and the Merchants advised that they are utilized all the times and definitely necessary. The board asked for Staff to send a letter to all merchants from the Mayor reminding them where they should park and that the parking should be reserved for customers. At this time Staff will work with the merchants to help solve the concerns and if it is still wished to make changes for Saturday parking this will be brought back by ordinance before the board for consideration.

### **Agenda #3 - Denton Development Corporation**

USDA Intermediary Re-Lending Program, Mr. Carl Scheffel. The DDC has received funding in the amount of \$750,000 for use to develop a revolving loan program at an interest rate of 1%. The DDC would re-lend the funds for Denton private business projects. The Town would be administering the loan on behalf of the DDC. This is before the board for consideration of approval to have the Mayor sign the agreement with approval of the attorney.

Councilman Branson made a motion to have the Mayor sign the agreement upon receipt of the attorney approval, seconded by Councilman Foster, the motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Horsey abstaining due to membership on the Board for the DDC.

Insurance - A quote has been obtained in the amount of \$1700 for the DDC to acquire liability coverage for their members. The DDC is requesting the Towns assistance in funding this coverage. Councilman Horsey advised the board that the DDC has no bank account or money, however the members make some of the decision that they warrant to have liability coverage.

Councilwoman Stockley made a motion to support insurance liability for the DDC, seconded by Councilman Foster, the motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Horsey abstaining due to membership on the Board of the DDC.

### **Agenda #4 - Personnel**

This item was deferred until executive session

**Other New Business**

The Town Administrator advised the board the presently the Police Dept. has obtained financing through the County at 5% interest rate for the new radio system. Federalsburg has secured a loan privately at 3.9% and is asking for the Town to piggy back with them. Councilman Branson made a motion to authorize to joining with the Town of Federalsburg for the lower interest rate, seconded by Councilman Horsey, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Goldsborough ask for consideration to hold an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

At 7:52 PM, Councilman Horsey made a motion to open an executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously 5-0. All council members were present for the executive session as well as the Town Administrator, Town Attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer.

At 8:50 PM, Councilman Branson made a motion to close the executive session, seconded by Councilman Horsey, passing unanimously 5-0.

**Agenda #4 - Personnel**

Councilman Branson made a motion to turn this matter over to the Attorney, seconded by Councilman Horsey, the motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Foster abstaining.

**Other New Business**

Tax Differential - Councilman Horsey advised that 500 more signatures were needed for the petition to be finalized regarding the tax differential, and encouraged the board to become more active. Staff had received a call from Ms. Nancy Geirhart of Ridgely, stating that the County Commissioners agenda for their next meeting, tomorrow 8/5/03, had items on there for discussion to consider rescinding the tax differential bill and creating a task force to review. Councilman Horsey was asked to consider sitting on the task force as one of the five municipal representatives.

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Horsey made a motion to close the meeting at 8:54 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Stockley, the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith  
Clerk-Treasurer