

February 13, 2023

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 coming.

Attendance:

Mayor McNinch asked for the record to reflect that Councilman Johnson was attending online, and that all the other Councilmembers were present. Later Councilman Johnson arrived in person.

Staff in attendance included: Scott Getchell, Don Mulrine, Mark Chandler, Karen Monteith, David Renshaw and Donna Todd. Chief Bacorn was in attendance online.

Discussion was held on the following:

Robert Miron Complaint

Mr. Getchell shared that Mr. Miron was not going to be able to make the meeting, but had sent an email that was shared with the Council.

Mr. Getchell read the email received from Mr. Miron, which recommends the Town implement a law and or policy that says new town homes cannot have connecting roofs, requiring them to be separate.

Discussion was held and there was support for requiring staggered roof lines for all new town homes. Staff will research.

Rental License Inspection Program

At the October 24, 2022 Town Council Working Session, the Council suspended the Rental License Inspection Program and directed staff to review the policy and make recommendation for updating the Town Code, Chapter 98.

Mr. Renshaw presented changes to the code and discussion was held. Staff will continue to work on the modifications and provide an update for the March Working Session.

Audio Video Upgrades – Town Council Meeting Room

Mr. Getchell discussed several options ranging up to \$90,000 for upgrading the Audio - Video System for the meeting room with the Council. Councilman Johnson had previously put together a listing of equipment that possible staff could install that would be less than \$10,000.

Staff will work on purchasing the equipment, and tackle the installation, setting the budget at \$10,000.

Public Information Officer & Media Management

Mr. Getchell shared a proposal from Fovndry for services as the Town's Public Information Officer and for managing the Town's social media platforms.

Discussion was held, staff will continue to explore and schedule a future presentation.

DVFD Drainage Improvements

Discussion was held on the Denton Volunteer Fire Department's request for additional funding for stormwater drainage improvements at their facility.

The Council recommended including the amount being requested in the FY24 budget.

Fire Sirens

Residents of the Sydney Lane and Siesta Drive area came before the Council voicing complaints about the fire siren in the Little League Park being too loud and antiquated, asking to have the siren moved, silence the alarm in the middle of the night and/or replace the 1910 technology with something more modern.

Councilman Johnson arrived at 7:16 PM.

Discussion was held and the Mayor and Council suggested having a conversation with the Fire Dept.

Special Events & Visitor Center Policy

A draft Special Event Permit Application and Policy was presented, and discussion was held. Staff will continue working on creating a policy.

Mr. Getchell shared that the Town is receiving more rental requests for the Visitor Center, and that other staff have been coming in on the weekends and evenings trying to accommodate the requests. He is working on a proposal to hire an additional staff person to work the center, so that it can be open more to help cover events.

Water & Sewer Allocation – Mill Creek Properties, LLC

Mrs. Todd shared a request for the approval of 1 ERU that will be coming before the Council at the March meeting for a new commercial building/warehouse construction that will be located in the Denton Industrial Park.

Executive Session – Industrial Park

Mayor McNinch asked for a motion to close the Working Session and to Open an Executive Session – By Authority of the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b) (2014) (4) consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

At 7:56 PM Councilman Taylor made a motion to close the Working Session, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

At 7:57 PM Councilman Lister made a motion to open an Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Those in attendance for the Executive Session included all the Councilmembers, Mr. Getchell, Mr. Chandler, Mrs. Todd, Mrs. Monteith and Mr. John Foster, of SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate.

Discussion was held on several potential sales contracts; no decisions were made.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the Working Session at 8:13 PM, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Working Session Reopened

Mayor McNinch announced that no action was taken during the Executive Session and with no further comments, Mayor McNinch asked for a motion to adjourn the Working Session.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adjourn the Working Session at 8:13 PM, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*