

November 15, 2021

**Working Session**

At 6:30 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 Councilman Lister, and Councilman Johnson were in attendance. Councilman Branson arrived at 6:34 PM and Councilwoman Wilson was absent.

Staff in attendance included Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief George Bacorn, Phil Clark, David Renshaw, and Karen Monteith.

**Discussion was held on the following items:**

**Review of Ordinance**

Mr. Mulrine gave a brief synopsis of Ordinances #723, #724 & #725 that will be up for consideration at the December meeting.

**ARPA Fund Update**

Discussion was held on the items that the Council designated to use the ARPA Funding on.

A proposal was submitted, and discussion was held on how to distribute funds to pay employees that worked for the Town of Denton in 2020 Premium Pay; how to allocate to employees that may have been newly hired, or on extended leave of absence and only worked a portion of 2020. Staff will begin implementing the proposal and provide to the Council to approve at the December meeting.

Mr. Mulrine shared the proposal received from Mann and Mann Grant Solutions to assist with the grants management and banking.

Discussion was held on the Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Equipment upgrades. Mr. Mark Chandler shared that while obtaining updated quotes he is seeing a rise in the cost. He will keep the Council updated in case it becomes necessary to allocate additional ARPA Funds to cover the increase.

**Parks**

Discussion was held on the Sharp Road Park Funding that was recently awarded, waiting until spring to put sod down, and ordering the bathrooms.

Mr. Mulrine shared estimates for repairing the Wheeler Park Tennis Courts, adding pickleball stripping to the courts at Wheeler Park and the S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Park.

**Hiring Issues and PayScale**

Mr. Chandler shared concerns he is having with hiring Staff for a vacancy at the plant at the starting pay on the Town's current pay scale and asked for consideration to offer a suitable wage.

Councilman Lister shared a new pay scale that would start at \$15.00 per hour, and he will be recommending for it to be adopted for the next fiscal year, meeting the State's minimum wage upcoming mandates.

Discussion was held, supporting to hire applicant that has been selected to fill the vacancy of the WWTP Operator placing him on the new pay scale, so long as it is understood that the person would not qualify to receive another salary increase in July, when the new pay scale is adopted.

**2021-24**

**ERU Approvals for New Businesses**

*Mr. Mulrine announced that three new businesses, Dairy Queen, ALDI and Popeyes have submitted request seeking approval for additional ERU's to connect to the Town water and sewer System. These will be presented to the Town Council for consideration at the next meeting.*

*Councilman Lister referred to the PayScale discussion from earlier and additional discussion was held on the percentage between steps and median pay.*

**Board Appointments and Vacancies**

*Mr. Mulrine shared upcoming Town Board Member terms that are nearing expiration that will be on the next agenda for consideration and a few vacancies.*

*Tax Differential Letter*

*Mr. Mulrine shared the letter received from the County acknowledging their receipt of the Town's Tax Differential request.*

**Miscellaneous**

*The County has been invited attend the January 24, 2022 Town Working Session to discuss their Double Hills Road Project.*

*Mayor McNinch announced the Caroline County Association of Municipalities Meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>.*

*With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:05 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk-Treasurer*