

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.

Mayor McNinch held a moment of silence in memory of JOK Walsh.

Attendance:

All Councilmembers were present.

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

Discussion was held on the following items:

DVFD Presentation

Denton Volunteer Fire Department Members - Dennis Porter, Trustee, and Ron Wieber, Treasurer, later joined by Scott Sefton, Fire Chief, provided an overview of their 2023 income and expenditures, operating status, ongoing initiatives, and answered questions.

Discussion was held on the fire sirens as DVFD is working to reduce the number of cycles to 3 for 30 seconds, instead of 10 cycles; the recent electrical failures on the existing siren equipment and cost to replace the equipment. They are also exploring alternate locations and adjusting the height.

Chief Sefton explained the importance of having sirens for emergency responders, to alert the citizens that there is an emergency in the area and without the sirens there would be no way to issue tornado alert or other major emergency alerts.

Chief Sefton also shared concerns pertaining to the kids riding their bicycles in the middle of the street and refusing to move out of the road, causing delays in responding to emergency calls, both for responders trying to get to the fire house when there is a call and refusing to move for fire trucks and other emergency equipment even with their emergency sirens activated.

Bicycles (DPD)

Chief Bacorn of the Denton Police Department talked with the Council about the current legislation that is hindering being able to address and help prevent the issues with kids from bicycling unsafely on Town streets.

Chief will draft a letter to the Legislators requesting a change in the State Laws, repealing the last ones enacted that are hindering the ability to work to resolve the issues before someone gets seriously injured.

Chief Bacorn will investigate reporting these incidents as neglect of a minor to Child Protective Services.

Multi-Family Building Roofs

Mr. David Renshaw, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer, held discussion with the Council on amending the language of the Town Code §128-95 to address the issue of having common plane roofs on new townhomes, condominiums, and mixed-use buildings to prevent future problems with maintenance, specifically roof maintenance and re-roofing.

Mr. Kevin Waterman, a member of the Denton Planning Commission participated in the discussion.

Staff will draft an amendment and take it to the Planning Commission to review for a recommendation for the Council to consider.

Commercial Sprinkler Systems

Mr. David Renshaw discussed with the Council possible changes to the Denton Town Code 38-5.1(G) Section 903, Code for Commercial Sprinkler System Requirements.

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Mr. Renshaw recommended, where the Town Code is more restrictive than the State of Maryland's Fire Code, amending the language. He shared a list of projects the Code has affected.

Staff will continue to explore options, put together a comparison of the Town Code versus the State Code, and seek input from the Fire Department.

Miscellaneous

Council Johnson asked to have Citations to be presented at the next meeting to congratulate the Caroline All Stars Senior League and the Denton Little League, on their significant wins this year.

Councilman Lister initiated discussion regarding the Park Grants and staffing for the additional park maintenance.

Mr. Getchell shared that the Dept. of Public Works has a couple of vacancies and suggested working to fill the positions prior to looking to hire or contract out park maintenance.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 7:44 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*