

November 3, 2022

Mayor McNinch 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.

Invocation was given by Pastor Terrence Nichols of the Denton Church of Free Seventh-day Adventists.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present, except for Councilwoman Wilson. Councilwoman Wilson arrived at 7:13 PM.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2022 Regular Meeting, September 13, 2022 Executive Session, September 26, 2022 Working Session, October 6, 2022 Regular Meeting and the October 24, 2022 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Lister, passing 4-0.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Municipal Government Works Month

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation to recognize Municipal Government Works Month for the month of November.

Proclamation – National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Councilman Johnson read a Proclamation to recognize November 12-20, 2022 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The Proclamation was presented to Mrs. Stefanie Johnson, Director of His Hope Ministries, and Pastor Terrence Nichols of Aaron's Place.

Proclamation – Denton Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Councilman Johnson read a Proclamation that was presented to Pastor Nichols to recognize the Denton Seventh-Day Adventist Church 10th Anniversary.

Citation – Choptank Ruritan Club

Councilman Branson read and presented a Denton Town Council Citation to Mr. Mark Fuchs thanking the Choptank Ruritan Club Members for volunteering their time to do work at Sharp Road Park and for their dedication and service to the Denton Community.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #736 – Administrative Rules of Procedure – Chapter 5 Amendment

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton amending Sections 5-1, 5-3, 5-7, and 5-12 of the Denton Town Code to change the start time of the Regular Monthly Meetings to begin at 6:00 PM instead of 7:00 PM; to change when agenda items must be submitted prior to the meetings; to change structure of the order of business and modify the time limit for addressing the Council.

Councilwoman Wilson arrived at 7:13 PM.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #736, seconded by Councilman Branson. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilwoman Wilson abstaining.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Johnson announced he is finishing up with the 2022 Town of Denton Annual Holiday Decorating Contest details and they will be made available soon on the Town website.

Mayor McNinch shared that Councilman Lister and Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, joined Members of the Eastern Shore Delegation on their visit to tour His Hope Ministries Shelter.

Mayor McNinch, Mr. Getchell and Karen Monteith attended LGIT's Annual meeting today.

Councilman Lister shared that he met with Downtown Denton Mainstreet Organization where they discussed and are working on a plan for the decorations for Christmas.

Councilman Lister shared an update on discussion with a potential developer looking to take on some of the unfinished project in the Denton area. He also shared that he met with Caroline Commissioner Porter and the two Candidate Elects to discuss Town project and future needs, as well as water and sewer development of west Denton, stating it was a positive meeting for both working together on future growth.

Mayor McNinch shared that she and Mr. Getchell met with developers to discuss the road to no where.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- CCCA – 6 N 4th Street Lease Amendment

Mr. Nicholas Tyndall, Director of the Caroline County Council of Arts continued discussion with the Council on the use and plans for improving the 6 N 4th St. parcel. He shared that the CCCA Board Members met and support amending the current lease to include the entire parcel for 6 N. 4th St. Mr. Tyndall shared that while they could also mow the grass for the adjoining lot with the Cobbler House, they would not want to take on the maintenance of the cobbler house itself. Councilman Lister stated that if the CCCA later decides they are not able to mow the grass on 8 N. 4th, to just let the Denton Public Works know ahead of time.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve amending the lease with CCCA to include the entire parcel, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing with 4 votes. Councilwoman Wilson abstained as she is a CCCA Board Member.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Small Business Loan – Simple Fiber

Simple Fiber submitted an application seeking an IRP Small Business Loan through the Town in the amount of \$150,000.00 for 7 years.

Mr. Getchell shared that the Town's Business Loan Committee reviewed the loan application and temporarily declined the loan, pending additional information. Mr. Getchell added that the owners of Simple Fiber have asked to postpone this agenda item until additional information is provided.

Agenda #2 – DPD- License Plate Reader

Councilman Johnson, who works for MSP and is assisting with administering the grant recused himself from all discussion and action for this agenda item.

On behalf of Chief Bacorn, Sgt. Rick Starkey submitted a request seeking the Council's approval to accept the Maryland Department of State Police License Plate Reader Grant that was awarded to the Town and seeking authorization to use the grant funds to purchase \$140,500 in License Plate Recognition Equipment.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing with 4 votes. Councilman Johnson remained recused.

Agenda #3 - Deed of Road Dedication

A request from the Gardens Land Group, Inc., was submitted seeking approval by the Denton Town Council for the dedication of the roadways and easements in The Gardens designated as "Morning Glory Drive" and "Primrose Avenue" to the Town of Denton.

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, reviewed the documents provided, recommending the Council move forward with the approval of this standard road dedication.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Mayor to execute the documents as approved by the Attorney, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 -Utility Commission Appointee

Mr. Lee Tillery III submitted a letter for consideration to serve on the Utility Commission.

Councilman Lister made a motion to appoint Mr. Tillery to serve on the Utility Commission, seconded by Councilman Branson.

Mr. Tillery was in attendances and introduced himself to the Council.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #5 - K-9 Vehicle Purchase -DPD

On behalf of Chief Bacorn, Sgt. Rick Starkey submitted a request seeking permission to use up to \$15,500 in CIP Funds designated for the Police Dept. to purchase a used 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe K9 vehicle from the Fruitland Police Department.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #6 - Planning and Codes Cloudpermit Software

Mr. David Renshaw, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer of the Planning and Codes Department submitted a request seeking approval to spend \$8,000 to purchase Cloudpermit Software and Service. The Cloudpermit Software and Service Agreement presented was for a five (5) year term. Staff is working on the final step of confirming that the software will integrate with the Finance Software for accepting online payments for permits.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mayor McNinch shared discussion from a recent meeting with Staff and a Park Design Specialist working on a plan for the next phase of park improvements.

Mr. Tyndall, announced that the CCCA is getting ready to send out their fall community survey seeking input from the community on events they would like to see in the spring and invited the Council to participate in the survey.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer