

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 6:30 PM Councilman Johnson made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Lister 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, Councilwoman Wilson, and Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator.

Discussion

Discussion was held pertaining to personnel.

No action was taken during this session.

At 6:44 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 monthly Working Session.

Working Session

At 6:45 PM Mayor McNinch called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order on this date.

Mayor McNinch announced that by Authority of the Open Meetings Act, Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article 3-305 (b) (2014), the Council had held an Executive Session at 6:30 on this date (1) to discuss (i) Personnel.

Mayor McNinch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor McNinch announced and introduced Mr. Scott Getchell as the new Town Administrator.

Attendance:

Mayor McNinch asked for the record to reflect that all Councilmembers were present.

Staff in attendance included Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, Chief of Police George Bacorn, Don Mulrine, Project Manager, Donna Todd, Mark Chandler, and Clerk-Treasurer Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following:

Denton Main Street – Holiday Decorations

Mrs. Paula Wright, from the Downtown Denton Main Street Organization talked with the Council about updating and purchasing new holiday decorations for the downtown and seeking funding from the Town to help.

Councilman Johnson and Mayor McNinch said this may be a good use for the Town's new Non-Profit Grant.

Mrs. Wright will put together a plan and come back to the Council to discuss further.

4th Street Park – Phase II CP&P Funding Approved by BPW

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the 4th Street Park Playground Project and shared that the Town has been awarded a \$145,000 Grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Parks & Playground Program to use towards Phase II.

Arts Council Parking Lot Project

2022-20

Mr. Mulrine shared an update on the Caroline County Council of Arts parking improvement cost summary for 6 N. 4th St. and discussion was held on preparing a maintenance agreement.

Matthew & Sarah Dahl – Zoning Text Amendment

Mrs. Sarah & Mr. Matt Dahl presented a Zoning Text Amendment for the Town Code, Chapter 128-167, and Chapter 128-7, that recently received support from the Planning Commission.

Discussion was held on the project being proposed for the Mixed Industrial District, the text amendment that would allow this type of project, steps, and a proposed timeline. While the Comprehensive Plan Update is currently under review, it will be several months to over a year before being approved.

Concerns on spot zoning will be discussed with the Town Attorney, and this item will come before the Town Council on October 6th for consideration to forward to the Planning Commission.

Miracle of Concrete, LLC – Legal Agreements

Mrs. Donna Todd of the Planning & Codes Dept., shared and discussed with the Council several Legal Agreements pertaining to Miracle of Concrete LLC., owners of Lot 11 in the Denton Industrial Park. The Project is scheduled for a Final Site Plan review with the Planning Commission for tomorrow evening.

This item will come before the Town Council on October 6th for consideration of approval.

FY24 Homestead Tax Credit Cap Percentage

The Council discussed a request from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation seeking the Town's intent for the Homestead Tax Credit Cap Percentage for the tax year beginning on July 1, 2023.

The Council consent to leave the Cap at 3%, the same as it is now. Staff will share this with the State.

Town Council Meeting Time Change

Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, talked with the Council about changing the meeting start times in 2023. Council supports staff drafting an Ordinance for consideration and to make 6:00 PM the start time for all future Council Meetings.

Tax Differential Letter

A draft of the Annual Tax Differential Letter to be sent to the Caroline County Commissioners was reviewed and will be placed on the October meeting agenda for consideration of approval.

Denton Rt. 404, LLC – Deed of Easement and Dedication Agreement

Discussion was held on the pending Denton Rt. 404 Deed of Easement and Dedication Agreement that will be coming before the Council for consideration in November.

October 6, 2022 Draft Agenda

A draft of the October 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda was reviewed and discussed.

Miscellaneous

Council asked to schedule a discussion on the Town's Rental Program for the October Working Session.

Mayor McNinch is meeting with Delegate Ghrist tomorrow to discuss the Town's needs and the State's Capital Funding Program, where she will seek support for the next phase of Sharp Road Park, the Road to Nowhere, and the Fourth St. Park.

Mr. Mulrine shared the Town needs \$245,000 to \$300,000 for Phase III of the 4th St. Park.

There was discussion on creating a use agreement with Caroline Youth Soccer for the use of Sharp Road Park.

2022-21

Mrs. Tara Coursey, Caroline County Tourism Director, was in attendance, and said she was here to listen to what is going on in the county and offer her services if the Town needs anything.

Councilman Lister stated the Utility Commission is still short on members to have a quorum, and asked that everyone to spread the word. He shared that the Utility Commission is working with Simple Fiber and Eastern Shore Pipeline trying to bring additional utility services to Town.

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*