

September 18, 2017

Working Session – 6:00 PM

The Working Session of the Denton Town Council was called to order at 6:00 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance:

Council: Councilman Branson, Councilman Lister, and Councilman Johnson. Mayor McNinch and Councilman Porter was absent.

Staff: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief Rodney Cox, Joanna Reedy Account Clerk were present.

Discussion:

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Brown – Property Acquisition – Power Plant Proposal

Mr. Mulrine shared information with Mr. & Mrs. Brown regarding a proposal from Spectrum Energy to acquisition land from them and build a power plant adjacent to their property on Foy Road. The Browns were upset with the short amount of time they were given to come to a decision on the proposal. They felt that they did not receive enough information or enough time to make a good decision. It was explained to the Brown's that this is a preliminary start, nothing is definite at this time. The request asks that they agree to not sell the proposed property for 3 years while Spectrum Energy gathers information. Once the information is studied and Spectrum Energy decides to move on with the project they will present a proposal to everyone involved. Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson shared information that they had learned about the project and past projects completed by Spectrum Energy. An invitation was extended to the Browns to accompany the Town Council to visit a powerplant in Delaware that was built by Spectrum. Mr. Mulrine will ask Spectrum to set up another presentation for this project and if Mr. & Mrs. Brown have any questions or concerns please let the staff know.

Mr. & Mrs. Brown along with Mr. Patrick Beaven expressed their concerns with the traffic pattern at Dunkin Donuts on Legion Road. Mr. Mulrine shared that a traffic study has been done and presented to the State for consideration of changes

Quality Staffing- Employee Visitor & Heritage Center:

Mr. Mulrine shared that staff is working with Quality Staffing to hire someone to work at the visitor center.

Visitor Center Rental Agreement:

A drawing of a sign for the Welcome Center was presented for the Council's review. Council discussed the rental agreement proposed for the Visitor Center. Councilman Branson questioned who is in charge of renting out the facility and overseeing the functions, sharing concerns on how it will affect the payroll of town employees. At the present time, Mr. Mulrine will be overseeing this along with other town staff. The goal is to eventually hire an event coordinator who will handle the requests.

Councilman Lister raised concern that the rental fees were too low. He suggested that there be a 2-hour minimum charge (\$75.00) for daytime events thru the week and \$25.00 per hour for any additional time. He suggested that there be a 4 hour minimum charge (\$400.00) for evenings and weekends and \$50.00 per hour for each additional hour needed. It was suggested that everyone who wants to use the facility will pay the rental fees but discounted fees for use of the Visitor Center may be extended to community recognition groups such as nonprofit organizations serving Caroline County and the Town of Denton and Town of Denton Staff.

There is one Employee Rental scheduled for September 30th. There will be no alcohol and the employee will clean up and remove trash.

2017-17

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Road Show:

Maryland Department of Transportation will be at a meeting on November 7th at 10:30 am at the Board of Education Office to meet with County and Town Officials for Capital Improvement Requests. The County has asked that the Town provide a list of what requests they have for the State of Maryland as soon as possible.

Requests for assistance from the State of Maryland for the Town of Denton projects will include:

- 1). Financial Assistance to build a road to connect Walmart to Route 404/Gay Street
- 2). Financial Assistance for Storm Water Improvements from the Town Study
- 3). Change the traffic lights at Legion and 404 to LED Lights
- 4). Install a notifier on Eastbound 404 and River Road warning of intersection and light ahead.
- 5). Install Red Strobe Light Bulbs at Commercial Intersections for safety.

Hardee House Lease Options:

Mr. Mulrine is working with Marina Dowdall to sublease the Hardee House to Habitat for Humanity Choptank. In turn Habitat will do maintenance work on the building.

Strategic Plan:

Mr. Mulrine asked the Council for any updates they may have for the Strategic Plan for 2018. Changes to include Finishing the WW Treatment Plant Upgrades and make necessary roof repairs to the Town Hall at 4 N. Second Street. Staff will update pictures in lobby to show completed jobs.

Mr. Mulrine reviewed the zoning map and updated council on the status of 3 approved residential projects that have not been started yet. (Watt's Creek, Fearins Crossing and The Gardens).

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Reedy
Account Clerk