

April 26, 2021

Working Session

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

At 6:00 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 Councilmembers Branson, Johnson and Wilson were also in attendance in person. Councilman Lister was absent.

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 third draft of the FY22 General Fund Budget was presented, reflecting \$18K in revenues over expenses. The changes included a one-cent reduction in the real property tax rate, cutting the COLA, cutting one position in the Police Dept., and increasing the hiring of a Planning & Codes Director for a half-year.

Discussion was held about the changes.

Staff was directed to adjust the COLA to a half of a percent for now and place the rest in reserve. The Council will re-evaluate once the rules are received on how to use the American Rescue Plan funding to provide premium pay to qualifying employees.

Staff will work the recommendations into the budget for discussion and consideration for adoption at the May meeting.

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

Ordinances

Mr. Mulrine mention that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #716, which repeals and reenacts Chapter 73 of the Town Code, establishing new regulations for future subdivision was held on May 6th.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Critical Area Ordinance is being reviewed for amendments that will be presented in soon.

Administration

A Caroline County Pride Festival will be held downtown Denton on June 12, 2021.

Downtown Denton Main Street and the Caroline County Council of Arts are holding a May day event on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Staff is working on updating the A&E District Agreement transferring the responsibilities to DDMS.

323 Market St. - Cambio Lease will be brought before the Council in May for consideration to renew the contract for 1 more year, per the Micro Enterprise rules. Discussion was held on the status of Cambio and Maryland Broadband.

Lincoln St. – Basketball Court – Mr. Mulrine shared that the courts are open.

Office Opening to the Public - Mr. Mulrine shared that the Town office will open the lobby up for public use on Monday – May 3rd, with limited access. The proper signage has been ordered and will be posted.

2021-12

Finance

Corsica Technologies contract renewal with added cyber security enhancement was presented and discussed. This item will be on the May agenda for consideration.

Planning & Codes

Bullocks Rezoning Request - Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Planning Commission's favorable recommendation supporting the rezoning request . This item will come before the Council in May for consideration to introduce rezoning legislation.

Police Dept.

Police Reform - Acting Chief Bacorn gave an update on the Maryland 2021 Police Reform and Accountability Legislation. The Maryland Municipal League Police Executive Association, MD Chiefs Association are reviewing to better understand the changes.

2021 Police Unity Bike Tour – Mr. Mulrine shared information about the upcoming Police Unity Bike Tour.

Public Works

Franklin St. Water Main - Bond Council will be on the May agenda for consideration.

FY21 Road Resurfacing Proposal – Mr. Phil Clark presented the proposal from David A. Bramble and discussed the proposed road resurfacing projects to be completed in this fiscal year. This will be on the May agenda for consideration.

May Agenda

Mr. Mulrine shared the most recent draft of the May agenda. Brodie Holdings will be added as Mr. Kaiser has requested to speak with the Council.

Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Mulrine shared that the YMCA will be sponsoring Food Truck Wednesday in the parking lot of the Denton Plaza.

Councilman Branson spoke about the tax cut and how it has affected Town operations in the past.

Mr. Renshaw provided an update on his discussion with Denton Ford and the extension of the water and sewer lines.

The newest information about the American Rescue Plan funding was held.

Councilman Johnson mentioned the FY22 Budget is about \$100K over this year and he supports the lower tax rate.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the County has announced that they submitted an Amicus Brief supporting Worcester County.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*