

April 4, 2024

Regular Meeting

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.

The invocation was given by Elder David Jones of Denton Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Vice Mayor Lister thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect everyone was present except Mayor McNinch who was absent.

Vice Mayor Lister announced that Mr. Chris Drummond, Attorney for the Town, recently passed away and held a moment of silence in Chris' memory.

Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, with Booth, Cropper and Marriner Law Firm was present filling in as the interim legal counsel for the Town.

The March meeting minutes will be presented in May.

Public Hearing

Vice Mayor Lister opened a public hearing at 6:03 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #754 - An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Denton Town Code Zoning Ordinance and the provisions contained in Chapter 128 of the Denton Town Code with respect to Cannabis Enterprises.

Vice Mayor Lister asked for comments from the State: there were none.

Vice Mayor Lister asked for comments from the County: there were none.

Vice Mayor Lister asked for comments from the Council:

Vice Mayor Lister shared that action on this Ordinance will be deferred until next month, pending final legislative action from the State.

Vice Mayor Lister asked for comments from the Public: there were none.

With no further comments, Vice Mayor Lister closed this public hearing at 6:04 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Ms. Heather Ruard, Assistant Director of the Department of Social Services, and Mrs. Amy Horne, Director of CASA, came forth and shared information on April being Child Abuse Prevention Month and talked about the pinwheel planting ceremony that will be held on April 10th at 4:30 PM at the Community Demonstrations Garden.

Councilman Johnson read and presented to CASA of Caroline and Caroline County Department of Social Services Child Advocacy Center a Proclamation in support of April to be recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Proclamation - Celebrate Trails Day

Mr. Owen Bailey, Director of Land Use & Policy at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and the Director of Landies Trail, joined the meeting virtually to provide information on the Eastern Shore Trail Network Program.

Mr. Bailey shared the Trails Program was started by Rails to Trails Conservancy in 2013 and the celebration encourages people across the country to get outside and enjoy trails in their communities and explore trail systems in their region.

Vice Mayor Lister read a Proclamation recognizing the fourth Saturday of April, Celebrate Trails Day is an annual spring celebration of America's trails.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #754 – Cannabis Ordinance

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Denton Town Code Zoning Ordinance and the provisions contained in Chapter 128 of the Denton Town Code with respect to Cannabis Enterprises.

Vice Mayor Lister announced that action on this Ordinance will be postponed until the State Legislation Session is done.

Ordinance #755 - FY25 General Fund Appropriations

An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds and Estimate Income in accordance with the General Fund Budget being adopted for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The first draft of the General Fund Budget was presented, additional discussion will be held during the April 15, 2024 Budget Working Session.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #755, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Resolution #897 – American Discovery Trail

A Resolution of the Town of Denton recognizing the importance of outdoor recreation, connecting communities, promoting health and wellness, and preserving America's natural beauty and resolving to support and promote the American Discovery Trail (ADT) as a national treasure.

Mr. Peter Schoettle and Mr. Chad Dean, of the American Discovery Trail, shared information on the Trails Program; shared where the trails go through the Town of Denton and asked for the Council's support in adopting Resolution #897.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution #897, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Mrs. Ryan, Interim Town Attorney, asked to go back to Ordinance #754 and recommended the Council make a motion to defer action on the Ordinance until May 2, 2024.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to defer action on Ordinance #754, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Parking Kiosk Relocation on Market Follow-up

Mr. Getchell, Town Administrator, provided an update on the progress of relocating the Parking Kiosk from Market Street to the Courthouse property. Mr. Getchell asked for consideration for discussion and approval to allow permit parking on North 2nd Street for Courthouse staff.

A discussion was held regarding the proposal. Staff will draft an amendment to the Town Code for future consideration.

New Business

Agenda #1 – DVFC Funding Requests

Mr. Dennis Porter and Mr. Ron Wieber, representatives from the Denton Volunteer Fire Company, were present and provided an overview of the FY2024 income and expenditures, operating status and ongoing initiatives and their budget funding requests for FY25.

Agenda #2 – DDMS Funding Requests

Mrs. Paula Wright, President of DDMS, and Mrs. Jessica Willoughby, Director of the Downtown Denton Mainstreet, were present to provide program updates and discuss funding requests for Fiscal Year 2025.

Agenda #3 - Caroline County Economic Development/Tourism Funding Requests

Mr. Bob Zimmeroff, Director of the Caroline County Economic Development and Tourism came before the Board sharing that the CCED is no longer a non-profit entity, and thereby appreciates the previous arrangements for the Town to allocate funds, however, the CCED does not want any funds for FY24 or FY25.

Agenda #4 - MOA with C.C. Dept. of Emergency Services and Town of Denton

Chief Bacorn submitted a Memorandum of Agreement between Caroline County Department of Emergency Services and the Town of Denton for grant received through FEMA Homeland Security Grant Program to be used towards Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities. The Chief shared that the funds will be used to increase security at the Department of Public Works Facility.

Vice Mayor Lister made a motion to approve for the Mayor to sign the MOA, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - FY2025 – General Fund Budget

Vice Mayor Lister stated the draft of the FY2025 General Fund Budget was presented and discussed earlier with the introduction of Ordinance #755. A Budget Working Session is scheduled for April 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Agenda #6 - 4th St. Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Vice Mayor Lister added this item to the agenda announcing that as part of the DNR Grant Funding requirement the Town is required to hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Vice Mayor Lister asked for support to dedicate the park and to name it after former Mayor Carol Stockley. Proposing the name be changed to "Mayor Carol Stockley Park".

Councilman Johnson made a motion to rename the park, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

The Council decided the Ceremony will be held on May 6, 2024 at 12:30 PM at the Park.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Taylor provided a summary of the March 26, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting.

Councilman Johnson asked to schedule a Closed Session to be held on April 15, 2024 following the Budget Working Session to discuss personnel matters. Staff will take care of updating the meeting schedule.

Vice Mayor Lister provided a summary of the March 20, 2024 Utility Commission. With no further discussion, Vice Mayor Lister adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*