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April 19, 2021

**Working Session**

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

At 9:07 AM 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 Councilmembers Wilson and Lister were also in attendance in person. Councilman Johnson attended virtually. Councilman Branson arrived later.

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:**

**FY22 General Fund Budget**

The second draft of the FY22 General Fund Budget was presented. Discussion was held pertaining to Personnel changes, COLA, Step Increases, hiring Police Officers and a Planning & Codes Director. Lowering the real property tax rate to \$.76 per \$100 of assessed value. Instead of giving COLA, use a portion American Rescue Plan funding to provide a premium pay allocation for the upcoming year. The Fire Department Budget request was also discussed, where it was suggested to keep the contribution flat, the same in FY22 as in FY21, and to put some funding in a separate capital line item for the Council to designate toward a specific use.

Staff will work the recommendations into the budget for discussion for the next working session.

The Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing will be held in May.

The Public Hearing and consideration for the adoption of Ordinance #717 - FY22 General Fund Appropriations and Budget will be held in May.

**American Recovery Plan**

Discussion was held on the American Rescue Plan Act and ways to utilize the funding. Staff has attended several webinars to learn more; rules and regulations are due out in May.

**Denton Water Main – Bond Council**

Mr. Mulrine shared the McKennon Shelton & Henn LLP Bond Council Proposal, which is required to receive funding from MDE for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration Loan for the Franklin Street Water Main Replacement Project. This item will be on the May agenda for consideration for approval.

**Police Reform & Accountability Laws**

Acting Chief Bacorn provided a review of the Maryland 2021 Legislation recently enacted that will impact the way Policing is handled in the State in July 2022.

The effects of the new legislation requirements, unfunded mandates and the liability exposures for Police Officers were discussed.

Councilman Branson arrived at 10:10AM.

**WWTP PC and Software Upgrades**

Mr. Mark Chandler, Water & Wastewater Supervisor, talked about the need to upgrade the computer system at the WWTP to prevent cyber security breaches that have been happening in

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*other states. A proposal from Micro-Tech Designs for upgrading the computer system will be presented at the May meeting for consideration.*

**Upcoming May 6<sup>th</sup> Agenda Items**

*Mr. Mulrine provided a draft of the May 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda as it is right now.*

**Miscellaneous Items**

*Councilman Lister asked questions about His Hope Ministries lease, maintenance, code inspections and phone service.*

*Mr. Renshaw confirmed that the Planning & Codes Department inspects regularly.*

*Mr. Mulrine will inquire if HHM provides a phone service for the dwelling.*

*Councilwoman Wilson asked the state of reopening the basketball courts.*

*Mr. Mulrine said that he received approval from the Health Department and the basketball courts have been reopened.*

*Councilman Branson asked, with the new liabilities for the Police Officers, if the Town could set up a fund to offer liability insurance for them. Discussion included offering a supplemental stipend to the officers to purchase a liability policy, or a rider on their home insurance. Additional Law Enforcement trainings will be required. The Town will work with LGIT for trainings and Lexipol.*

*Mr. Renshaw provided an update on planning projects in the works.*

*Mr. Mulrine provided an update on his conversation with Brodie Holdings about Legion Road travel issues, no response has been received from the property owners where the Taco Bell is located.*

*With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 10:40 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk-Treasurer*