

June 6, 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.

Invocation was given by Pastor Don Reynolds of Calvary Baptist Church.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024 Sharp Road Park Public Meeting, the May 2, 2024 Regular Meeting, and the May 20, 2024 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

None

**Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication****Citation – Don Mulrine**

Mayor McNinch read a Council Citation to Honor Don Mulrine on his upcoming retirement from the Town of Denton, thanking him for his 14 years of dedicated services to the Town. The Citation will be presented to Don at his retirement celebration being held on June 7, 2024.

**Citation – Mr. & Mrs. Warfield – Caroline Review Publication**

Councilman Branson read and presented a Council Citation to Richard and Loretta Warfield congratulating them on their retirement and thanking them for their hard work on publishing the Caroline Review. The Caroline Review has been published since 1980.

**Ordinances and Resolutions****Ordinance #753 – Stormwater Management Ordinance Amendment**

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton amending Chapter 106, Stormwater Management of the Town Code.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #753, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

Mr. Getchell provided a brief synopsis of the Ordinance and apologized that a copy of the Ordinance was missing from the packet.

Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #753.

Councilman Branson and Councilman Taylor voted yes, while Mayor McNinch, Councilman Johnson and Councilman Lister voted nay, wanting to wait until a copy of the Ordinance is provided. Motion did not pass.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business****Agenda #1 – FY25 Highway Fund Budget**

The FY2025 Highway Fund Budget was presented for consideration of adoption.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the FY2025 Highway Fund Budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

**Agenda #2 – FY25 Water & Sewer Fund Budgets**

*Based on the recommendation of the Denton Utility Commission, the FY2025 Water Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets were presented for consideration of adoption.*

*Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt both the FY2025 Water Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets. The motion was ~~adopted~~ seconded by Councilman Branson.*

*In discussion, Councilman Lister provided a summary from the Utility Commission's perspective of the budgets.*

*With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to adopt the FY2025 Water Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #3 - Caroline County Council of Arts**

*George Karos, Executive Director of the Caroline County Council of Arts, and Megan Krizovensky, Program Coordinator, came before the Council to introduce themselves and share the CCCA Mission and share upcoming programs.*

*Mayor McNinch thanked them for coming, expressing how exciting it is to have new energy for the Arts in Caroline County.*

**Agenda #4 - Supervisors of Election Appointments**

*The Town's Supervisor of Election Board Members, Ms. Signe Hippert, Mrs. Cheryl Getchell, Ms. Denise Quinn, and the alternates, Mrs. Candy Jordan and Mrs. Audrey Clemens terms expire June 30, 2024. The current board members have all requested to be reappointed.*

*Councilman Lister made a motion to reappoint all, seconded by Councilman Taylor.*

*Mayor McNinch disclosed for the record that Mr. Getchell's wife and sister both serve as Supervisors of the Elections.*

*With no further discussion Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion on the floor to reappoint the Election Board Members.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Agenda #5 - Town Attorney Appointment**

*Mr. Getchell, Town Administrator, provided Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan's resume, and stated that Lyndsey has been handling the Town's legal services as the interim town attorney since Mr. Drummond's passing in March. Mr. Getchell also shared that Mrs. Ryan has served in the past as a backup attorney for the former Town Attorney on some legal matters, and that she represents many other municipalities. Mr. Getchell stated that the Town Charter requires the Town Council to appoint an attorney and that he recommends the appointment.*

*Councilman Branson made a motion to appoint Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan to serve as the Town's Attorney, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.*

*Mrs. Ryan thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the Town of Denton.*

**Agenda #6 - DVFD FY2024 Allocation Disbursement**

*In following up on discussion from the May 20<sup>th</sup> Working Session on the Town's budget allocations for FY24 and FY25 and the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept.'s needs, this item was brought forth for consideration for approval regarding the disbursement of the*

remaining FY24 contribution in the amount of \$41,600 allocated for the DVFD. A letter from the DVFD detailing their plan for future contributions was also presented.

Discussion was held on the disbursement of funds, the Fire Dept.'s plan for use of the funds contributed by the Town, and a draft Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the Town Attorney, developing an accountability for the funds provided.

Councilman Lister made a motion to release the remaining FY24 allocation of \$41,600 with a cover letter requiring DVFD to provide an accounting of how the funds are used. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Councilman Lister made a motion to move forward with creating a MOU with the Fire Dept. establishing terms for future contributions, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Mrs. Ryan will modify the MOU to require a separate accounting and bring it back to the Council for consideration.

With no further discussion on the MOU, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to create an MOU with Denton Volunteer Fire Dept.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion was held on the budgeted line item, and whether the Council needed to take action to reallocate the funds for different expenditures, of which Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Getchell both acknowledged that so long as they were not changing the dollar amount of the contribution, no additional action by the Council would be necessary. Contributions are normally split, and a portion is distributed by October 1, and the remaining amount by April 1.

Mrs. Ryan will modify the draft MOU for future consideration.

**Agenda #7 - MOU – CCLE and Denton Police Department**

Councilman Johnson and Chief Bacorn presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and the Denton Police Dept. for the purpose of agreeing to maintain and host the server/web page for CCLE and to protect the Town limiting the access to the server.

Councilman Johnson recused himself from voting as he is the License Plate Reader Program Manager for the State of Maryland.

Chief Bacorn and Councilman Johnson explained the purpose and benefits of this MOU, and discussion was held.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Mayor McNinch. The motion passed with three votes. Councilman Lister voted no, and Councilman Johnson recused himself and abstained from voting.

**Agenda # 8 - Water and Sewer Allocation**

Granville Properties LLC submitted a request seeking approval for one additional ERU for a doctor's office to be in their existing commercial building located at 502-506 South Fifth Avenue.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

**Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees**

Councilman Taylor provided a summary of the Planning Commission's May Meetings.

Councilman Lister provided a summary of the Utility Commission's May Meeting.

Mayor McNinch announced that several Council Members participated in the Memorial Day Parade.

*The Caroline Pride Fest was held this past week. The Supper at Sunset is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Denton Farmers Market is held weekly on Wednesdays through October.*

*Mayor McNinch, Councilman Taylor and Councilman Johnson will be attending the Maryland Municipal League's Summer Conference at the end of June.*

*Mr. Getchell shared a flyer announcing that Caroline County Commissioners will be holding a 250<sup>th</sup> Caroline County Resolve Celebration on Tuesday July 9, 2024, at 9:00AM, and the Council is invited. Mayor McNinch or Councilman Taylor will plan to attend.*

*Mr. Getchell reminded everyone of Don Mulrine's Retirement Party being held tomorrow from 3-5PM at the Visitor Center, and the Employee Annual Picnic is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Chief Bacorn announced that the Police Department has two recruits scheduled to graduate from the Police Academy on June 14<sup>th</sup>.*

*With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk - Treasurer*