

August 1, 2013

Executive Session

At 6:30 PM Mayor Danielson called to order an Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters and Engineering Applications.

All Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Porter.

Staff present: included Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator; Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer; Mr. Scott Getchell, Director of Public Works; Mr. Tom Batchelor, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer and Chief Rodney Cox.

Also present was Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney.

The Council held discussion about the Engineering Applicants for the Town and Police Operations and Personnel.

At 6:59 PM Mayor Danielson closed the Executive Session to relocate downstairs for the Council regular monthly meeting.

No action was taken, this was informational only.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Danielson 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 Danielson announced that the Council had held an Executive Session earlier this evening to discuss personnel matters and the engineering applications.

Mayor Danielson asked that the record reflect that Councilman Porter was absent, and that all other Council members were present.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2013 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Proclamation – Caroline Summerfest 25th Anniversary

Mayor Danielson read a proclamation declaring August 16 & 17 for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Caroline Summerfest to be hosted in downtown Denton.

Proclamation – Denton Winning Ball Teams

Mayor Danielson read a proclamation to congratulate the 2013 Senior League Boys All-Star Team for winning the Maryland State Championship.

Mayor Danielson read a proclamation to congratulate the 2013 Intermediate Division Ball Team for winning the Maryland State Championship.

These proclamations will be presented by the Town Council during the Caroline Summerfest.

Proclamation – Brandon Engle

Mayor Danielson read a proclamation to recognize Brandon Engle for his amazing work on the Fourth Street Park and his dedication to the community. Brandon is currently working on earning the Eagle Scout badge.

Letter from Scott Nordhoff

Mayor Danielson read a letter that was received from Mr. Scott Nordhoff in reference to a complaint discussed at last month's meeting. No action was taken.

Letter from Caroline North Little League

Mayor Danielson read a letter received from the Caroline North Little League District 6 Champions seeking donations to help send the team to New Jersey.

Mayor Danielson stated that he will personally give a donation.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #789 Emergency Solutions Grant for Winter Haven Shelter

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing for a Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) FY2014 for the Winter Haven Cold Weather Shelter to be funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to adopt Resolution #789, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

In discussion: Councilman Gregory asked how much money was being applied for; will the grant require any matching funds; and who will be administering the grant.

Mr. Brian Gourley, Executive Director of Winter Haven, gave an overview of the Winter Haven program. The grant application is for \$65,000. The State of MD, Dept of Housing and Community Development will review the application and determine the amount to be awarded. The matching grant funds are the responsibility of the Winter Haven program. These funds can be in-kind, covered by volunteer hours. The in-kind/cash match is 50/50. In Fiscal Year 2013 the application requested \$11,000 and \$5,000 was awarded.

Mr. Mulrine added that the Town's management of the grant is very limited.

The motion to adopt Resolution #789 passed unanimously.

Resolution #790 Community Parks and Playgrounds Grant Application

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing for a Community Parks and Playground Grant to be funded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to adopt Resolution #790, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine mentioned that the grant application is for \$200,000 and there is no match required.

The motion to adopt Resolution #790 passed unanimously.

Resolution #791 – Community Legacy Façade Grant Application

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of Community Legacy financing for Façade Grant Funds to be funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to adopt Resolution #791, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine mentioned that the Façade Grant application is for \$150,000 for exterior improvements for possibly replacing the roof on the Lily Pad; renovations to the new town hall and other main street façade renovations. Mr. Mulrine answered questions from the audience.

Councilwoman McNinch explained how the existing Façade Grant, 50/50 match, is paid for by the recipient of the grant funds.

The motion to adopt Resolution #791 passed unanimously.

Resolution #792 - Community Legacy Strategic Demolition Grant Application

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing for a Strategic Demolition & Smart Growth Impact Fund project in Denton, Maryland to be funded

either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to adopt Resolution #792, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine explained the grant is being applied for to receive funding to finish the renovations of the Hardee House at 7 N. 4th St., and to renovate 9 N. 4th St. and 8 N. 4th St. The grant is 100%, no match required.

The motion to adopt Resolution #792 passed unanimously.

Ordinance #654 – Historical Easement - 808 S. Fifth Ave.

