

February 4, 2021

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.

Access to the meeting was made available online using Microsoft Teams, in person public access was limited by request only.

Mayor McNinch thanked those for joining the meeting in person and virtually and explained how to use the comments section online.

Mayor McNinch asked that the record reflect that Councilman Lister and Councilwoman Wilson were attending virtually and Councilman Johnson was in attendance. Councilman Branson would be arriving later.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Regular Meeting, the January 11, 2021 Executive Session and the January 25, 2021 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Lister, the minutes passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Citations – Melanie Koski

Mayor McNinch issued a Citation thanking Melanie Koski, owner of Nich's Coffee, for her support and service to the Community.

Citations – Sue Cruickshank

Mayor McNinch issued a Citation thanking Sue Cruickshank for her service to the Community for serving 12 years as a member on the Denton Planning Commission.

Citations – Jennifer Shull

Mayor McNinch issued a Citation thanking Jennifer Shull for her service to the Community having served 13 years on and off as a member on the Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission.

Councilman Branson arrived at 7:06PM

YMCA 2021 Plans and recap of 2020 Community Events

Angel Perez from Caroline County YMCA was present and provided a review of the events and outreach the YMCA was successful in hosting in 2020 and announced the community events planned for 2021.

Letter – Endometriosis Awareness Month

A request from Shannon Hannawald asking for the Town's support to help raise awareness in March for Endometriosis Awareness Month, by lighting the Town Office in yellow.

The Council supported having Staff display yellow lights in March.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #710 – Vehicle & Traffic Amendment

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the provisions contained in Chapter 120 of the Denton Town Code with respect 120-20 to parallel parking on one-way streets, to change the location for Handicap Parking on N First St. in 120-17 and clarifying the language of 120-27.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #710, seconded by Mayor McNinch.

Discussion was held.

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, provided an overview of the amendments.

Acting Chief George Bacorn further explained the relocation of the handicap parking space on N. First St. and allowing the Department of Correction to park in the spaces formerly designated for Police Vehicles.

Councilman Johnson asked to change the language 120-17 replacing Police vehicles with Public Safety Vehicles.

Councilman Branson amended his motion to include replacing Police vehicles with Public Safety Vehicles. The amended motion was seconded by Mayor McNinch, passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Johnson announced the first Tag Denton Competition winners – Matthew Gower and Jaime Gingell.

Next month's competition will be Tag Bullocks.

Mayor McNinch took a moment to wish employee Donna Todd a Happy Birthday coming up tomorrow.

Mayor McNinch announced the Small Business Event – Shop Downtown will be held on Saturday Feb. 6th, with Horse Drawn Carriage rides and each business will have incentives.

Mayor McNinch who serves on the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee, provided an update, recently the Highway User Revenue reform has been introduced and there has been a lot of discussion on Police Reform bills.

Councilman Lister provided an update of the Denton Utility Commission's recent meeting, sharing they will be reviewing rates and going over the budget during the next couple of months.

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, shared that Staff has been working with AquaLaw on revising the several chapters of the Town Code and plan to have drafts for the Council to review for the February 22nd working session.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- MOU Downtown Denton Main Street

The revised Downtown Denton Main Street (DDMS) Memorandum of Understanding Agreement was presented for consideration. The MOU extends the terms for a 2-year renewal instead of a 1-year renewal and includes the changes discussed about handling the trash cans.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Municipal Tax Differential Certification

The Municipal Tax Differential Certification Form for the County in which each Municipality certifying the level of police protection/coverage provided was presented for approval for the Mayor to sign. The Town of Denton provides coverage 24-hour daily coverage, 7 days a week.

Councilman Branson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Certification, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Legion Road & Route 404 Intersection - Letter from Town Attorney

Mr. Drummond presented a draft letter for Brodie Holdings, LLC and Legion 404, LLC. and shared history.

Discussion was held on the issues of this intersection and its background, the delay in what was proposed to have taken place 11 years ago with the Dunkin/Subway Building.

Mr. Drummond recommended sending the letter to help engage the property owners to help improve the traffic safety.

Councilman Branson made a motion to send the letter, seconded by Councilman Lister.

Additional discussion was held in which Councilman Branson stated that intersection was built to meet state specifications.

Councilman Lister stated the need to get others engaged to fix this permanently.

Councilman Branson asked if the Council could undo the action from last month allowing the developer to make a cutout to allow traffic to turn left out of the Denton Plaza.

Mr. Drummond said they could reconsider their action.

Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion authorizing the Attorney to send the letter.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Branson made a motion to reconsider the Legion Road improvements previously approved, seconded by Councilman Lister.

Mayor McNinch clarified the motion was to include having the Attorney promptly notify the developer and asked for a vote on the motion.

The motion passed 4-1. Councilman Johnson voted no, having a concern regarding language in Chapter 5.

Mr. Drummond will notify Mr. Ryan Showalter, the Attorney representing Denton Plaza.

Agenda #3 - Eastern Shore Environmental, LLC - Trash Contract Renewal

Mr. Mulrine provided the Trash Collection Agreement extending the existing household trash pickup contract with Eastern Shore Environmental. The current contract allows a three-year extension to take place from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. The price will be amended from the original contract of \$4.00 per home to \$4.33 per home to cover rising expenses.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the contract renewal as presented, seconded by Councilman Lister.

During discussion Mr. Phil Clark, Superintendent of Public Works, confirmed the rate is still significantly lower than the other bids received 3 years ago, and will equate to about \$500 a month in additional expense.

Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to approve the contract renewal.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #4 - mPay2Park Agreements

In moving forward with providing additional payment options when parking Downtown, the Mobile Payment Processing Systems Agreement was provided for consideration.

*Acting Chief Bacorn and the Clerk-Treasurer provided additional details explaining that Guests will be able to use a **mPay2Park Mobile APP** to pay to park in any of parking spaces in the downtown using an electronic device.*

Councilman Johnson recused himself as a License Plate Reader Programmer for the Maryland State Police.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the mPay2Park Agreement, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing with 4 votes. Councilman Johnson abstained.

Agenda #5 - ERU's for Denton Ford

In 2018, Denton Ford connected to the public sewer system. They are in the process of remodeling and adding an addition, now needing to connect to the Town water system and expanding the sewer needs. A request for approval for 2.5 ERU for a new water connection and an additional 0.5 ERU for the sewer for Denton Ford at 1207 Double Hills Road was reviewed.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Johnson shared a comment received from the online chat asking why those in attendance were not wearing masks. It was explained for the online viewers that there are plexiglass dividers in between each person present, and if they leave their seat, they must put their masks on.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*