

March 26, 2018

Working Session – 6:30 PM

The Working Session of the Denton Town Council was called to order by Mayor McNinch at 6:30 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance:

Council: Mayor McNinch, Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Wilson were present. Councilman Lister arrived at 6:35 PM. Councilman Branson was absent.

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

Discussion:

Opening Remarks

Mr. Mulrine shared that April 3rd will be a busy day. LGIT will be holding their regional Renewal Workshop at the Visitor Center, and Shore Health will be having their Topping Off Ceremony. The County has also asked to hold a joint Working Session on this same date.

Budget Request Session

Downtown Denton Mainstreet

Mr. Steve Konopelski and Mrs. Marina Dowdall from the DDMS Board, came before the Council announcing the hiring of Ms. Heather Tinelli as the new Main Street Coordinator. Mr. Konopelski shared Ms. Tinelli's background and experience. Discussion was held on the description of the services she will be performing for the Main Street Program. The Main Street Office will be in the Microenterprise Center, and discussion was held about the Coordinator possibly spending some time in the Visitor Center.

Discussion was held on the DDMS FY2019 request for funding from the Town to be increased to \$12,500. FY2018 Budget allocates \$5,000 to the DDMS.

Discussion was held on parking in the downtown and the proposed parking kiosk.

PILOT Tax Plan

Caroline County Commissioner Dan Franklin came before the Town Council requesting to schedule a joint meeting between the Town and County Elected Officials to discuss the request for a PILOT Agreement with Eastern Shore Energy.

Discussion was held about having an analysis done to see how other Counties are handling Power Plant Tax Agreements; requiring the Developer to pay for the Study; or reach out to the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy to see if a study has already been completed or if they would conduct a study for free; this project will not impact County Services, etc.

Commissioner Franklin will work on scheduling a joint meeting in the evening on April 3rd, since an evening meeting works for the Council and let everyone know.

Mayor McNinch thanked Commissioner Franklin for his support with the legislative amendment for Municipalities and PILOT Agreements.

Denton Police Department Budget

Chief Cox and Lt. Bacorn presented the Police Department's 2017 Annual Report; discussed staffing and budget needs to insure officer safety. The FY2019 Police Budget request includes 2 additional officers for a total force of 15.

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Discussion was held on the current pay scale compared to a new proposed pay scale and the cost to implement. Several salary options were provided. The Council selected an option for Staff to include in the initial budget presentation for the April meeting.

Discussion was also held on new legislation that will require the Town to update the Town's Personnel Manual regarding accrued leave.

Staff will continue to monitor legislative actions and draft an amendment.

Discussion was held on the Officers time being spent and the future of the School Crossing Guards and sending a letter to the Board of Education to discuss.

Denton Development Corporation

Mr. Mulrine mentioned keeping the funding level for the DDC the same as last year.

Wharves of Choptank Visitors and Heritage Center

Mr. Mulrine shared that he will be applying for a grant for sprinkler protection and for a generator for the Visitor Center.

Waste Removal

Mr. Mulrine provided an update and shared that Staff is working on updating the number of units for trash collections to provide an accurate count for the bidding process for garbage and recycling.

County Real Estate Admin Fee

Discussion was held regarding the County increasing the administration fee for servicing the Municipalities Real Estate Taxes. Staff is researching acquiring software and shared the cost estimate to process the real estate taxes in house.

Update on Town Projects:

Legion Road - Department of Transportation

Mr. Mulrine shared a letter sent to Secretary Rahn on the Town's priority road construction project for the expansion of Gay St. to Legion Road.

Potter House MHAA Grant

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the DDC efforts for the Smith House on N. 4th St.

WWTP Project Updates

Mr. Mulrine shared information about the inquiry into why it is taking so long for the State to settle on the Loan portion of the project.

Eastern Shore Energy

Mr. Mulrine stated a letter of support has been drafted on the concept of a PILOT Agreement for Eastern Shore Energy, this will come before for the Council to approve the Mayor's to sign.

April 5th Agenda

Mr. Mulrine shared the draft of the April 5th meeting agenda and will make sure the PILOT Agreement is added for discussion.

Miscellaneous and Closing Remarks

Discussion was held on parking tickets.

Discussion was held on His Hope Haven Grants and it was shared that future grants will be handled by the COC out of Easton, instead of the Town.

Mr. Mulrine discussed a potential new use of the former Rite Aid location.

The Choptank Community Health Project is on the Planning Commission Agenda for tomorrow evening for discussion and consideration for approval.

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Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Duffy Track, where there is a proposal for an Apartments Building for 55 and over.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor McNinch closed the Working Session at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith
Clerk-Treasurer*