

July 11, 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.

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

A review of the June 6, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes, Councilman Taylor asked for a correction to be made on page 3928, that the motion was seconded by Councilman Branson instead of adopted.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the June 6, 2024 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication**Denton Police Department Officers****Swearing in of Denton Police Officer Shirkey**

Mayor McNinch administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Denton Police Officer Roger Shirkey and welcomed him to the Department.

Swearing in of Denton Police Officer Barnett

Mayor McNinch administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Denton Police Officer Jamison Barnett and welcomed him to the Department.

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

In discussion, Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, provided a history and summary of the Ordinance.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #753.

The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business**Agenda #1 – DVFC MOU**

Per previous discussion, Mr. Getchell, and Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Denton Volunteer Fire Company for continued financial support of the fire company. The second draft of the MOU was presented for consideration of approval.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Councilman Branson recused himself from voting as a member of the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept.

Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to approve the MOU.

The motion passed with 3 votes, while Councilman Branson being recused, abstained from voting.

Agenda #2 – Planning Commission Appointment

Mrs. Donna Todd, Director of Planning and Codes shared that Ms. Dona Sorce was appointed to fill the Alternate Member position on February 1, 2024. Mr. Stephen Mead submitted his resignation on June 14, 2024. Mrs. Todd requested to have Ms. Dona Sorce appointed to fill the unexpired term for the Regular Member position expiring on December 31, 2025, and to seek another interested person for the Alternate Member position.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve Ms. Sorce's appointment to fill the Regular Member position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Employee Appreciation

Mr. Getchell shared a discussion recently held with Councilman Lister pertaining to his recommendation to have provided an extra holiday on July 5th for staff and the logistics of scheduling an extra holiday. Instead, they discussed and recommended providing each employee with an additional \$200 pay in appreciation for their hard work during FY24 and all while short staffed. The estimated cost is to be around \$8,000.

Councilman Taylor suggested in the future to look closer at the Holiday schedule each year when it is approved and shared that he thought this was a wonderful idea and questioned whether to give now or wait until November.

Mayor McNinch said that since the 2% COLA has been deferred to January, that she would like to see this done now.

Councilman Johnson supported giving the extra now and shared that the State has been doing the same thing.

Councilman Branson added that it is easier to schedule holidays in advance.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch made a motion to approve providing employees with a \$200 Appreciation pay, seconded by Councilman Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Kristie Thompson, Safe Station

Ms. Kristie Thompson with Caroline County Safe Stations Program, spoke with the Council about the Safe Station Program based out of the Caroline County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Thompson is making an appearance, sharing the goal of the program and getting information out there while working to connect people in the communities to the available resources to help those in need and promote rehabilitation. The mobile crisis center is open 24/7.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Taylor, Mayor McNinch and Chief Bacorn recently attended the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference.

Mayor McNinch attended Caroline County's 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Caroline Resolves and shared that it was very nice and well attended.

Councilman Johnson announced that the Senior League Girls Softball team won the District Championship and ended up being the runners-up for the State Title.

After a discussion about the July 15th Working Session, the Mayor announced the meeting is canceled.

Mr. Getchell asked for direction on the funding allocation in the FY25 General Fund Budget and whether to move forward with the RFP to seek ideas for the use and potential sale of the former Dollar General Lot.

Mayor McNinch shared that with the possible change in use and tenant for the Carter Building that the Town may want to hold off.

Councilman Branson said that DDMS seems to like using it for the Farmer's Market.

Councilman Johnson shared that fiscally it makes sense for the Town to not own the lot, but if we lose it, then how will it affect the events and groups using the space.

It was the consensus of the Council to hold off on doing anything right now.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*