

October 26, 2020

The meeting was made available Online using Microsoft Teams, in person attendance was restricted.

Working Session

Mayor McNinch called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order at 6:30 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor McNinch thanked those joining the meeting virtually and explained that there is a comments section online where they can submit questions.

Attendance:

Mayor McNinch asked for the record to reflect that all Councilmembers were in attendance in person.

Staff in attendance included Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Acting Chief George Bacorn, Phil Clark, Mark Chandler, David Renshaw, and Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following items:

Market Street Public House -Downtown Parking

Mr. Mulrine announced that he has held discussion with Mr. Brian Tyler, Owner of the Market Street Public House about the expanded outdoor seating area. With winter approaching and the recent approval for opening the third section inside the Pub which will providing additional seating, Mr. Tyler has no objections to the removal of the orange barricades.

Removal will occur around November 17, 2020.

Tax Differential

Mr. Mulrine provided a draft of this year's Tax Differential to be sent to the County.

The Council discussed the effects of density growth outside of the towns, agricultural, municipal property value increasing more than parcels outside of the Town limits.

The letter will be finalized for the November meeting.

213 Sharp Road Right of Way

Discussion was held pertaining to a request received from a Property Owner asking the Town to remove a tree in front of his home that he believes belongs to the Town.

Staff shared that the Town has trimmed branches on the tree when they are hanging into the roadway that have obstruct the flow of traffic. As part of the annexation agreement, there was an easement provided to the Town for future infrastructure needs, however the development that initiated the annexation never happened, nor any infrastructure improvements have been made. Even though there is an approved easement for the future use of the land, the homeowner continues to own the area of land where the tree is located.

This has been turned over to the Town Attorney to further review and will be on the November agenda for additional discussion.

Closed Executive Session

Mayor McNinch asked for consideration to hold a Closed Session for the discussion of Information Technology System Security, under the Authority of the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b) (2014) (13).

At 6:54 PM Councilman Johnson made a motion to hold a closed executive session as requested, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

All Council Members, Mr. Mulrine, Acting Chief Bacorn and the Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Karen Monteith relocated to the Training Room to hold the Closed session.

The Town's Information Technology System Securities were discussed with Mr. Johnny Walton of Corsica Technologies.

2020-17

At 7:41 PM, Councilman Johnson made a motion to close the executive session and reopen the Working Session, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Council and Staff moved back to the Council meeting chambers to reopen the Working Session.

The Working Session reconvened at 7:44 PM.

November Agenda

Mr. Mulrine shared the November 5, 2020 meeting agenda with Council.

Denton Franklin Street Water Main Project Bids

Mr. Mulrine provided the bid tabulation for the three bids received from D A Bramble Inc., Schummer Inc. and ECM Corp for the Franklin Street Water Main Replacement Project. This item will be placed on the November agenda for consideration to award.

Parking Update

Discussion was held on the status of the installation of the downtown parking kiosks.

Discussion was held on a letter received from the Residents of Fairfield Court and other concerns received from residents of Sandy Meadows pertaining to the new traffic pattern changes and on street parking restrictions put in to affect with the adoption of Ordinance #709.

Council talked about improving communication to the residents, the purposed of the Ordinance, sharing concerns received of emergency vehicles having trouble responding when the travel lane is affected by parked vehicles, and the obstacle the parking creates for snow plows, etc.

Mrs. Annette Lane, of 1213 Fairfield Court, spoke on behalf of the residents of Fairfield Court of their concerns with the parking restrictions and limited driveway space for neighbors to park in the community and relocating the mailboxes.

Councilwoman Wilson shared concerns about improving communication to the residents as the HOA did not get the word out to the residents in Sandy Meadows. She recommended there be some way to receive a log where the Fire Dept. documents when they have access issues.

Mrs. Lane added that the community has no objection to the one-way travel and eliminating parking on the curbs, as that has always been an issue. But for many, they have small driveways and no place to park. To move all the parking to one side, is still going to provide the same number of vehicles, with no place for all of them and would make it difficult for many in the neighborhood to be able to get out of their driveways without possibly hitting another vehicle.

There was discussion on creating a variance to allow parking on the straight-away and eliminate parking on the curb. The Town is looking to update laws and while working on the Comprehensive Plan to establish larger road width requirements to avoid these types of issues with future developments.

Staff was directed to continue researching possible grant funds for cluster boxes, provide the cost associated with cluster boxes, cost to relocate the mailboxes to one-side of the street.

The street signs have been ordered. Staff will defer installation while discussions continue.

Mr. Mulrine shared that more residents have requested to speak with the Council and a limited number will be attending the November 5, 2020 meeting to for additional discussion.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*