

September 1, 2022

Executive Session

Per the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b) (2014) (1) discuss: (i) Personnel Matters, (ii) Any other Personnel Matter that affects 1 or more specific individuals.

At 6:45 PM Councilman Lister made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Johnson to open an Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters. The motion carried 5-0.

The Executive Session was held in the Training Room on the 2nd Floor of the Town Office Building.

Present

Mayor McNinch, Councilman Branson, Councilman Lister, Councilman Johnson, and Councilwoman Wilson.

Others present included: Donald H. Mulrine, Jr., Town Administrator, George Bacorn, Chief of Police, and Karen L. Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

Discussion

Discussion was held on hiring and compensation of personnel.

No action was taken during this session.

At 6:59 PM, with no further discussion, Councilman Lister made a motion to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

The Executive Session was closed, and the Council relocated to the meeting room to prepare for their Regular Monthly Meeting.

Regular Meeting

Mayor McNinch called the Regular Meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Executive Session Announcement

Mayor McNinch announced for the record that an Executive Session was held earlier on this date at 6:45PM, Per the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article, § 3-305 (b) (2014) (1) (i) and (ii), to discuss personnel as it relates to hiring and compensation matters.

Invocation was given by Pastor Paul Merritt of the Denton Church of the Nazarene.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022 Regular Meeting, July 18, 2022 Working Session and the August 4, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #888 - FY2022 General Fund Budget Amendment

A Resolution of the Town of Denton to amend the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 was presented and discussed.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Resolution #888, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Branson offered his appreciation to the Town Staff on their efforts to go above and beyond on helping with the trash collection issues. He thanked Phil Clark, Superintendent of Public Works, and asked that he relay his appreciation for their efforts.

Councilman Johnson mentioned that the Mayor, the Clerk-Treasurer, and himself attended the His Hope Ministries Shelter Warming event earlier this evening.

Councilman Johnson announced MSP has a grant coming available for police equipment and encouraged the Chief to move forward with applying.

Councilman Lister mentioned that the Utility Commission needs a few new members to have a quorum and asked everyone to do some outreach. He also shared that the UC board has been actively involved in working with improving highspeed internet, exploring bringing fiber to town. They have a meeting coming up with a pipeline company that can help bring natural gas service to the area for residential and commercial growth.

Councilman Lister shared that he and the Mayor met with a developer looking at taking on some unfinished business and housing projects in the Town.

Councilwoman Wilson announced that she attended the Mayor Cephas Prayer Breakfast in Hurlock yesterday and attended the Caroline Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for the Caroline Pride Office Open House.

Councilwoman Wilson announced the Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities will have a listening session with Maryland Department of Environment during their upcoming meeting. Everyone will have a chance to submit a survey asking what the Towns need in their communities.

Mayor McNinch serves on the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee, and they met for the first time for the upcoming session. They received 24 requests for priority needs for communities in Maryland. Committee members will be voting this coming week to determine the top two request to support.

Mayor McNinch joined the Mayors of Cambridge, Centreville, and Easton at the Mid-Shore Realtor's meeting. Primarily workforce housing seems to be main topic of discussion.

Mayor McNinch thanked Town Staff for going above and beyond in teaming up with the Caroline County Recreation & Parks Dept. to host another successful Summerfest on top of the trash issues. It's been a hard month for the staff, and they should be commended.

Councilman Johnson attended the Summer Daze Event in Preston and commented that we should probably have a dunking booth here in Denton more often to help raise revenues.

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, shared that MML announced today that Theresa Kuhns will be the new Executive Officer, taking over Scott Hancock's position.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Agenda #1 – ARPA Funds – Denton VFC

Mr. Mulrine shared that our Consultant Valerie Mann has confirmed that ARPA funding may be designated and used for the Denton Volunteer Fire Co. for their proposed stormwater project.

Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson discussed looking at the Town's ARPA budget to prioritize line items.

Agenda #2 – Bank Co-Signers for Checks

With the upcoming changes in the Town Administration, the Clerk-Treasurer asked for the Council's approval to authorize the incoming Town Administrator as co-signer for checks beginning September 7, 2022.

Councilman Lister made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign checks, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Trash Hauler Discussion

Over the last few weeks, the Town trash hauler, Eastern Shore Environmental, LLC, has had several issues with collecting Town trash in a timely manner.

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, provided an update on the notice issued to the owner of Eastern Shore Environmental, and discussion was held on terminating the contract and hiring another contractor to finish out the remaining term.

Councilman Lister thanked members of Bigg Tyme Trash for helping during this time and he made a motion to give the contract to Bigg Tyme Trash to finish out the remaining term of the current contract.

Mr. Drummond advised that if the current contractor has not been able to correct the default, the Council should take action to terminate the existing contract before entering a stop gap contract with another Company.

Without a second, the motion died, and discussion continued.

Mayor McNinch made a motion to terminate the contract services with Eastern Shore Environmental, LLC. seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

The Mayor invited Mr. Craig Lynn, and members of Bigg Tyme Trash LLC to discuss their proposal to take over the trash collection services.

Discussion was held with Mr. Lynn and his team, on entering into a Stop Gap Contract for services with improved communications, all at a cost of \$2.85 per household to run through June 30, 2023.

Councilman Lister made a motion to complete the budget year with Bigg Tyme Trash, LLC. to provide trash collections services at the rate of \$2.85 per house per week, so long as they sign a contract prepared by the Town Attorney. Councilman Branson seconded the motion.

In further discussion, Councilman Lister mentioned that at this rate the cost for trash collection services is about a \$144,000 increase from the Town has been paying to Eastern Shore Environmental, LLC., but for now the Town should focus on providing the services.

Councilman Branson also said that Denton is the only Municipality in the area that does not assess a trash fee, Denton covers the trash expenses for citizens through taxes, and that the Town may in the future need to look at charging a trash fee.

The Mayor asked for a vote on the motion to enter a contract with Bigg Tyme Trash, LLC.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Drummond will issue a contract termination notice to Mr. Bishop, owner of Eastern Shore Environmental and draft a contract for the Mayor to sign with Bigg Tyme Trash, LLC.

Staff will send out notification to the residents with an update on the hauler, trash service being moved to Wednesday and include additional trash collection rules and regulations and the Town's special collection program.

Agenda #4 - PACT GRANT-DPD

Chief Bacorn announced that the Police Department has been awarded a Police Accountability, Community and Transparency Grant for \$87,140.00 from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services. The application submitted includes a Server upgrade, Early Intervention Transparency Software and Virtual Reality Range to assist in the Dept. in complying with new State requirements.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment and software up to \$87,140 as it related to the PACT Grant Program, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Server Software Upgrade DPD

Chief Bacorn requested approval to use \$19,033.99 in accumulated speed camera funds for the IAPro Server Component and install costs for the new server approved through the PACT Grant.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the request for \$19,033.99, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

None

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*