

March 2, 2023

Mayor McNinch called the Regular Meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 6:00 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation was given by Pastor Dartanyon Hines, from Eternal Life Ministries.

Councilman Branson held a moment of silence after announcing the passing of Mrs. Carol D. Stockley at the age of 98. Sharing that Mrs. Stockley previously served on the Denton Town Council for 11 ½ years.

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

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 Working Session, the February 2, 2023 Regular Meeting, the February 6, 2023 Planning Commission Joint Working Session, and the February 13, 2023 Working Session and Executive Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation Endometriosis Awareness Month

Mrs. Shannon Hannawald, Founder of Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore shared her personal story regarding her journey with Endometriosis, thanking the Town for their continued support.

Mayor McNinch read and presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Hannawald proclaiming March as Endometriosis Awareness Month in Denton.

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Councilman Taylor read and presented a Proclamation to Ms. Amy Horne, Director of CASA of Caroline, proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Denton.

Downtown Denton Main Street Director Introduction

Downtown Denton Main Street Board Member, Mrs. Paula Wright, introduced Ms. Mary Hucker as their new Director. DDMS will be hosting a meet and greet at the Wharves of the Choptank Heritage and Visitor Center on March 21st and everyone was encouraged to attend.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #741 – Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Outdoor Storage & Warehouse Amendment

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Official Table of Use Regulations, Appendix VII, in the Denton Town Code Zoning Ordinance and the provisions contained in Chapter 128 of the Denton Town Code with respect to industrial uses, industrial parks, and outdoor storage.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #741, seconded by Councilman Lister.

In discussion: Mrs. Donna Todd, Acting Director of Planning & Codes, provided a synopsis of the Ordinance and answered questions.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #741.

The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business**Agenda #1 – Water and Sewer Allocation**

Mrs. Todd shared that Mill Creek Properties, LLC, is requesting approval for one (1) ERU for a new commercial building to be located at the Denton Industrial Park, Lot 12, 75 Engerman Avenue.

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

Agenda #2 – Denton Industrial Park Commercial Sales Contracts

Mrs. Todd provided four (4) Commercial Sales Contracts for the sale of Denton Industrial Park Lots 1, 2, 4, and 9A for consideration for approval.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the Commercial Sales Contracts, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Municipal Tax Differential Certification

Annually, Caroline County requires Municipalities to submit a form certifying the number of hours in a 168-hour week the Police Department provides protection/coverage. Seeking approval for the Mayor to sign the Annual Municipal Tax Differential Information Certification Form for Fiscal Year 2024.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the certification, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Safehouse Contract DPD

Chief George Bacorn submitted a request to enter into a contract for Safehouse to complete security camera upgrades to the Riverview Gardens area with funding to be provided through a grant that was awarded through DHCD.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - DPD- LETPA GRANT MOU

Chief Bacorn submitted the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities Grant MOU between Caroline County and the Town, sharing that the grant funds will be used to install security cameras at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Johnson initiated discussion pertaining to a request to consider a de-annexation of lands owned by Eric Hignutt.

Councilman Lister provided a summary of the February Utility Commission meeting to include details on the Sludge Management Study, working with Simple Fiber on underground infrastructure ownership arrangements, Franchise Agreements, and the Rate Study.

Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, received support from the Council to schedule an Executive Session on April 6, 2023 at 5:30PM to discuss personnel.

Mayor McNinch provided an update on the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee actions on pending legislation.

Mayor McNinch attended the Mayor's Conference and shared highlights and a discussion with other Towns regarding Fire Sirens, pertaining to the recent request from

residents asking to have the fire siren removed from the Maryland Ave. area. The Mayor asked to schedule a discussion with the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept.

Mayor McNinch announced that she was invited and went to Denton Elementary School and read to the kids.

Mayor McNinch announced that Town Staff was able to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at Aaron's Place earlier this evening.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*