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March 20, 2017

Working Session – 6:00 PM

Mayor McNinch called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order at 6:00 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance:

Council: Mayor McNinch, Councilman Porter, Councilman Branson, Councilman Lister, and Councilman Johnson.

Staff: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief Rodney Cox, Lt. George Bacorn, and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

Discussion:

Denton Police Dept. Loan for Task Force

Chief Cox provided an update and discussion was held regarding the Town obtaining a loan on behalf of the Caroline County Drug Task Force. The Task Force will make all the loan payments.

Parking

Lt. Bacorn provided information obtained from a vendor regarding the possibility for installing parking meter payment kiosks around the Court House.

Discussion was held on locations, cost and how to pay for them.

Staff will continue researching, and if the Council supports moving forward, this will require amending the Parking Ordinance.

Legion Road Median

Discussion was held regarding the County's request for modifying the median strip on Legion Rd to allow for left turns on to Legion Road from Denton Plaza for emergency vehicles. Discussion included: talks with SHA & Shore Health; identifying funding to cover the engineering; potential new commercial businesses coming to the area; having the State Crash Team input; Police Departments recent observations of U-turns.

Council asked staff to continue to research and explore all options, so the Town does not create a dangerous traffic pattern.

CEDC Visitor Center Lease Agreement

Mr. Mulrine provided an updated floor plan, showing the space that could be dedicated to the Caroline County Tourism Office and reflecting the common areas.

Discussion was held regarding the lease, whether the County will approve Tourism relocating to this facility, proposed hours the center will be open, duties of staff and potential private donor funding.

State Highway – Additional Rt. 404 Entrance into Denton Plaza

Discussion was held in response to a letter received from SHA about the Town's request to have a potential break on Rt. 404 into the Denton Plaza east of Legion Road.

The State shared concerns about unsafe driving conditions and suggested the Town look to extend Industrial Parkway into the Plaza.

Staff will continue to research other options.

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Constant Yield Tax Rate - Budget

Mr. Mulrine shared the 2017 CYTR Notice received from the State, indicating the assessed values of property decreased and for the Town to maintain the same revenues in FY18 as received in FY17. The Town will need to raise the tax rate.

Discussion was held about the tax rate and the need to make sure the tax rate supports all that the Town needs to invest in the community to make it better, presenting budgets on what is necessary to run the Town.

Mr. Mulrine announced that he is scheduled to meet with MDE on Wednesday, to discuss the Town's financial needs and seeking grant funding for the proposed WWTP upgrades.

Mr. Mulrine provided the Public Works Capital Budget, talked about infrastructure needs, and mentioned that the contractor will start working tomorrow on relocating and replacing the fire hydrant at 2nd & Market St.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Mulrine shared recent discussion with Staff on the Council's proposed Strategic Plan, and will look to place on the April agenda for consideration.

N. 6th St. Sewer Repair

Mr. Mulrine shared that the sewer line repair for N. 6th St. has been placed out to bid; bids are due March 29th.

Legal Update

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the litigation involving Mr. Jesmer and 700 Gay St.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mulrine shared a recent article on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Project.

Sharp Road Park – Mayor McNinch shared that the lacrosse team has been playing at the Park. Mr. Mulrine added that the grading and seeding has been placed out to bid.

ESAM - Mayor McNinch announced the April 18th ESAM Meeting will be held at the Shorebirds Stadium.

County Tax Differential – Mayor mentioned that the County will hold a tax differential and budget hearing in May.

If I Were Mayor – The Mayor and Mr. Mulrine will be speaking at Denton Elementary School on March 23 with the Fourth Graders about municipal government and encouraging students to participate in the "If I Were Mayor Essay Contest".

DDMS Billboard – The Mayor asked if anyone has seen the Main Street's billboard on Rt. 50, and stated that it looks good, and the DDMS Board should be commended.

N. 4th Street Concern – Mayor McNinch asked for an update on Mr. Baker's concerns from the last meeting.

Mr. Mulrine shared that he is working with Habitat for Humanity to work on the Cobbler House. He shared discussion with a Mr. Koen, who is interested in the other dwelling and is looking in to obtaining an African American Grant. Mr. Jok Walsh will be following up with the Bakers to share information about the Historical Society and their projects.

Highway User Revenue Legislative Update – Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the actions going on at the State level. Mentioning that the Maryland and Camp road improvements will begin in April, and then the Town will start working on Kerr & Fountain.

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Garbage – Mr. Mulrine shared that the dumpster collection services have been placed out to bid.

Mayor McNinch inquired about the status for implementing a recycling program. As the Town moves forward with the bids for single family house hold collection, there will be a push for recycling. Discussion was held on the cost for recycling and how to pay for it.

Choptank Community Health – Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Plain Dealing and Choptank Community Health Project.

April Meeting Schedule Change - The Council agreed to change the date of the April working session, from April 17th to April 24th and to hold the meeting at 6PM instead of 1PM. With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*