

January 25, 2021

Executive Session

At 6:05 PM - Vice Mayor Lister opened the meeting and asked for a motion to hold an Executive Session - By Authority, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b) (2014) (1) (i) to discuss personnel matters.

At 6:05 PM, Councilman Branson made a motion to hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously. This session was held at the Denton Town Hall, 4 N. Second St., in the Council meeting room.

Present: Mayor McNinch and Councilwoman Wilson participated virtually.

Vice Mayor Lister, Councilman Branson and Councilman Johnson were present in person. Mr. Mulrine, Town Administrator was also present for part of the discussion.

Discussion: Council discussed a personnel matter with the Town Administrator.

At 6:46 PM, with no further discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

The Executive Session was closed, and the Council prepared to hold their regular scheduled Working Session.

Working Session

The Working Session was made available Online using Microsoft Teams, in person attendance was restricted by request only.

At 6:51 PM Vice Mayor Lister called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and thanked everyone for joining.

Vice Mayor Lister announced the Council had held an Executive Session earlier to discuss a personnel matter.

Attendance:

Vice Mayor Lister asked for the record to reflect that Mayor McNinch was attending virtually, Councilwoman Wilson was not available for this session, however all the other 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:

SERCAP

Ms. Vikkie Prettyman, from SERCAP, Inc. was present and shared information about the services offered for water and wastewater facilities, which are funded through USDA. As the Town moves forward with new water and wastewater projects SERCAP is available to offer assistance.

Enterprise Fleet Management

Mr. Eric Armbruster, from Enterprise Fleet Management, presented the Council with a Vehicle Lease Program Proposal for the Town and answered question. The lease program will allow aging vehicles to be replaced more frequently, and significantly reduce the cost of fleet management.

The Council supported improving efficiency and safety. This item will be before the Council for consideration for approval at a regular meeting.

Downtown Denton Main Street

Mrs. Audrey Clemens, the DDMS Manager held discussion with the Council regarding changes to the Mainstreet MOU and trash removal for the Pathways. The Council supported removing the trash containers from the pathways.

2021-2

Mrs. Clemens also provided an update on the events held in 2020 and funding appropriations.

AquaLaw Updates

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the AquaLaw review of the water and sewer codes project.

Meeting Format

Discussion was held on amending the Council meeting format to consider having a consent agenda. Staff will research agenda formats and what Charter amendment would be required.

Eastern Shore Environmental Contract Renewal

Mr. Mulrine and Mr. Clark provided information on renewing the Trash Collection Contract with Eastern Shore Environmental for another 3-years with a \$.33 per household rate increase. The current contract allows for one 3-year extension.

Council supported extending the contract with the rate increase.

This item will be placed on the February agenda for consideration for approval.

Software Program – P&C and DPW

Mr. Clark and Mr. Renshaw provided an update on software programs they are researching to improve handling permits and projects within the Planning & Codes Dept. and Denton Public Works. Staff will continue researching.

His Hope Ministries – Emergency Shelter Request

In 2020, the Council adopted an Emergency Ordinance to assist HHM in establishing an emergency homeless shelter to be able to provide services during the summer due to COVID if they had to relocate from the seasonal facility they generally use. The Ordinance expired in October.

HHM anticipates that there may be a need to keep the homeless shelter open again this year through the summer months and submitted a request asking the Council to consider extending the Ordinance that expired in October 2020 through 2021 or to adopt similar legislation should it be necessary and if funding is available to keep the shelter open beyond April 2021.

Discussion was held in which the Council would like for HHM to identify some potential locations for an emergency shelter for the summer of 2021 and to also provide their 5–10-year plan for their new building proposal. Staff will schedule for HHM to attend the February Working Session and have an Ordinance for consideration in March.

Sharp Road Park Bond Bill

Discussion was held on submitting a grant application to seek Bond Bill funding for the next phase for the Sharp Road Park which would include engineering and public restrooms.

Cluster Boxes

Discussion on the cluster boxes for Sandy Meadows and Fairfield Court was held. Staff will meet with the Postmaster to finalize the locations of the cluster boxes and is seeking proposals for cost for the installation.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer