

January 3, 2019

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 for coming and asked that the record reflect that Councilman Lister was going to be absent due to a work commitment, and that all other members were present.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented; seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Member

Mrs. Abigail McNinch was sworn into office to serve another five-year term on the Denton Town Council by Karen L. Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

2019 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Councilman Branson made a motion to appoint Abigail McNinch to serve as the Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2019, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Office of Vice Mayor

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Dr. Lester L. Branson to serve as the Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2019, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Dallas Lister to serve as the Mayor Pro-Tem of the Denton Town Council for 2019, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2019, Mayor McNinch continued presiding over the meeting.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Robert Jacobs, Eagle Scout Award

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation to recognize and congratulate Robert Jacobs on earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Mr. Randy Jenkins, Director of Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, added that Robert is also the founding member and President of the Habitat for Humanity Club at North Caroline High School that has grown into one of the largest Habitat Clubs on the Eastern Shore.

The Mayor will present the Proclamation to Robert at the upcoming Eagle Scout Awards Ceremony on Sunday at the Library.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #696 – WWTP Bond Obligation

An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale by the Town of Denton (the "Borrower") of its general obligation bond in an aggregate principal amount, not

exceeding One Million Four Hundred One Thousand Seven Dollars (\$1,401,007.00). This loan is for the ENR Refinement (UV / Basin) Project.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #696, seconded by Councilman Branson.

In discussion, Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided a synopsis of the project. Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney, commented on how smooth it has been working with the Bond Council.

Councilman Johnson shared that the cost of this project is supported by the recent increases in sewer fees.

With no further discussion, the Mayor called for vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #696.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Ordinance #697 – Parking Restriction Amendments

An Ordinance amending or repealing and replacing various subsections of Section 120 of the Town of Denton Code, generally outlining parking restrictions on public streets within the Town of Denton and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #697, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

In discussion, Mr. Mulrine and Mr. David Renshaw, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer, provided an explanation of the complaints received with long term parking on the streets, often impeding the flow of emergency and non-emergency traffic, driving over curbs and sidewalks destroying front yards. The intent of the Ordinance is to help resolve these issues, and to assist the Planning & Codes Department and the Police Department with Enforcement.

Additional discussion was held on restricting parking on private property and establishing the time frame for compliance before issuing violations.

With no further discussion, the Mayor called for vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #697.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Additional discussion will be held at the next working session.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilwoman Wilson recently attended the Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce meeting representing Tuckahoe Habitat, discussing the program which included the Town of Denton.

Councilwoman Wilson attended the Smart Growth Subcabinet Public Forum, sharing highlights from the conversation with Deputy Willis about transportation, which mainly focused on the western shore. She asked for consideration to be added to the Transportation Committee to ensure the eastern shore is included in future planning.

Councilman Johnson mentioned that on March 8th, the Calvary Baptist Church and the Town of Denton will be hosting a Mayor's Breakfast.

Mr. Drummond mentioned that he has not received any response from the County regarding the Town's concerns about the County's new Impact Fee.

Mayor McNinch will be attending the Caroline Association of Municipalities Meeting on Jan. 16th, the Impact Fee is on the agenda for discussion.

Mayor McNinch recently attended the Cecil County Legislative Dinner and found it interesting that they have a casino with pull tab machines and shared that it was a creative way to bring in revenue.

Mayor McNinch encouraged everyone to consider attending the:

- Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities Meeting coming up January 22nd at Fisherman's Inn.
- Maryland Municipal League Legislative Opening Day Ceremony will be held on Jan. 9th at the Calvert House.
- Martin Luther King March on Jan. 21st.
- Through My Fathers Eyes Community Viewing on January 20th.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Parking Meters

Updates on the downtown parking meter program were discussed and it was recommended to delay moving forward with any action for 60 days while waiting on a survey to resolve property boundaries and Town right of ways for the location of the parking kiosk.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Community Produce Garden

Mr. Patrick Allison, on behalf of Homeless Community Week, thanked the Town Council and Staff for recently assisting the Church to hand out food.

Mr. Allison presented a proposal to the Council seeking consideration to use vacant Town property to start a community produce garden. He explained the benefits for having a produce garden for the community, rules and regulations for use, asking for consideration of funding from the Town.

Mr. Mulrine stated that the Town would need to look at drafting a MOU agreement, consider liabilities and explained that the Town currently does not have any funding available to offset the cost.

Mr. Randy Jenkins, Director for Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, offered a lot that Habitat owns that is too small to build on, to use as a pilot.

The Mayor and Council liked the idea of having a produce garden, expressing that using Habitat's property would be a good start, an easier process, avoiding having to enter into an agreement with the Town, reduce concerns about liability, and insurance requirements with the Town. The Council would like to know how other communities handle these types of programs and research other models.

Ms. Roxanne Wolf, Hunger Coordinator for the County, provided additional information on the new Caroline Helping Hands Program and the Backpack Food Program for Kids. Working in connection with the Chesapeake Culinary School, there is the Cooking Matters Program which teaches residents and students how to prepare foods, cooking and freezing in a healthy and nutritious manner, sharing how a community produce garden will tie into these programs.

It was the consensus for Mr. Allison to work with Habitat on a pilot program, and the Town will research other community models.

No action was taken on this request.

Agenda #2 – Accrued Leave Carry Over

At the end of 2018 the Town Administrator had accrued vacation leave in excess of what the Employment Contract allows to carry forward.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to allow the leave to carry over from year to year, without coming back to the Council, with the payment for leaving to be in accordance with the Employment Contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously, 4-0.

Agenda #3 - DSS Project

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Department of Social Services Building Project.

Miscellaneous

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*