

October 1, 2015

Regular Meeting

Mayor McNinch called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:02 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor McNinch asked that the record reflect that Councilman Porter and Councilman Clendaniel were present. Councilman Branson was on an approved leave for a training. Councilwoman Lightner was not in attendance.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented; seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Citizen Petition – Fire Alarm Noise

Mr. Santo Mirabile, Jr. of 101 Sunset Drive, came before the Town Council to discuss his concerns on the misuse of sirens to call volunteers to the scene of an emergency or to the fire station.

Mr. Mirabile presented a petition signed by 51 residents seeking to Eliminate Fire Alert Sirens in Denton, stating they are too loud. He questioned if the Town could fund the Fire Dept. so they could obtain the equipment they need, so that the sirens are only used for civil defense calls.

Councilman Dennis Porter, stepped away from the Council table and moved to the podium to address this as the present Chief of the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept. Mr. Porter provided the history of the sirens, how they are used and explained that the Sirens are controlled by the Caroline County Dept. of Emergency Services, adding that not all volunteers have pagers to receive the alerts and that text based systems are not always reliable.

Mr. Porter is going to inquire with the Dept. of Emergency Services about the Counties protocol and see if they can reduce the number of cycles the alert runs.

Mayor McNinch thanked Mr. Mirabile and Mr. Porter for their testimony.

Councilman Porter resumed his seat at the Council table.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #819 – Police Dept. Vehicle Purchase

A Resolution Authorizing the Town of Denton to purchase two 2015 Dodge Ram Special Service Vehicles with emergency equipment installed and to obtain a loan at a maximum amount of \$72,000 from PNC Bank for 48 months with interest rate of 1.50%.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve Resolution #819, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Resolution #820 – Police Dept. Tasers Purchase

A Resolution authorizing the Town to Purchase ten Tasers. Chief Cox and Lt. Bacorn came before the Council seeking approval to purchase 10 Tasers at the cost of \$10,147.25 with shipping of \$107.14. Lt. Bacorn shared that this will allow the department to upgrade their equipment that is now out dated and can no longer be maintained. They are currently down to 3 units which is a safety issue for the Officers.

Chief Cox stated that they will be using the speed enforcement camera funds to cover the cost of the new equipment.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopt Resolution #820 authorizing the purchase and contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel and passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

Mr. Donald Mulrine, Town Administrator, announced that Mayor McNinch, Council Branson and himself will be attending the Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference at the end of October.

Mr. Mulrine talked about the MML "If I Were Mayor Contest" that is coming up. He has spoken to the Principal at Denton Elementary about meeting with all of the Fourth Graders to talk about the contest. Mayor McNinch included that through the Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities they are seeking for the Mid-Shore Regional Foundation to sponsor a scholarship and contribute \$1,500 toward the winners of the contest. They are hoping to encourage more local kids to participate.

Mr. Mulrine gave an update on the MD State Highway Route 404 Repaving Project.

Mr. Mulrine reminded everyone about the Caroline County Government and Caroline County Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 5, at the BOE to discuss the new school location.

October 6, 2015 – the Eastern Shore Delegates will be meeting with the County and Towns seeking legislative projects to consider for the 2016 Session.

Denton will be seeking support for State Highway Administration to consider installing a round-about in the causeway at the bottom of Market Street near Crouse Park. Seeking funding approval for the Crouse Park Project and asking State Highway for support to fix traffic issues at Legion Road.

Mayor McNinch provided an update on the Sharp Road Park Community Parks and Playground Grant process.

The Mayor, Town Administrator and Lieutenant Bacorn recently attended a breakfast at Denton Elementary School.

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, took a moment to provide an update on the Medical Marijuana Legislation and recent discussions with the Attorney General Office.

Mayor McNinch clarified that the Town is currently on a fact finding mission about this new legislation.

Councilman Clendaniel stated he would like to know how the citizens feel about this.

Mrs. Teresa Goss, of 104 Riverton Ave., spoke passionately about the benefit medical marijuana has for cancer patients and expressed that it can help so many that are suffering.

Mr. Stephen Konopelski, of 119 Gay St., expressed that this may be a small county, and that it is a fantastic idea to support this, as it will be a great economic plus to the community.

Ms. Mary Fowler, of 504 Market St., shared that she has no problem with medical marijuana, but has problems with heroin, drugs and alcohol.

Mr. Dean Danielson, of 1108 Cattail Commons Way, mentioned that this is medical, not legalizing free enterprise.

Mr. Irvin Fretwell, of 9712 Foy Road, added that he supports this for medical use; but is against alcohol abuse and suggested cutting back on bars.

Councilman Clendaniel thanked everyone who spoke about this topic.

Mr. Sherman McDonald, of 710 Camp Road, shared concerns about speeding and noisy trucks on Camp Road.

Chief Cox expressed that the Department is challenged with officers not having enough time to schedule speed enforcement, as often as they would like. The speed enforcement cameras are helpful. The Department will step up patrols when they can and also crack down on modified exhaust violations.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone for sharing their comments and concerns, suggesting the Council continue discussion on these item at the Working Session scheduled for October 22, 2015.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Agenda #1 – Downtown Denton Main Street Board

The Downtown Denton Main Street Board, Mr. Stephen Konopelski and Mrs. Teresa Goss talked with the Council about seeking a rider on the Town's Insurance for the events held in the downtown area.

Staff was asked to contact LGIT and research if this is possible.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Fowler and Mrs. Hildwine, of 1105 Honey Suckle Drive, each asked for more details about the police cars that were approved to purchase earlier.

Chief Cox answered the questions.

Mr. Drummond clarified that this was the final action taken tonight, not the first time the police vehicle acquisition has been discussed.

Mr. Fratwell inquired about the Wastewater Treatment Plant Liner problem.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the one liner is working well and the Town is working with USDA to identify funding to repair the faulty one.

It was questioned why the Town is approving buying new police cars and not using the funding on the liner repair.

Councilman Porter explained that the liner is part of the Sewer System, which is an Enterprise Fund, a separate business that is not commingled with the General Fund.

Councilman Porter provided an update on the hurricane and shared the potential affect for the area.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone for coming and with no further discussion, adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk – Treasurer*