

January 2, 2020

Regular Meeting

Mayor McNinch called the Regular Meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date, thanking everyone for coming and leading them in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor McNinch asked that the record reflect that Councilman Branson was absent, however the rest of the Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented; seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Member

Mayor McNinch announced that newly elected Councilman Branson was unable to be in attendance this evening, therefore the swearing in was postponed until next month.

2020 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Councilman Lister made a motion to appoint Abigail McNinch to serve as the Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2020, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Office of Vice Mayor

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Lester L. Branson to serve as the Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2020, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Dallas Lister to serve as the Mayor Pro-Tem of the Denton Town Council for 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2020, Mayor McNinch continued presiding over the meeting.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – School Choice Week

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation to recognize January 26 through February 1, 2020 as National School Choice Week as to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options.

Caroline County States Attorney's Office Monthly Report

The States Attorney's Monthly Activity Report for November and December was reviewed by the Council.

Veterans Parade Update

Mr. Royce Ball accompanied by Mr. Bruce Wakefield of the Mid-Shore Veterans Group, provided an update on the Veterans Parade Planning.

YMCA Programming Update 2020

Mr. Angel Perez announced that 2019 was a great year for the YMCA. They were able to provide approximately 950 hours of community service, hosting programs for kids, families and the community. He talked about the events planned for 2020 and thanked the Town for their continued support.

Mayor McNinch commended Mr. Perez and the YMCA on their commitment to the community and emphasized that the partnership with the Town is honorable.

Message from Patricia Guida

Mayor McNinch acknowledge an email received from Ms. Guida, thanking the Town for the Proclamation presented last month in her honor.

Double Hills Farms

Mr. Mulrine shared a rendering of the Caroline County proposed Master Plan for Double Hill Farms. Discussion to continue at the January Working Session.

Burn Barrel Inquiry

Mr. Michael Forrester of 316 S. Third St. spoke with the Council about allowing residents to have burn barrels in Town to burn paper.

Discussion was held pertaining to concerns of burning trash, loose embers, imposing on neighbors, fire pits with screens, etc. Staff was asked to do some research on this topic.

Fat Ricky's Pub & Grub Water Bill

Mr. Rick Phillips, resident of 9643 Legion Road, also owner of Fat Ricky's Pub & Grub, spoke with the Council over concerns of having to pay the water bill for the former tenant when he was preparing to open his business.

Staff shared the steps taken to collect the amount due from the former Business Owner, the Landlord and conversations held with Mr. Phillips. The bill was paid by Mr. Phillips to avoid the water being turned off due to non-payment.

Additional discussion was held on how to resolve this and help Mr. Phillips get his money from the Owner.

Mayor McNinch summarized that the dispute is between the Tenant and the Landlord, however the Town is involved and recommended setting up a meeting with Mr. Sills, the Property Owner to discuss further.

Mr. Phillips stated that he would call Mr. Sills tomorrow and discuss his concerns to see if they can come to a resolution. Mr. Phillips stated that he would contact Town Staff by the 15th of January and let them know whether to set up a meeting with all parties or not.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mayor McNinch mentioned how fantastic the Holiday Parade was and how nice the Annual Employee Luncheon was, both events were held in December and well attended.

January 8th - State's Legislative Session starts.

January 22nd - ESAM Meeting

The Mayor, Attorney, and Town Administrator attended a Tax Differential Meeting in Ocean City and provided a synopsis of the discussion held pertaining to drafting legislation to make all Counties "Shall Counties".

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney reached out to Delegate Steve Arentz seeking support. Mr. Drummond has drafted legislation that has been sent to other Municipalities for review, and he will continue seeking Delegate Arentz's support.

Councilman Johnson explained what the Tax Differential is for the Public.

Mayor McNinch mentioned she recently had a positive meeting with Mr. Jeremy Goldman, Caroline County Administrator, talking about roads and differential.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Lease Agreement – Cambio Broadband, LLC - Dark Fiber

Mr. Mulrine presented an updated Dark Fiber Lease Agreement. Discussion was held and the Town Attorney will include some changes recommended by the Council.

