

June 1, 2017

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 thanked everyone one for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2017 Regular Meeting, the May 15, 2017 Working Session and the May 22, 2017 Special Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Patti Wood

Mayor McNinch presented a Proclamation to Ms. Patti Wood, recognizing her hard work and dedication in representing and promoting the Police Department.

Proclamation – Caroline County Council of Arts 40th Anniversary

Mayor McNinch presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Marina Dowdall, recognizing the Caroline County Council of Arts on their 40th Anniversary.

Mrs. Dowdall announced the CCA will be holding their 40th Celebration on Saturday, June 3rd, and invited everyone to attend.

Letter – Tom Batchelor

Mr. Tom Batchelor, former employee of the Denton Planning and Codes Department, took a moment to say that it was a great joy to work for the Town, expressing his gratitude and thanking the Town Council and Mr. Mulrine for all their support.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance # 688 – Parking Regulation Changes

An Ordinance of the Town repealing and reenacting certain provisions of Chapter 120 of the Town Code, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, specifically relating to Section 120-17 “Special Purpose Parking Zones”.

Councilman Lister made a motion to introduce Ordinance #688, seconded by Councilman Porter.

In discussion: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an overview, and discussion was held regarding the parking changes that are proposed to occur around the Court House, if the Ordinance is adopted.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #688.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Denton Plaza Median

Discussion was held regarding letters received concerning the median strip barrier at Legion Rd., seeking modification to the curb for emergency units.

Staff was directed to send letters in response so everyone knows the Town is working on researching their concerns and for safety purposes is seeking an engineering opinion.

New Business

Agenda #1 –DDMS Updates

Mr. Steve Konopelski, President of the Downtown Denton Main Street organization, and resident of 119 Gay Street, came before the Council and provided an update on the organization and upcoming events.

Councilman Lister shared that the Council approved the DDMS budget request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mayor McNinch thanked all the volunteers of the DDMS, for their efforts they put into promoting Denton.

Mr. Konopelski announced that the baked goods sale at Turn Bridge Point is held on Saturday mornings, beginning at 8:30 AM.

Mr. Konopelski also announced that Turn Bridge Point through the What's Up Media magazine received the "Best Desert" and "Best Chef" awards this year.

Agenda #2 – Well #3 Emergency Repairs

Due to a check valve failure on the drop pipe at well #3, Public Works had to hire AC Schultes to remove the drop pipe and well pump from the well. Once removed, AC Schultes performed several tests on the well pump, the well pump motor, the flow meter, and the well itself.

Public Work recommended to perform all the repairs at a cost of \$15,926.00, with funding to come from the Water Reserve Fund.

Councilman Lister made a motion to introduce, seconded by Councilman Branson.

Options were discussed.

Councilman Porter asked to clarify that the motion is to approve the full amount, and Councilman Lister stated, yes that was his intent.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to approve.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #3 - ASCAP License Agreement

Mr. Mulrine provided a ASCAP Annual License Agreement that is required for the Town to host and sponsor events that include music.

Councilman Branson made a motion to discuss the agreement, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Discussion was held in which Mr. Mulrine and Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, provided an explanation.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve spending \$341 and signing the ASCAP License Agreement, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - CIP Funds Request

Mr. Mulrine submitted a request, seeking approval to use \$30,791.90 of CIP Funds designated for Economic Development to acquire phone equipment to continue with the fiber connection to the Visitor Center, Town Hall, Public Works as well as for Corsica to assist with computer connections.

Councilman Branson made a motion to discuss, seconded by Councilman Porter.

Concerns about the cost were discussed, along with the benefits of moving forward with fiber system.

Councilman Branson made a motion to spend the \$30,791, seconded by Councilman Lister. The motion passed with 3 votes, Councilman Johnson voted no and Councilman Porter abstained from voting.

Agenda #5 - Sharp Road Park Irrigation Hose Reel

Mr. Mulrine submitted a request to purchase an irrigation house reel for Sharp Road Park. This is an automatic hose reel that will water the athletic fields from the newly drilled well. Several suppliers were contacted for a quote, two were received, with the lowest bid being \$13,384.

Councilman Branson made a motion to get this item on the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Lister.

Mr. Mulrine provide an explanation and proposed to use the leftover bond bill funding to purchase.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to accept the bid from Smith Irrigation Equipment for \$13,384, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #6 - Corporation Tax Abatement – Shore Pizza Hut

The Finance Dept. requested consideration to abate the 2014-2015 Corporation Taxes previously assessed on Shore Pizza Hut in the amount of \$184.65, plus approximately \$50 in interest.

Mr. Mulrine and Mrs. Monteith provided additional information.

Councilman Porter made a motion to abate the corporation tax as requested, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #7 - Microenterprise Center – Closeout Agreement

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Close Out Agreement for the Microenterprise Center Project at 323 Market St. was presented for consideration. This project has been audited by CDBG and found in compliance.

Councilman Branson made a motion to accept the agreement, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #8 - 5th Ave. Infrastructure Project

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Close Out Agreement for the 5th Ave. Infrastructure Project, was presented for consideration. This project has been audited by CDBG and found in compliance.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the close out agreement for the Fifth Avenue Project, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #9 - Fiber Letter

Discussion was held pertaining to a request from Caroline County seeking a MOU between the Town and Caroline County for to tapping into the fiber lines.

Mr. Drummond will send a letter to the County Attorney.

Miscellaneous

Upcoming events:

June 3 - LLMS Fund Raiser, Car & Tattoo Show

DVFD Annual Gun Bash

CCCA 40th Anniversary Celebration

June 6- Senator Cardin coming to Town.

June 6, Relay for Life

June 8, Riverwood Ground Breaking Ceremony

June 10th – Garden Gala has been postponed and will be held in Sept. with the Sunrise to Supper event

Mayor McNinch recently attended the LGIT Risk Management Meeting

Mr. Mulrine attended the Governor's summit, in which several agencies from the Eastern Shore were recognized.

June 28, the Town will be holding the Wharves at Choptank Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11 o'clock, the Governor, many State and Local Officials have been invited.

June 25-28th, Council and Staff will be attending the Maryland Municipal League Convention.

June 26th, Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities Legislative Meeting.

Mr. Bill Jesmer, stating he is the equitable owner of 700 Gay St., and part owner of 12 N. 7th Street., came before the Council, mentioning his ongoing legal suit with the Town, questioning if it was the Town purpose to acquire 700 Gay St.

The Mayor responded that she has no knowledge of that.

Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Jesmer to please talk with his attorney's.

Mr. Jesmer continued questioning the Town's intent to allow a house to go on unfinished; and the definition of rubbish; and code relating to same.

Mr. Drummond asked Mr. Jesmer again to call his attorney, and have his attorney's contact Mr. Drummond. Due to the law suit Mr. Drummond instructed the Town Council to not discuss this matter with Mr. Jesmer.

Mayor McNinch stated that the Council had no comments, and thanked Mr. Jesmer for coming.

Ms. Donshaena Jackson, a resident of Rivergardens, and active Parent in the Family Support Center serving on the Policy Committee came before the Council. Ms. Jackson shared that she is starting an organization called "Sleeping Angels", to help Mother's that have lost a sleeping angel. She is already accepting donations of bears and lotions. Ms. Jackson is also planning to hold a Walk-a-Thon in August to show support for Mom's, hoping to provide awareness of agencies and resources around to help mothers that have experienced a traumatic loss.

The Mayor and Council expressed their support and thanked Ms. Jackson for sharing this with them.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*