

January 2, 2014

**Regular Meeting**

Vice Mayor Clendaniel called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice Mayor Clendaniel asked that the record reflect that all members of the newly elected Town Council were present.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

**Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Members**

Vice Mayor Robert Clendaniel swore the newly elected officers, Mrs. Abigail McNinch to serve a 5 year term; Mrs. Tara Lightner to serve a 2 year term and Mr. Lester Branson to serve a 1 year term on the Denton Town Council.

**2014 Annual Election of Officers**

**Office of Mayor**

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to appoint Dennis D. Porter to serve as Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2014, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

**Office of Vice Mayor**

Councilman Porter made a motion to appoint Robert Clendaniel to serve as Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

**Office of Mayor Pro-tem**

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to appoint Abigail McNinch to serve as Mayor Pro-tem of the Denton Town Council for 2014, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2014, Mayor Porter presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**Public Hearing**

None

**Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication**

**Caroline Economic Development Corporation**

Ms. Angela Visintainer, Director of CEDC, provided the Town Council with an update on economic development projects occurring in the area and goals for the future.

**Maryland Smart Energy Application Information**

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Town's application, seeking additional grant funding to add solar panels on the roofs of the Police Department and the New Town Hall building.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance #657 – Regional Law Enforcement Compact**

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to adopt the Regional Law Enforcement Compact among and between the Towns of Denton, Ridgely, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Preston, and the Caroline County Sheriff's Office.

Councilman Branson made a motion to discuss Ordinance #657, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

*In discussion: Chief Cox provided an overview of the intent of the Ordinance, indicating the purpose is to update policies already in affect to comply with changes in State law. Chief Cox and Mr. Drummond, the Town Attorney, are working on finalizing the actual interagency agreement that will be ready for review in February.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #657, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.*

**Reports of Officers, Board and Committees**

*None*

**Unfinished Business**

**Agenda #1- Old Schoolhouse – Ribbon Cutting**

*Mr. Mulrine announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Culinary School is schedule for January 22, 2014 at 11:00 AM.*

*Several Council members commended everyone for all their hard work on this project and expressed how wonderful it will be to have another avenue for education within the Denton Community.*

*Mayor Porter had Mr. Mulrine provide an update on the Crouse Park project for Councilman Branson.*

**New Business**

**Agenda #1 - Planning Commission Appointments**

*Mr. William Quick and Mr. Brian Tyler's five year terms on the Planning Commission expired on December 31, 2013. Mr. Quick submitted a request to be reappointed for another 5 year term. Mr. Tyler requested to be moved to the Board of Appeal. Mr. Dean Danielson submitted a request to be appointed to the Planning Commission. The Council was asked to appoint one person to fill the regular member position and one to serve as the alternate position.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to appoint Mr. Danielson to fill the regular member position and Mr. Quick as the Alternate, the motion was withdrawn.*

*Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to re-appoint Mr. William Quick to serve another five year term and to appoint Mr. Dean Danielson to serve as the alternate on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #2 - Historic & Architectural Review Commission Appointments**

*Mr. Damian Dowdall and Mr. Richard Petersons' terms on the Historic Review Commission expired on December 31, 2013. Mr. Peterson requested to be reappointed. Mrs. Teresa Goss submitted a request to be appointed for a three year term as well. The Council was asked to appoint two people to serve a three year term.*

*Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to reappoint Mr. Richard Peterson for another 3 year term and to newly appoint Mrs. Teresa Goss to serve a 3 year term. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #3 - Board of Appeals Appointments**

*Mrs. Florence Doherty's term on the Board of Appeals expired December 31, 2013. The Alternate Member position became vacant when Councilwoman Lightner was appointed, then elected to serve on the Town Council. The Alternate position is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2014.*

*Mr. Brian Tyler requested to move from the Planning Commission to the Board of Appeals. Florence Doherty has requested appointment for another three year term.*

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Florence Doherty for another 3 years term and to appoint Mr. Brian Tyler to fill the alternate position through December 31, 2014.

**Agenda #4 - Winter Haven Grant – Subrecipient Agreement**

Mr. Mulrine announced that the Town on behalf of Winter Haven Shelter has received a grant from DHCD in the amount of \$44,850.00. A Subrecipient Agreement between the Town and Winter Haven Shelter was provided for consideration of approval.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Subrecipient Agreement, seconded by Councilman Branson.

**Agenda #5 Arts Council Community Legacy Loan Extension Request**

The Caroline County Council of Arts has a \$15,000 loan through the Town that was due in full in December 2013. The CCCA would like to request another loan extension through December 2014. The Town already has received an extension through the State Community Legacy Program and is in the process of seeking full forgiveness of this loan. The Council was asked to consider approving the loan extension request.

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of the Community Legacy Loan Program.

Councilman Branson made a motion to grant the loan extension, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilwoman Lightner abstaining.

Mrs. Marina Dowdall, with the Art's Council, and Mr. Robert Cheek, Downtown Denton Main Street Manager, shared that they are working with the CEDC on evaluating expanding the Arts & Entertainment District. A joint committee meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2014 at 2:30 PM at the Foundry. The Arts & Entertainment District needs to be re-designated by 2015 in order to continue to qualify to receive additional funding. Mrs. Dowdall stated that the application is underway and the Town Planning Dept. has been involved.

Councilwoman McNinch mentioned that the property that is for sale on 4<sup>th</sup> St. is a primary location for expansion and encouraged the committee to look into acquisition.

Councilwoman Lightner expressed interest in working with the Committee on this project and offered to call the realtor to obtain information on the property listed for sale.

**Industrial Park – Lot 9A**

Mr. Mulrine shared information on a current industrial park owner that is interested in expanding and possibly acquiring Lot 9A.

The Council agreed for the Town Administrator to move forward in working with the interested prospect.

**Miscellaneous**

**Solar Field – Ribbon Cutting**

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Solar Field status and asked the Council for recommendations for a date in February to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony. February 14, 2014 at 12 noon was a tentative date suitable for all members.

**New Town Hall**

At the request of Mayor Porter, Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of the status on the New Town Hall project. Mr. Mulrine anticipated the Request for Proposals to go out next week.

**Real Property Tax Assessments**

*Mayor Porter mentioned that the State has completed the property assessment values and wanted to know if the Town has received any indication of what the effect maybe.*

*Mr. Mulrine shared what the County was projecting and what the local Dept. of Assessments had verbally mentioned. The FY2015 Constant Yield notice is usually received in early February.*

**Meeting Protocol**

*Mayor Porter addressed members of the Council and shared his preferred meeting protocol for 2014.*

**Camp Road Speeding**

*Mr. Sherman McDonald of 710 Camp Road, expressed concerns and problems with aggressive speeding on Camp Road. He indicated that the speed cameras have helped, but recommended to relocate one of the cameras to the middle of the area between the overpass and Camp Rd. for the safety of the residents.*

*Mr. Mulrine shared that the speed cameras are only operating during school hours as allowed by State law; and that the Police Dept. has increased radar enforcement during other hours.*

*Mayor Porter thanked Mr. McDonald for continuing to share his concern and suggested not to hesitate to contact the Police Dept. at anytime.*

*With no further discussion, Mayor Porter declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk - Treasurer*