Agenda #2 – Fence Agreement – Sandy Meadows II, LLC and Miron's

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney provided an update on the Fence Agreement discussed last month. Mr. Drummond made the changes requested and was unsuccessful in getting the Property Owner to sign the agreement. He discussed options with the Council.

Mr. Tracey Shultz, Managing Member of Sandy Meadows II, LLC., approached the Council stating that without the fence agreement resolved, he is unable to complete the final grading required to dedicate the infrastructure over to the Town and the HOA. He asked if it would be possible to provide the Town with some money to place in reserve to be used to make the grading repairs later when this is resolved, so that he can move forward with the road dedication.

Discussion continued as to how best to proceed.

Mr. Drummond will work on the road dedication separately and prepare to take the fencing issue to Court.

New Business

Agenda #1 – MOU Review – Main Street

The Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the Town, Downtown Denton Main Street, and Caroline County Council of Arts is coming up for renewal in May. Since the Community Gardens is being monitored by DDMS, Mr. Mulrine suggested removing the CCCA, and to have the agreement just between the Town and DDMS, thus giving the DDMS full responsibility for overseeing the use of the Gardens. Staff was directed to move forward with preparing the renewal agreement with the amendment discussed.

Mayor McNinch mentioned that she shared information with the County Administrator about the Town's Main Street Program.

Agenda #2 – 3rd and Market Street Traffic Light

Mr. Mulrine provided two engineering quotes received for conducting a traffic study at 3rd and Market Street for considering replacing or removing the traffic light.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to accept the Remington & Vernick Engineering proposal with a total project not-to-exceed \$5,850. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Planning Commission Appointment

Lauren Shilling's term on the Planning Commission expired December 31, 2019, and she has requested reappointment for a five-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to reappoint Lauren Shilling, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Historic & Architectural Review Commission Appointment

Richard Peterson's term on the Historic & Architectural Review Commission expired December 31, 2019, and he has requested reappointment for another three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to reappoint Richard Peterson, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Historic & Architectural Review Commission Appointment

Teresa Goss's term on the Historic & Architectural Review Commission expired December 31, 2019, and she has requested reappointment for another three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to reappoint Teresa Goss, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #6 - Board of Appeals Appointment

Harry Wyre currently serves as the Alternate Board of Appeals Member. Florence Doherty's term expired December 31, 2019, and she has requested reappointment as an Alternate Member. The Regular Member position will be for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Harry Wyre to serve as a Regular Member on the Board of Appeals, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #7 - Board of Appeals Alternate Appointment

Florence Doherty's term serving as a Regular Member on the Board of Appeals expired December 31, 2019, and she requested to be appointed to serve as an Alternate Member for term expiring December 31, 2020.

Councilman Lister made a motion to appoint Florence Doherty as an Alternate, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #8 - Southern States CDBG Use Modification Letter

A letter to Cindy Stone, Director of CDBG Community Programs outlining the Town's request to modify the Grant Agreement for the use of the home on the Southern States property was discussed. The Town and His Hope Ministries are working together to keep the home on the property and to allow His Hope Ministries to use it as transitional housing.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter as discussed, seconded by Mayor McNinch, passing with 2 votes. Councilwoman Wilson and Councilman Johnson both serve on the His Hope Ministries Board and abstained from voting to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Miscellaneous

January 20, 2020 – Martin Luther King March – the Mayor will be attending.

Mayor McNinch and Councilman Lister discussed efforts being taken to reorganize and improve project management. Further discussion will be held during the January 27th Working Session.

A Sharp Road Park Planning Working Session is scheduled for January 13th at 6:30 PM. Community Athletic Group Leaders have been invited to attend and participate in the park planning.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Wharves of the Choptank Visitor Center had 1296 visitors in 2019.

Councilman Lister discussed additional signage for the Visitor Center.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*