

July 2, 2015

**Regular Meeting**

Mayor McNinch 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.

Mayor McNinch asked that the record reflect that Councilman Branson was absent, all of the other Council members were present.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

**Ordinance #673 – International Building Codes**

Mayor McNinch opened a public hearing at 7:02 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #673 – An Ordinance amending the Town of Denton Building Code, Residential Code, Mechanical Code, Existing Building Code and Energy Conservation Code provisions contained in Chapter 38 of the Denton Town Code with respect to building construction.

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the State: there were none

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the County: there were none

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the Council: there were none

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the Public: there were none

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch closed this public hearing at 7:03 PM.

**Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication**

**Proclamation – Ms. Joan Fountain**

Mayor McNinch ratified a proclamation that was previously presented to the family of Ms. Joan Fountain, to recognize that she was an outstanding member of our community and offering the Council's sincerest condolences as she will be greatly missed.

**Proclamation – PFC Kaitlyn August**

Mayor McNinch presented a proclamation recognizing PFC Kaitlyn August, who just returned home from a tour in the US Army in Iraq. PFC August is a graduate of NCHS and her family resides in Denton. The Council took the opportunity to extend their gratitude to her dedication and service in the United State Army. PFC August was joined by her family in accepting this proclamation.

**Proclamation – Mr. Stan Skalka of Victor Stanley**

Mayor McNinch read a proclamation recognizing and thanking Mr. Stan Skalka, of Victor Stanley, for thinking of the Town and hosting a 3 day design consultation conducted by Alta Planning and Design. Their very creative team offered suggestions to the Town on how to create a better flow of the downtown area. This proclamation will be presented at a later date.

**Proclamation – Mrs. Betty Ballas**

Mayor McNinch presented a proclamation recognizing Mrs. Betty Ballas for her dedication as the Community Service Coordinator. Mrs. Ballas created this position with grant funds, coordinating adults who needed to work court ordered community service. Mrs. Ballas has organized this program for many years and has helped the Town with

several events. The Town Council expressed their sincere gratitude and thanked her for all she has done with this program for the community and wished her the best in her retirement years.

**Abrams Memorial Church Letter of Request**

Members of the Abrams Memorial Church – Sister Tasha Moals, President; Sister Shanetta Chestnut, Vice President, and Sister Rolenia Wilson, Youth Worker, came before the Council sharing information about planned activities for the youth. As part of their fundraising efforts for their Youth Ministry, they are reaching out to the Community asking for donations to cover supplies and upcoming events.

The Mayor and Council members thanked them for their dedication to Youth Ministry in the Community. Several Council Members personally gave monetary donations and offered services.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Resolution # 814 - Caroline County Habitat for Humanity Tax Credit Program**

**Application**

A Resolution of the Town of Denton supporting Caroline Co. Habitat for Humanity's participation in Together We Stand Revitalization Program and support of their Tax Credit Application to DHCD.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Resolution #814, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

In discussion: Mayor McNinch announced that the Town was complimented during the Maryland Municipal League Convention on the unique partnership the Town of Denton and Caroline County Habitat for Humanity have formed to improve the housing in Town.

The motion to adopt Resolution #814 passed unanimously.

**Resolution #815 – FY2015 General Fund Budget Amendment**

A Resolution of the Town of Denton to amend the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 was presented for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopted Resolution #815, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

**Ordinance #673 –International Building Codes**

An Ordinance amending the Town of Denton Building Code, Residential Code, Mechanical Code, Existing Building Code and Energy Conservation Code provisions contained in Chapter 38 of the Denton Town Code, with respect to building construction.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Ordinance #673, seconded by Councilman Porter.

Discussion was held; fees will be done by Resolution.

The motion to adopt Ordinance #673 passed unanimously.

**Reports of Officers, Board and Committees**

None

**Unfinished Business**

**Agenda #1- Town Council Health Care**

Councilman Porter made a motion to table this item until next month, when all members are present, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

**Agenda #2 –Savannah Overlook Open Space Transfer**

*Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, and Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, provided an overview on the status of the Open Space Lands for Savannah Overlook. The land transfer purchase was not accepted by 29<sup>th</sup> Street Capital, therefore, the original owner and developer along with the Easton Bank and Trust, still have ownership of the property. Planning and Codes has inspected the property and has informed the owner of possible maintenance violations. The Town settled on an agreement to accept the infrastructure; however, the Owner has not recorded the deed to officially transfer the property.*

*Mr. Drummond will review and follow back up.*

*Mr. Drummond shared that he has secured confessed judgments on the delinquent business loans for James Ransome and Edward Bombaro.*

**Agenda #3 - WWTP Cell One Liner Update**

*Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the failing cell liner at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and mentioned that one estimate has been received. Staff plans to put this project out for bid to seek competitive pricing.*

*Mr. Drummond took a moment to share with the Council that Wave Vision/Bay Broadband is in default of paying on their Water Tower Lease Agreement with the Town. A complaint for judgment has been prepared, however, Mr. Drummond mentioned that due to the recent news that the company has closed and owes a significant amount to other agencies; he recommended not filing, as the cost to attempt to collect, would be substantially more than is owed to the Town, which may not be recovered.*

