

April 24, 2023

At 6:00 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.

Attendance:

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

Staff in attendance included: Scott Getchell, George Bacorn, Mark Chandler, Donna Todd, and Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following:

323 Market Street Lease – Shore Test and Balance

Mr. Getchell, Town Administrator, shared a request from Shore Test and Balance LLC, seeking to rent space in the Microenterprise Center located at 323 Market St. He also shared that DDMS would like to move their office space to the first floor.

Discussion was held on the proposed new tenant, amending the Lease for DDMS to change units and whether the Council would like to continue to review and approve the leases, or delegate to the Town Administrator to approve. And they briefly discussed coming up with a plan for possibly turning the property over to DDMS to manage.

Ordinance #746 – Cannabis Moratorium

Discussion was held on an Ordinance that will establish a temporary moratorium on the processing and approval of applications, site plans, and permits for the location, construction and/or operation of businesses engaged in the manufacture or sale of cannabis for recreational or medicinal use within the Town for a period of 12 months in order to allow the Town to complete the adopted of a revised Comprehensive Plan and such other legislation to plan for and implement certain restrictions on the circumstances under which such businesses may locate in Town to promote the public health, safety and welfare. The Council supported establishing rules that will not affect the two existing vendors already operating businesses in Town.

Sharp Road Park

The Mayor, Councilman Johnson, and the Town Administrator met with Caroline County Commissioner Breeding and Ms. Jamie Beechey, Director of Recreation & Parks to discuss the athletic fields at Sharp Road Park and the potential relocation of the Lockerman Street Ballfield. Discussion was held on the County's proposal. Mayor McNinch asked to schedule a joint park meeting with the County Commissioners to be held at the Visitor Center.

FY24 General Fund Budget

Mr. Getchell provided an overview of the amended FY24 General Fund Budget, explaining the changes that Staff has implemented since the April 17th Working Session to present a balanced budget. The consideration for the adoption of the FY24 General Fund Budget, and the Public Hearings for the Constant Yield Tax Rate and the FY24 General Fund Budget Appropriations Ordinance are scheduled to be held on May 4, 2023.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Lister expressed his gratitude for the 4th St. Park Phase II moving forward and recommended adding sidewalks on the 4th St. side with this phase and would like to have the chain link fence removed. Mayor McNinch suggested inviting the Chamber to promote celebrating the park renovations when they are complete.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer