

March 22, 2021

Working Session

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

At 6:30 PM Mayor McNinch 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.

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 of Police George Bacorn, Phil Clark, Mark Chandler, David Renshaw, and Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following items:

Downtown Denton Main Street

Mrs. Audrey Clemens, DDMS Manager, provided an overview of the Main Street Program, past events, upcoming events, grant funding project, the community gardens, and the fiscal year 2022 proposed budget. The program has six volunteer board members, and Mrs. Clemens currently works 22 hours per week and volunteers an additional 6 hours per week. Mrs. Clemens mentioned if the Town can contribute any additional funds to the program, it will be greatly appreciated.

Denton Volunteer Fire Department

Denton Volunteer Fire Department Officers -Todd Berneski, Dennis Porter, Scott Sefton, and Ron Wieber provided an overview of the past year, effects from COVID-19, and submitted their initial budget request totaling \$112,988. A supplemental budget request was also provided totaling \$450,000.

Mayor McNinch asked for input from the officers regarding one-way travel.

Members stated that navigating the turns is tight for Osprey Lane, Chesapeake Drive, and Briarwood Circle with parking. While driving through the neighborhoods when not responding to an emergency, Mr. Sefton said he was able to make it through, but he took his time navigating the turns. He said it would be more difficult when responding to an emergency call, and it also depends on the driver and skill set.

Enterprise Fleet Management

Mr. Eric Armbuster, of Enterprise Fleet Management, came before the Council to follow up on questions from last month. The Vehicle Lease Program Proposal for the Town was discussed.

Budget

Staff provided an overview of current year end projections and shared information on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. Real Estate Tax revenues are up due to the new home construction at the Gardens, which helped to offset the large reduction that occurred when Walmart's assessment appeal was approved by the State. The 2021 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification Notice from the State indicated that to maintain the same tax revenue in FY22 as received in FY21, the tax rate should be \$.7557.

2021-7

Denton Ford

Mr. Chris Schaffner, Vice President of DAW Holdings, talked with the Council about the proposed new Denton Ford Building. He shared that they did not realize that the current building was not connected to the Town's water system and only had a partial sewer connection. The Town Code also requires installing a sprinkler system due to the renovations. Mr. Schaffner stated that these items combined will cause the project to go over budget and he wanted to be in discussion to see if the Town can provide some relief to help reduce the cost.

Mr. David Renshaw, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer shared that the Town's Sprinkler Code requirements are more than what is required by the State Code, suggesting maybe the Town could amend the Code to be like the State and this could save some cost.

Councilman Lister questioned connecting with the 7-11. He explained the importance of having a bigger plan for that area with infrastructure with a loop system to have adequate flow in the event of a fire.

Mr. Renshaw will provide the Council with a breakdown of the differences between the Town Code and the State Requirements.

Council expressed to Mr. Schaffner that they appreciate Denton Ford's investment in the Community and the new facility will be a plus for Denton. Staff will gather additional information for the Council.

Ocean City Tax Differential

Mr. Mulrine shared the Town Attorney issued notice that the Town's Amicus Brief was filed today with the Court of Appeal in support of Ocean City's Appeal.

323 Market St – Hot Desks Lease

Discussion was held for renewing the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship (HotDesks) lease for 323 Market St. The lease is for one year, renewable for an additional year, monthly rent set at \$100.

Delmarva Power Charging Station

Right of Way Agreement granting Delmarva Power access to install an electric vehicle charging station at Crouse Park was reviewed and discussed.

American Rescue Plan

Discussion was held pertaining to the American Rescue Plan that was recently enacted, awarding \$3,771,117 to the Town of Denton. The Town is waiting on rules detailing what the funds are to be used for. Some projects were discussed that may qualify, as well as outsourcing the management.

Councilman Lister shared that he will not be available for the April 19th Budget Session.

Town Facebook Page

Discussion was held on handling inappropriate comments posted on the Town's Facebook Page.

Public Works

Mr. Mark Chandler, Water & Wastewater Supervisor, provided quotes and discussed purchasing a new truck; Crouse Park Pump Station replacement pump; and the replacement of a Biolac blower at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

2021-8

Planning & Codes

Mr. David Renshaw & Mr. Mulrine shared information on the following upcoming agenda items:

- *Denton Plaza Phase II – water and sewer allocation*
- *Town Code Chapter 73 – Subdivision Regulation amendments*
- *702 Camp Road – Sewer Allocation*
- *Gardens Third Amendment to Inspection and Maintenance Agreement of Private Stormwater Management Facilities Agreement.*
- *Sandy Meadows Street Parking Questionnaire*
- *Visitor Center – JOK Walsh Donation for windows*
- *Cluster Boxes – Quote received – Fairfield \$9,040 and \$4,259 for Sandy Meadows. Staff was instructed to look for funding.*
- *1017 Camp Road – requesting an extension for connecting the property to Town Sewer.*

Other Miscellaneous Items

Discussion was held regarding retirement benefits for any employee that is not eligible to participate in the State Retirement Program and part-time benefits.

April 1, 2021 – draft agenda was provided.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*