

July 10, 2014

Regular Meeting

Mayor Porter called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Porter asked that the record reflect that all Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Branson.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2014 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #660 – Speed Monitoring System Amendment

Mayor Porter opened a public hearing at 7:03 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #660 - An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Town Code, Article X, "Speed Monitoring Systems", to provide for the collection of certain fees following the assessment of civil penalties for violations of speed monitoring systems in school zones in the Town.

Mayor Porter asked for comments from the State: there were none

Mayor Porter asked for comments from the County: there were none

Mayor Porter asked for comments from the Council: there were none

Mayor Porter asked for comments from the Public –there were none

With no further comments, Mayor Porter closed this public hearing at 7:04 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Proclamations – Corporal Eric Hall, Detective Jamie Secrist, & Bryan Trice

Mayor Porter read and presented proclamations extending the Council's gratitude to Corporal Eric Hall and Detective Jamie Secrist of the Denton Police Dept., and Bryan Trice of the Denton Public Works Dept. for their dedication to the community in administering life saving assistance to a resident that was suffering cardiac arrest. Performing CPR while EMS performed advanced life support measures. The Council thanked these employees for going above and beyond the call of duty to help a citizen in need by assisting in saving the life of another.

Tax Differential

The Town Attorney, Mr. Chris Drummond, provided a brief overview of research he recently completed pertaining to Tax Differential Systems in Maryland.

Staff confirmed that no notice has been received from the County with regards to scheduling the task force meeting that was discussed last February.

Discussion only, no action was taken on this item.

Caroline County Economic Development Budget Reduction

Ms. Angela Visintainer, Director of CEDC, came before the Council to discuss the effects of Denton's Fiscal Year 2015 budget cuts to the program.

Mayor Porter and the Council assured Ms. Visintainer that it was a difficult budget process. The reductions were difficult decisions but necessary to balance the budget. The Town will continue to monitor the status of the budget.

Discussion only, no action was taken on this item.

A&E District Expansion

Mrs. Marina Dowdall, of the Caroline County Council of Arts, and Ms. Angela Visintainer, of CEDC, provided an update and answered question on the Arts & Entertainment District Expansion Project, sharing the proposed map and boundary of Phase 2. The map included Planning Commission recommendations. Public meetings about the project were held in June, reflecting favorable support.

Councilman Clendaniel shared his concerns about including some of the residential area and was alarmed if there were any hidden affects to the property owners that would be included in the new district.

Ms. Visintainer and Mrs. Dowdall explained, that the parcels included in the district must be contiguous. In order for the plan to reach St. Luke's Church, the Fretterd Center and the Chesapeake Culinary School, the residential parcel would need to be included.

Councilwoman Lightner added that designating the A&E District does not change the zoning or mandate a change in use for any of the properties located within the district. There would not be any negative affect.

Mrs. Dowdall added, if the application for the district expansion is approved by the State, that it will provide the opportunity for tax credits for any Arts & Entertainment Businesses provided within the designated area. The designation is for 10 years.

Mr. Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided additional information pertaining to the Town's investment and the success other Municipalities are receiving that have A&E designations.

Councilwoman McNinch questioned the Town's planning involvement for Tax Credits.

Mr. Drummond explained that Tax Credits are handled by the County.

The Council supported to continue moving forward.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution # 802 - Sustainable Maryland Certification Program

A Resolution of the Town of Denton supporting participation in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipal Certification Program.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Resolution #802, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Resolution #803 – Community Legacy Grant FY2014 - Culinary School Phase II

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of Community Legacy Financing for FY2014 Funds in the amount of \$592,000, to be funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland, or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland, for the expansion of the Chesapeake Culinary School.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to adopt Resolution #803, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing with 3 voting yes. Councilman Clendaniel abstained from voting due to possible conflict because of him living across the street, if the project enhanced the value of his property.

Resolution #804 – Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Application for Winter Haven Shelter

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing by the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) FY 2014 for the Winter Haven Cold Weather Shelter, to be funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt Resolution #804, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

Resolution #805 – Saint Martin’s Ministries Tax Credit Support

A Resolution of the Town of Denton supporting the participation of St. Martin’s Ministries in the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Community Investment Tax Credit Program.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt Resolution #805, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Former Councilman Conway Gregory thanked the Council for their support.

Mayor Porter mentioned that because of St. Martin’s Ministries reputation, it was easy to provide support. He thanked both St. Martin’s Ministries and Winter Haven for their continued support to the community.

Mrs. Jean Austin, of St. Martin’s Ministries, also thanked the Council for their support.

Mr. Gregory added additional comments pertaining to the earlier discussion on the Tax Differential and commending the Council for their continued efforts in pushing for a fair and equitable tax differential formula for Municipal residents.

Resolution # 806 – Chesapeake Culinary School 2nd Floor and Parking Area

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of Community Legacy financing for FY 2015 Funds in Denton, Maryland. Funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland, or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland. Please note this Grant request is for FY2015 and would supplement funds already requested for FY 2014.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to adopt Resolution #806, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing with 3 voting yes. Again with Councilman Clendaniel abstaining from voting due to possible conflict because of him living across the street, if the project enhanced the value of his property; passing unanimously.

Resolution #807 – Masonic Lodge Building

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of Community Legacy financing for FY 2015 Funds in Denton, Maryland. Funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland, or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

If awarded, the grant funds will be used for repairing and making structurally sound the Masonic Lodge Building at 112, 114, and 116 Market St.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt Resolution #807, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Resolution #808 – ArtsWay Buildings 8, 9, & 10

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of Community Legacy financing for FY 2015 Funds in Denton, Maryland. Funded either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland, or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

If awarded the grant funds will be used for repairs and renovations to 8, 9, and 10 N. Fourth St. in the ArtsWay District.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Resolution #808, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinance #660 – Speed Monitoring System Amendment

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Town Code Article X, entitled “Speed

Monitoring Systems”, to provide for the collection of certain fees following the assessment of civil penalties for violations of speed monitoring systems in school zones in the Town.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Ordinance #660, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch.

In discussion: Councilwoman Lightner and Mayor Porter expressed concerns about the credit card fee of \$6.00 being high. Lt. Bacorn will talk with the vendors to see if this can be negotiated. Councilman Clendaniel asked about the status of posting the speed monitoring on the website. Lt. Bacorn will take care of it.

With no further discussion, Mayor Porter asked for a vote on the motion on the floor to adopt Ordinance #660.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Denton Police Dept. Lexipol Policy

Chief Cox asked for approval to enter into an agreement with Lexipol, a company that specializes in State specific and integrated policy training. The Department is in need of updating and modernizing its policy manual and rules and regulations, to reduce liability. Lexipol has partnered with the Local Government Insurance Trust to provide Maryland Agencies with comprehensive and defensible policies based on best practice. All Lexipol policies are constantly reviewed and monitored to ensure they are up-to-date with current legislation and case law decisions. Included in the package is a training component that will require officers to take on line training monthly on policies to ensure they are knowledgeable and are applying the policies as required.

Through LGIT, Lexipol has offered a discount for their services that is currently \$4,703.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve as requested, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

New Business

Agenda #1 - Line of Credit Renewal

This item was on the agenda to seek approval for the Mayor to sign the bank documents to renew the Town’s \$100,000 Line of Credit with Provident State Bank.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve for the Mayor to sign the Line of Credit Renewal documents, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 - Election Judge Appointments

The Town’s Supervisors of Election Board member’s terms expired on June 30, 2014. The current board members: Mrs. Joan Fountain - serving since November 1997 - 16 years; Ms. Signe Hippert – serving since 2012; Mrs. Cheryl Getchell – serving since 2012; and Mr. William Clemens – serving as an alternate since 2012. All have expressed interest to be re-appointed for another 2-year term.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to reappoint for a new term, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Small Business Loan – Denton Ace Hardware

Denton Ace Hardware has applied for and is requesting a Business Loan from the Town in the amount of \$35,000.00 through our Small Business Loan Program. The Business Loan Review Committee has reviewed the application and recommends approving.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion based on the Loan Review Boards recommendation to approve the Business Loan of \$35,000 to Denton Hardware, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Denton Police Dept.

Chief Cox provided a list and detail of anticipated grants for the Police Department for FY2015 and asked for the Council's approval to apply for them.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve applying for the grants and authorized the Mayor to sign documents pertaining to grants, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 Caroline County Habitat for Humanity

Mr. Mulrine and Mr. Tom Batchelor, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer, discussed with the Council a request for a minor subdivision at the Denton Police Department's parcel, to allow a portion to be donated to the Caroline County Habitat for Humanity.

Discussion only, no action was taken on this item.

Agenda #6 - HACH Service Contract Renewal

Seeking approval to renew the HACH Contract for the Public Works Department. HACH probes and equipment were added as part of the ENR upgrade to the WWTP, and are critical components for achieving NPDES compliance. This service contract was entered into once the upgrade was complete, and has been renewed annually ever since. This amount (\$12,332) was approved for the FY 2015 Budget.

Councilwoman McNinch made a motion to renew the contract, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mayor Porter announced a meeting scheduled for Tuesday that is being held with a potential firm that is interested in relocating to Denton.

Mr. Mulrine, Councilwoman McNinch and Mayor Porter shared a synopsis of the MML Convention attended last month.

Mayor Porter commended the support received from the residents of Denton for their support in traveling to the Denton Little League games.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to close the meeting at 8:45 PM, seconded by Councilwoman McNinch, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer