

July 6, 2023

Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Lister 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 Thomas Fisher of Abrams Memorial Church.

Vice Mayor Lister thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that Mayor McNinch and Councilman Johnson were absent, all the other Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 Regular Meeting and the June 13, 2023 Joint Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Branson. In discussion, Vice Mayor Lister shared that he was not in attendance for the June 13 meeting and asked if they would consider taking these separately, the motion was withdrawn.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing with two votes, Vice Mayor Lister abstained due to being absent from the meeting.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Citation – Patti's Petals

Vice Mayor Lister read and presented a Town Council Citation to Patti Wood, owner of Patti's Petals, congratulating her and her staff on their anniversary and thanking them for choosing Denton for their business location.

Caroline Pride

Angel Perez of Caroline Pride had asked to be placed on the agenda to thank the Town Council for their continued support, however Perez was not in attendance.

Denton Holiness Church of the Lord Jesus Christ Introduction

Bishop David Green introduced himself as well as Deacons Seth and Bolden, all members of the Denton Holiness Church, sharing their desire to assist the Town in serving the people of Denton.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #890 – Section 3 Plan

A Resolution of the Town of Denton renewing the Section 3 Plan for the State of Maryland Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Councilman Branson made a motion to accept Resolution #890, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Resolution #891 – Minority Business Plan

A Resolution of the Town of Denton renewing the Minority Business Plan for the State of Maryland Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to accept Resolution #891, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Resolution # 892 – Citizen Participation Plan

A Resolution of the Town of Denton renewing the Citizen Participation Plan for the State of Maryland Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Councilman Branson made a motion to accept Resolution #892, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Resolution # 893 – Residential Anti Displacement and Relocation Policy

A Resolution of the Town of Denton renewing the Residential Anti Displacement and Relocation Policy for the State of Maryland Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Councilman Branson made a motion to accept Resolution #893, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Resolution # 894 – Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan

A Resolution of the Town of Denton renewing the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan for the State of Maryland Community Development Block Grant Programs.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to accept Resolution #894, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Ordinance #747 – Ethics Amendment

An Ordinance revising and amending Chapter 14 of the Denton Town Code pertaining to Ethics Law as required by the Maryland State Ethics Commission to comply with State Ethics Law.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #747, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

In discussion, Mrs. Monteith provided additional information received from the Maryland State Ethics Commission requiring these amendments to Ordinance #739 that was adopted in January 2023.

With no further discussion, Vice Mayor Lister asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #747.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #748 – Sewer Rate Increase

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton revising the Sewer Rates for users of the Municipal Sewer System. Based on the recent Rate Study conducted of the Town's Water and Sewer Rates, the Denton Utility Commission is hereby recommending a sewer rate increase in an effort to stabilize the Sewer Fund.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to introduce Ordinance #748, seconded by Councilman Branson.

In discussion, Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, provided additional information. Vice Mayor Lister shared that the study proposes an annual rate increase, and as in the past the Utility Commission is recommending going in the middle with the hope that it will cover for several years.

With no further discussion, Vice Mayor Lister asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #748.

The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Agenda #1 –Radio Advertisement:

Chief Bacorn shared that the Police Department was awarded \$58,406.40 through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services Police Recruitment and Retention Grant. Seeking approval for the Town Administrator to sign a contract with Forever Midshore Media for radio advertising. The Chief further explained the Town will receive 54 weekly recruitment and retention commercials that will air on WINX and WCEI radio stations. Along with recruitment, the ads will highlight Town Employees' achievements, milestone anniversary dates, etc.

Vice Mayor Lister commended the Police Dept. for their efforts in finding the grant.

Councilman Taylor inquired about the contract not specifying times of the day the advertising will occur. Chief Bacorn said that he would confirm that it would be at various times of the day.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to accept and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Denton Industrial Park Sales Contract

Donna Todd, Director of Planning & Codes, shared that SVN Miller Commercial Real Estate submitted a Commercial Sales Contract for the purchase of Denton Industrial Park Lot 10A-2, 95 Engerman Avenue, for \$100,100, seeking consideration for approval of the sale.

Mrs. Todd added that this would be the 3rd lot for Mill Creek Properties, and that the other contracts previously approved for sale of the four lots on Legion Road have all been canceled.

Councilman Branson made a motion to accept the Commercial Sales Contract as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Taylor attended the Maryland Municipal League's Summer Conference along with other Council Members and Staff. He stated that the conference was very good and well attended.

Mr. Getchell added that the Town's Main Street Booth at the MML Conference was also well attended.

Miscellaneous

Vice Mayor Lister mentioned about the bicycle complaints being received and stated the Town is aware of the problem and is working on a plan.

Chief George Bacorn will schedule a discussion on the bike issues for the next Working Session.

Vice Mayor Lister provided an update on the discussions with the County on the Sharp Road Park Proposal and obtaining a Plan for the Double Hills Road property.

Vice Mayor Lister congratulated the Caroline Senior League All Stars Softball Team on winning the District Championship.

With no further discussion, Vice Mayor Lister adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer