

Working Session – 9:00 AM

The Working Session of the Denton Town Council was called to order by Vice Mayor Branson at 9:00 AM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance:

Vice Mayor Branson, Councilman Lister, Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Wilson were present. Mayor McNinch was absent.

Staff: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief Rodney Cox, David Renshaw, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer, and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer, were present.

Discussion:

Sick and Safe Leave Policy

Discussion was held on the draft amendment to the Town's Personnel Manual Section 14.2 Sick and Safe Leave and implementing Maryland's new regulations.

Staff was directed to remove sick leave benefits from the policy that pertains to the Town Council; to remove the ability for new hires to transfer sick leave from a former employer. For now, the policy will continue to allow new hires to be able to use sick leave after 30 days of employment, instead of 106 days, as stated in the State Law; and the Council supported keeping the three types of leave – Vacation, Personal and Sick separated. Medical notes, secondary employment, the pay out of sick leave at termination, and sick leave liability was also discussed.

Staff will update the amendment to include the Council directives, and a final draft will be brought before the Council for consideration, for adoption, for the June meeting.

Staff will pull together the sick leave liability amounts and the cost for payout of sick leave benefits for future discussion to occur in the fall.

Rental and Building Permit Fees

Mr. Renshaw provided an overview of recommended permit fee changes. Discussion was held on the proposed changes, the rental license program, livable standards for rental units, consideration of doubling fines for contractors working without permits; potentially offering waivers for all Veterans and Fire Company members.

A Resolution on the proposed fees will be brought before the Council, for consideration, for adoption for the June meeting.

Utility Commission Recommendation

Councilman Lister provided an overview of the Utility Commission Meeting and the extensive rate study that was just completed. Based on the study, the UC will be making recommendations to the Council for sewer rate changes. The study indicates that the Sewer Fund is struggling financially, and the Town needs to increase the administration fee and usage rate to keep the Fund solvent. The Utility Rate study will be presented to the Town Council in June.

Additional discussion was held on the ageing infrastructure needs in the Franklin Street area and the recommendation to expand the lines in the Sharp Road area.

Residential Trash Collection

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the questions related to the contractors from the May discussion. The Residential Trash Contract will be brought back before the Council for consideration to award for the June meeting.

Fifth Avenue and Legion Rd. Storm Water Issue

2018-14

Mr. Mulrine shared details on a storm water issue that recently occurred at S. Fifth and Legion. Town Staff and State Highway have implemented a temporary repair. The permanent repair is estimated to cost between \$40-\$60K. The Town will be looking to the State to help and work on applying for grant funding.

Police Budget Line Item Transfer for Security Equipment

Mr. Mulrine and Chief Cox discussed with the Council upgrading the security camera system and mechanical door locks at the Police Dept. Chief has identified funding within the current constraints of the Department's Budget and is recommending a budget line item transfer to cover the cost.

Discussion was also held on the retention policy of body camera footage; shared storage with Riverview Gardens' Cameras; and having a separate system.

An update was provided on the Parking Kiosk Project, pending a draft Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the County.

This item will be brought before the Council for consideration, for approval, for the June meeting.

Other Miscellaneous

Mr. Mulrine shared information pertaining to a request that will be coming from Public Works to switch Vendors for the equipment maintenance at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This item will be on the June agenda for consideration.

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the County activity pertaining to the Steamboat Wharf Building.

Councilman Lister inquired about the revised letter with the Sage Group Policy for the amendments pertaining to the economic study. Mr. Mulrine will send an update to the Council.

Mr. Mulrine provided copies of the 2018 Strategic Plans for Public Works and the Waste Water Treatment Department.

With no further business to discuss, Vice Mayor Branson closed the Working Session at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith
Clerk-Treasurer*