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton repealing Ordinance No. 613 and authorizing the Town of Denton to release and extinguish a Historical Façade Easement on a building known as “Plain Dealing”, located at 808 S. 5th Avenue in the Town of Denton.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to introduce Ordinance #654, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine and Mr. Batchelor provided the background of the easement and the owners reasons for the request to have it released, which is primarily due to the destruction caused by the fire. Prior to the fire, the foundation already had issues.

Councilman Clendaniel expressed concerns about not saving one of the oldest houses in town, but having other grant funds available to repair structures of less value.

Councilman Gregory shared Councilman Clendaniel’s concerns, but respected the property owner's request.

The motion to introduce Ordinance #654 passed 3-1, with Councilman Clendaniel voting against.

Ordinance #655 – Residential Rental Provisions

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton amending the residential rental housing provision contained in Chapter 98 of the Denton Town Code with Residential Rental Properties.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to introduce Ordinance #655, seconded by Councilman Gregory.

In discussion: Mr. Batchelor provided a summary and that they are still working on some revisions.

Mr. Drummond advised that they can wait for a revised copy.

Councilman Clendaniel amended his motion to defer introduction of Ordinance #655 to the September meeting. The amended motion was seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Ordinance #656 – International Property Maintenance Code

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to defer introduction of Ordinance #656, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Urban Grid Agreement

The agreement is in regard to the solar development for the waste water treatment plant as previously discussed.

Mr. Drummond stated that he has negotiated any legal concerns.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to approve the Urban Grid Agreement as presented, seconded by Councilman Gregory.

In further discussion: Mr. Drummond stated that he did not seek any electric expertise and that the agreement holds the investor accountable.

The motion to approve the Urban Grid Agreement passed unanimously.

Agenda #2 - Tax Differential Press Release

Councilman Gregory made a motion to approve the press release that has been drafted by the Town Council to explain the Tax Differential in more detail to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Staff was directed to also post on the Town website and send to the Maryland Municipal League.

Agenda #3 - Town Engineer Selection

The Council reviewed the two applicants for Town Engineer. Staff conducted interviews and recommended selecting Remington Vernon Beach to be the Town's Engineer for the next three years.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Staff and award the Town's engineering for future projects to Remington Vernon Beach (RVB). The motion was seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Mayor Danielson mentioned that he sat in on one of the interviews and he fully supports Staff's recommendation. He was impressed because RVB is a full municipal engineering firm that can offer additional services for the Town.

The motion to select Remington Vernon Beach passed 3-1, with Councilman Gregory abstaining because he is familiar with RVB.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Utility Commission Appointment

The Denton Utility Commission requests the Town Council approve the appointment of Mr. Lance Lockerman to fill the remaining term of Mr. Andy Mackel, who recently resigned. Mr. Lockerman is a career employee with the Choptank Electric Coop and a lifelong resident of Denton.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to appoint Mr. Lance Lockerman to serve on the Utility Commission, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Councilman Clendaniel asked for a proclamation to be drafted to be provided to Mr. Andy Mackel for his years of dedicated service on the Utility Commission.

Agenda #2 - State Highway Letters

Mr. Mulrine provided a synopsis of correspondences in regard to information about updating the sidewalks along Franklin St. and 6th St. around the Chesapeake Culinary School to be ADA compliant.

A follow up meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2013 with the State Highway District Engineer, to be held at the Town office at 10:00 AM. The Eastern Shore Delegation has been invited.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Clendaniel inquired about the status of having the Fiscal Year 2014 budget uploaded to the Town website. Staff will take care of this request.

Mayor Danielson asked for any comments from the Public.

Mr. Robert Willey inquired about previous discussions on bamboo being an evasive plant.

Mr. Drummond explained that not all bamboo is considered evasive and that the Town Code currently only deals with weeds.

Mr. Willey inquired about the three homes mentioned earlier that the Town owns and the status of these properties.

Mr. Mulrine provided a response, in that the Hardee House has been renovated and currently houses the Caroline County Council of Arts – FACES group. 9 N. 4th St. is under renovation. 8 N. 4th St. has been condemned. The Town is asking the State for additional grant funds to complete the projects.

Councilwoman McNinch stated that the A&E District neighborhood was in disarray and through the State funding programs there have been a lot of improvements.

The Mayor and Staff answered questions about the new town hall.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to close the meeting at 8:27 PM, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*