

2024-03

February 26, 2024

Working Session – 6:00 PM

At 6:00 PM Vice Mayor Lister called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and thanking everyone for coming.

Attendance:

Vice Mayor Lister, Councilman Taylor and Councilman Johnson were in attendance in person.

Councilman Branson attended virtually, joining around 6:10 PM.

Mayor McNinch was out of Town and was able to join virtually around 6:30PM.

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

Discussion was held on the following:

Cannabis Ordinance Amendments

A draft ordinance and study maps recently reviewed by the Planning Commission, identifying areas, and providing provisions in the Town Code for developing and/or regulating businesses engaging in the manufacture or sale of cannabis were discussed.

The ordinance will be placed on the March agenda.

Town-Owned Empty Lot Sale

At the request of the Mayor, Mr. Getchell invited Ms. Meredith Mears of SVN Miller Real Estate and the principal of M3 Synergies to come and talk with the Council to provide some options for selling the former Dollar General Lot located at the corner of Market Street and Third Street.

Ms. Mears, accompanied by Ms. Debbie Bowden, the former Director of Caroline County Economic Development, now partnered with SVN, held discussions with the Council.

Ms. Mears will work on preparing a proposal to come up with the best use study of the property for the Council to review.

FY2025 General Fund Budget

Mr. Getchell kicked off discussion on the FY2025 General Fund Budget by providing a proposed Budget Schedule, a copy of the State Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification Notice, the anticipated real property tax revenue estimate, and proposed personnel changes.

A list of budget priorities from Councilman Lister was provided as well.

The Council suggested exploring lowering the real property tax rate to be closer to the CYTR, working to meet the needs of the Town operations.

The State's formula used for highway user funds may be changing to account for electric cars, the General Fund may have to contribute to the Highway Fund to help with road improvements.

Staff will work on pulling together the FY2025 General Fund Budget and discussions will continue next month.

With no further comments, Vice Mayor Lister adjourned the Working Session at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith
Clerk-Treasurer