

November 1, 2012

Regular Meeting

Mayor Porter 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 Porter asked that the record reflect that all Council members were present.

Councilman Clendaniel recommended to amend the minutes of the October 4, 2012 Meeting - Executive Session to identify that Mrs. Tara Lightner was in attendance for this special session as the Town's Head of the Search Committee for the Main St. Manager Position.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2012 regular meeting as amended and the minutes of the October 18, 2012 working session as submitted. The motion was, seconded by Councilwoman Case and passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Mr. Jeff Wright

Mr. Wright, property owner in Denton, had previously put in a request to be placed on the agenda to speak to the Council.

Staff advised that Mr. Wright had called the office earlier on this date and said that he would not be attending the meeting and that he would write the Council members a letter.

Proclamation – What's New Shop

Mayor Porter read and signed a proclamation honoring the "What's New Shop" in celebration and recognition for 30 years of business serving the Downtown Denton area. The Council wishes them the best during this very special occasion and for many more years.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution # 777 – MD Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Program

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing for Maryland Neighborhood Conservation Initiative (NCI) National Mortgage Loan Servicing Practices Settlement Funding Program in Denton, Maryland to be funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution #777, seconded by Councilman Danielson. In discussion, Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an overview of the program. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

MD DCT Transportation

Mr. Mulrine asked the Council for consideration to submit a letter to the Caroline County Commissioners seeking their support for DCT to add a bus stop for the Denton Wal-Mart.

The Council unanimously approved for the Mayor to send a letter.

Center for Environment & Society (CES)

The Council reviewed a letter received from the CES at Washington College offering to produce an analysis of the Town's energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions absolutely free.

The Council supported having the Town Administrator work with CES on the study.

Ethics Law

Mr. Mulrine shared an article with the Council about the stricter ethics requirements and where one small-town official resigned because of the new law.

Mayor Porter suggested having this topic added to the list of Caroline County legislation concerns, to be mentioned at their November 13, 2012 meeting. The County will be holding a special meeting on November 5, 2012 to discuss the topics and concerns for the State meeting on November 13, 2012.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Sustainable Communities Designation Confirmation Letter & Map

The Town has received a letter from DHCD confirming our Sustainable Community designation. This designation will allow the Town to continue applying for funds for the Community Legacy Program and Neighborhood BusinessWorks program.

This item was informational only, no action was taken.

Agenda #2 - Letter from County Administrator

At the October 4, 2012 Council meeting, a letter was on the agenda from the County Administrator requesting Denton Police Department stats for their annual financial audit and work on their FY 2014 municipal tax differential. At the direction of the Council, a response letter was sent back to Mr. Decker advising him of a website containing the information he had requested.

The Council reviewed Mr. Decker's response to that letter asking for additional information that is not located on the website; advising that Mrs. Moore would be contacting the Town for the additional information.

Mr. Mulrine stated that Mrs. Moore has not contacted the Town, as of yet. The Council instructed to Mr. Mulrine, when Mrs. Moore does contact the Town to show Mrs. Moore the website to help her find the data requested.

Agenda #3 – PNC Bank Property

Mr. Mulrine stated that the Town had received a reply from the PNC Bank Real Estate Office, seeking the Town to submit a non binding Letter of Interest for the purchase of the building located at 207 Market St, Denton, MD. Mr. Mulrine shared the Town Attorney recommendations for some amendments and suggested to reduce the earnest money to \$1,000.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Non-binding Letter of Interest; Councilman Gregory added to reduce the deposit to \$1,000 and to include the amendments recommended by the Attorney.

The motion as amended was seconded by Councilman Gregory, and passed unanimously.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Caroline Summerfest Town Activity Report

Mr. Mulrine announced that Town staff is still reviewing the staffing hours utilized during Summerfest and asked to defer discussion until the November working session to allow staff time to finish with the audit.

With no objections, Mayor Porter deferred discussion on this item until the November 15, 2012 working session.

Agenda #2 - Holiday Schedule

Staff asked for direction on the Town Office hours for Christmas Eve, which falls on a Monday this year.

Councilman Gregory expressed that the employees work hard throughout the year and proposed to close the Town Office, but questioned the cost of shutting down the office for one day.

Mr. Mulrine explained that if Staff uses available accrued leave for this time, that it would not cost the Town any additional out of pocket funds for payroll, but that by having the office building closed, that it would be a saving on energy costs.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to close the office on Monday, December 24th and Monday December 31st, employees that want to be off on these days can use accrued leave, seconded by Councilwoman Case, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Small Business Loan – Awards Engraving Co.

The Awards Engraving Co. located in downtown Denton, has applied for a \$25,000 Small Business Loan through the town to update equipment. The application and letters of recommendation were provided to the Council.

Mr. Mulrine asked for the Council to postpone this item, as he is still waiting on the Business Loan Review Committee responses.

With no objection, Mayor Porter deferred this item to December.

Miscellaneous

Lupine Lane Traffic Concern

Councilman Gregory shared a letter of concern that he received from Ms. Barbara Manley of Lupine Lane. The letter raised concerns about the parking on both sides of the roadway and the congested traffic pattern during school activities. Councilman Gregory stated that visited the area and drove through and understands her concerns and agrees that it needs to be looked at.

Councilman Clendaniel expressed that it really needs to be looked at by all parties involved, the County, the Town and the Board of Education.

Discussion continued with ideas to work with the Board of Education to see if they could remove the chain separator in the parking lot for after school activities; and to enforce restricted parking on one side of the road.

Chief Cox stated that a large portion of Lupine Lane is located in the County and suggested to refer to the Sheriff's Office for enforcement.

Mr. Mulrine stated that he will let the Principal know about the concern so they can work together to seek some suggestions to make it safer.

Mayor Porter recommended addressing a letter to all the youth leagues of the concerns asking parents to use the parking lots at the school.

Legion Road Traffic Pattern

Mayor Porter questioned the traffic flow on Legion Road. He said that he had witnessed on more than one occasion traffic going the wrong way.

Chief Cox stated that making U-turn's is difficult.

Mr. Getchell said they can instruct the contractor to add additional directional signage.

Councilman Danielson mentioned that they need another lane.

Mr. Mulrine stated that the road meets the standards.

Councilman Danielson recommended that as other property owners improve their parcels they should assist in future modification to improve the traffic flow.

Wal-Mart Opening

Mayor Porter commended staff on the time and effort put into getting Wal-Mart open on time. Everyone did a great job and Wal-Mart has expressed that they are very pleased with the cooperative effort of the Town Staff working with them.

Hurricane Sandy

Mayor Porter commended staff for their storm cleanup efforts; keeping the Town streets clear and safe. He mentioned that there had been some negative feedback about the Town rescheduling Halloween to Saturday night, but with trees and power lines still down and generators still running in a few places in town, that it was necessary for the safety of the children.

Owens Letter

Councilman Danielson read Mr. Mike Owens letter of response to Councilwoman Case's answers. He questioned that the document does not answer his questions and that he has sought an answer for over six months.

Mayor Porter asked Councilman Danielson to copy the letter and to have it distributed to the Council for discussion later.

Councilman Gregory questioned who Councilwoman Case was referring to as a senior official that had contacted the State and interfered with her investigation. He asked Mr. Mulrine if he had contacted the State and Mr. Mulrine replied "No Sir".

Councilwoman Case mentioned that she had gone to Mr. Owens store, but that he would not talk to her.

Mr. Owens reminded her that he had asked the Council to make an appointment with him, and that she had not done that.

Mayor Porter asked again for the letter to be distributed to all members of the Council so they can review and get back to Mr. Owens.

Upcoming Board Member Term Expirations

Mr. Mulrine announced that some of the board member terms expire at the end of December for the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals and the Historic Review. The letters of interest will be provided at the December meeting for consideration of appointments.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 15, 2012 – Council working session

Dec. 6, 2012 - Holiday Parade

Dec. 7, 2012 – Employee End of Year Luncheon

Dec. 13, 2012 – Town Council monthly meeting

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Danielson made a motion to close the meeting at 8:14 PM, seconded by Councilman Gregory, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*