**New Business**

**Agenda #1 - Provident State Bank Line of Credit Renewal**

*Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the bank documents to renew the Town's \$100,000 Line of Credit with Provident State Bank. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel and passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #2 - Letter of Agreement – Main Street Maryland**

*The Council reviewed an agreement between Denton Main Street, Town of Denton, and Main Street Maryland outlining the roll of each participant. The agreement is good until December 31, 2016 and is required by Main Street Maryland to continue to be a part of the program.*

*Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to keep the Denton Main Street Maryland designation alive and approve the agreement, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #3 - Lease Agreement – 13 N. Third St.**

*The Council reviewed a draft agreement outlining the terms of a lease agreement between the Caroline County Historical Society and the Town of Denton, with regards to extending the Museum of Rural Life Lease to include the old Town hall office at 13 N. Third St.*

*Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt the addendum to the lease as amended, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #4 - Board of Supervisors of Election Appointment**

*Ms. Joan Fountain, having served 17 ½ Years as a member on the Board of Supervisors of Elections for the Town, recently passed away. Her term was set to expire June 30, 2016.*

*Mr. William Clemens, who is currently serving as an Alternate Member on the Board of Supervisor of Elections, has expressed interested in changing positions to fulfill the vacancy. His term, as an Alternate, is also set to expire June 30, 2016.*

*Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to appoint Mr. Clemens as a permanent member on the Board of Supervisors of Elections, seconded by Councilman Porter. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Staff will conduct an outreach to seek another citizen that would be interested in serving as the Alternate.*

**Agenda #5 - FY2016 Water Fund Budget**

*The FY2016 Water Fund Budget was presented to the Council for discussion and consideration of adoption.*

*Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt the FY2016 Water Fund Budget as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner.*

*An overview of the budget was provided during discussion.*

*The motion to adopt the FY2016 Water Fund Budget passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #6 - FY2016 Sewer Fund Budget**

*The FY2016 Sewer Fund Budget was presented to the Council for discussion and consideration of adoption.*

*Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt the FY2016 Sewer Fund Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.*

*An overview of the budget was provided during discussion.*

*The motion to adopt the FY2016 Sewer Fund Budget passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #7 – Maryland State Comptroller v. Wynne – Income Tax Revenue**

**Impact**

*Staff provided information on the Comptroller of Maryland v. Wynne Income Tax case, in which the Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the Wynne's.*

*Staff will continue to monitor and provide updates on how this will affect the Town of Denton's Income Tax Revenues beginning in FY2017.*

**Miscellaneous**

**County Commissioner Bond Bill Support**

*The Council discussed projects for submission and support for the 2016 General Assembly Bond Bill Funding Session.*

*Mayor McNinch and Mr. Mulrine recently met with the Maryland State Highway Administration Deputy Secretary to discuss several concerns related to SHA projects within the Town.*

*Councilman Porter made a motion to request support for Sharp Road Park for the Bond Bill and for State Highway to seek support for Crouse Park, the Franklin Street redesign, right in/right out access at 404 and Gay St. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.*

*Rev. Church, new owner of 709 Randolph, shared concerns about the water run off onto their property. He and his wife Julia are worried about undermining and the condition of the road. Rev. Church also questioned that having no curbs at this property makes it look run down, and made suggestions to improve the look of the Town.*

*Mayor McNinch provided some history, sharing that the Town lost a lot of State funding for roads.*

*Mr. Mulrine and staff will take a look.*

*Councilman Clendaniel mentioned receiving community concerns from last night, and asked that the Police Dept. continue patrols to help ease concerns.*

*Councilman Clendaniel questioned, if there are any records related to the old Community Relations Board that would be of any value, to keep everyone proactive, given the national atmosphere.*

*Chief Cox shared that the Chief's Association recently met with the President of the County NAACP, discussing concerns and working together on any potential concerns that may arise.*

*The Mayor and Council members shared information about the training attended at the recent MML.*

*Mayor McNinch will be working on submitting a listing of the businesses that have received Facade Improvement Funding in the past, sharing the effect of not having received funding this year, in hopes to receive additional funding in the future.*

*Mayor McNinch shared that Caroline County Recreation and Parks is putting in for Program Open Space Funding for Sharp Road Project. The County Commissioners have approved to give money to help finalize the Sharp Road Park plans, and the Choptank Athletic Association will also provide some funding to help this project move forward.*

*Councilman Porter announced that the District 6, 11-12 year old Boys, Tournament will be held at the Denton Little League Park on July 11, 2015 and encouraged everyone to attend.*

*Mr. Mulrine mentioned they are also working with the YMCA to create a partnership on Sharp Road Park as well.*

*Mayor McNinch added that they talked with Katie, at Land Conservatory, about the park as well.*

*Mayor McNinch shared an acknowledgement received from Union Bethel AME Church for the Town's charitable donation in memory of Ms. Joan G. Fountain.*

*With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk - Treasurer*