

May 24, 2021

Working Session

The Working Session was made available Online using Microsoft Teams, in person attendance was restricted by request only.

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 all Councilmembers were in attendance in person.

Staff in attendance included Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Acting Chief of Police George Bacorn, Mark Chandler, David Renshaw, and Karen Monteith.

Attending Virtually: Ms. Tara Hill-Coursey, the new Caroline County Tourism Director, and Ms. Debbie Bowden, Director of Caroline County Economic Development.

Discussion was held on the following items:

Caroline County Tourism

Ms. Tara Hill-Coursey, introduced herself as the new Tourism Director for Caroline County, mentioning that she is looking forward to working with the Town on upcoming events, Summerfest, and the Downtown Denton Main Street.

Ms. Debbie Bowden mentioned that the Town Administrator and DDMS Manager are now serving on the EDC Board. She thanked the Council for their past contributions and upcoming support.

Mayor McNinch stated that she hopes moving forward there will be a more collaboration with the Denton Visitor Center.

Zoning Ordinances

Discussion was held on Ordinance #718 Bullocks Rezoning Request and Ordinance #719 an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map coming before the Council for consideration in June.

LGIT Ballot

Mr. Mulrine share that the LGIT Board of Trustees Election Ballot will be on the June agenda for the Council to appoint someone to cast the vote on behalf of the Town.

American Recovery Program Funding

Council and Staff discussed the proposed America Recovery Program Funding being awarded to the Town and infrastructure improvements recommended to use the funding towards.

Briarwood Survey

Councilman Johnson compiled and shared the results of the Briarwood Traffic Flow Survey. 32 responses were received, 61% for two-way travel and no on street parking, and the rest for one-way travel and one lane of on street parking. The responses also reflect that many do not think there is enough off-street parking available in the neighborhood.

Councilman Lister asked to revisit Chapter 120 of the Code and remove all reference to street names for one-way travel, allow the newly adopted legislation to dictate the widths of the roads and leave it up to the Chief of Police to determine which roads should be one-way.

Councilman Johnson recommending removing any reference to Planning & Codes enforcing traffic flow.

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Mayor McNinch asked to have information sent to the community that based on the survey responses there will be changes to Chapter 120, provide a time frame when the Town expects this to be complete.

Sharp Road Park

Mr. Mulrine shared that Delegate Ghrist announced that Caroline County will be getting around \$1 million in park funding with Denton anticipated to received \$300,000.

Discussion was held on the remaining list of improvements proposed for the park, looking to prioritize the restrooms. Discussion to finish prioritizing the list will be scheduled for the June working session.

Mayor McNinch instructed Staff to add more trash receptacles to the park.

Vehicle Purchase Contract

Mr. Mulrine shared the Enterprise Fleet Management Application that has been sent to the attorney for review. This item will be on the June agenda for consideration.

EV Charging Stations – 3rd & Gay St.

Mr. Mulrine shared the Delmarva Power Right of Way Agreement for putting electric vehicle charging station in the N. 3rd St. Municipal Parking Lot that will be on the June agenda for consideration.

June Agenda

Mr. Mulrine provided a draft of the proposed June Agenda for discussion.

Mr. David Renshaw provided details pertaining to the Daylily Fence Placement inquiry coming before the Council in June. He said it was like another agreement from last year. He is looking for a blanket policy that will allow a fence in an easement area. Mr. Renshaw will research sample policies from other jurisdictions.

Discussion was held pertaining to complaints the Council has been receiving regarding codes enforcement, recommendations for improving customer service and the permitting process by utilizing the website to have more information readily available.

Mr. Renshaw shared that he is proposing to initiate a Body Camera Program for the P&C Dept. He is working on a policy.

Councilman Johnson said that such a policy requires training, regular review to critique to improve customer service.

Councilman Lister shared issues he has with enforcement, trash collection, customer service, and needing to improve on communication with the public. Asking for mass distribution of emails, text or robo calls to get the messages out to improve on communication. Use the ARP funding to expand IT for virtual meeting improvements.

Councilman Lister asked the status of the Sharp Road Tree removal request. Mr. Mulrine responded he will have the attorney work on identifying the right of way easement – property line.

Discussion was held pertaining to the Legion Road Traffic conversation with Mr. Kaiser earlier this month, notifying the community of the status of the access to Dunkin Donuts, having a written public statement ready to go should the Town have to close the left hand turn off.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer