

October 21, 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 Branson was participating by phone and Councilman Johnson was online. All other Councilmembers were present in person.

Mayor McNinch announced that the October 3, 2024 regularly scheduled meeting was canceled due to not having a quorum, and it was rescheduled for this evening instead of holding a working session.

Invocation was given by Pastor Thomas Fisher of Abrams Memorial Church.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2024 Regular Meeting, and the September 16, 2024 Working Session and Executive Session as presented, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication**Proclamation – 100th Anniversary Abrams Memorial Church**

Mayor McNinch read and presented a Proclamation to Pastor Thomas Fisher and Mrs. Vivian Fisher recognizing Abrams Memorial Church who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on October 19, 2024.

LGIT Safety Grant Presentation

At the request of the Town Administrator, this item was postponed until Nov. 7, 2024.

Ordinances and Resolutions**Ordinance #756 – Parking Permits**

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton amending Chapter 120 of the Town Code to authorize the issuance of parking permits for parking in metered parking spaces pursuant to specific rules and regulations.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to introduce Ordinance #756, seconded by Councilman Branson.

In discussion, Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, and Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, provided an overview of the Ordinance which amends 120-29.1 of the Town Code, removing the word “residential”, which will allow the issuance of parking permits with rules to be established by the adoption of a Resolution.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #756.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #899 – Parking Permits (For review only)

A draft Resolution establishing rules and regulations concerning the issuance of parking permits for a limited number of parking spaces around the courthouse property was presented for discussion.

Mrs. Kathleen Freeman, Caroline County Administrator, discussed parking needs for courthouse staff. The county has a design to create additional parking behind the

courthouse and is currently waiting on funding to cover that cost. Mrs. Freeman asked the Council to consider providing 8 parking permits for staff to use to park on N. 2nd St. and to create an additional parking space on Market St. in front of the building to be reserved for Judicial parking.

Mr. Getchell and Mrs. Ryan presented a draft resolution establishing the rules for allowing permitted parking in metered spaces and discussion was held.

There was discussion on the number of spaces available on N 2nd St., accommodating additional permits along with the existing 4 residential permits, permit design, whether to restrict permit parking to N. 2nd or allowing in any of the parking spaces around the courthouse square. Also discussed was the need for permits to be assigned for specific vehicles and making sure the permits are clearly visible limiting officer enforcement time.

Mayor McNinch questioned how the County would assign the permits and Mrs. Freeman said they are working on a plan.

Discussion will continue for establishing a policy as they work toward bringing legislation for final review and consideration of adoption once Ordinance #756 is adopted.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Denton PD – CCSO Office Training Center and Firearms Range

At the request of the Town Administrator, this item was deferred until the November meeting, when they could make sure they have the newest agreement.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Wholesale Energy Agreement Authorization

In a follow up, on discussion from last month, Mr. Getchell clarified it was confirmed that the authorization provided last year was specific to the last agreement with APPI. Mr. Getchell requested consideration for approving his authority to negotiate wholesale electricity agreements with Apolo Edison, whenever there is a change in the market that could financially benefit the Town.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate with Apolo Edison, seconded by Councilman Branson. Councilman Lister clarified this approval is for future wholesale electricity agreements that will help to maintain or lower energy cost for municipal purposes only. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Commerce Drive Update

Mr. Getchell provided an update on progress with the Commerce Drive Project. The options discussed included the Town creating an agreement and taking over the project or having the private entities build the road. If the Town proceeds with taking over and developing the road, there would be an agreement for all neighboring parcel owners to execute committing to reimbursing the Town for all cost.

Mr. Getchell shared that staff met with the Governor's Office to talk about potential funding opportunities and will continue to explore these opportunities. And if grant funding is received, the cost contribution from each of the parcel owners would be reduced.

Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Getchell will work on drafting an agreement for the Town doing the project for future discussion.

Agenda #3 - Mobile Food Service Vendors

Mr. Getchell and Mrs. Ryan presented a draft Ordinance with proposed amendments to Denton Town Code, Chapter 92 Peddlers, Solicitors and Distributors for

discussion, seeking to define Mobile Food Service Vendors and providing specific regulations for mobile vendors.

Details on not affecting special events, establishing designated locations, set back requirements from other restaurants, license application process, noise and air pollution control were all discussed.

The Town Attorney and Staff will continue to work on the Ordinance and bring it back for additional discussion at a future meeting.

Councilman Johson logged off the meeting at 7:10PM.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Taylor provided an overview of the Sept. Planning Commission Meeting, highlighting that the minor subdivision for the Sharp Road Park went smoothly; the Denton Project LLC – preliminary subdivision has been submitted, along with the Wendy's Concept Plan and the HG Ruff Property Plan. Councilman Taylor shared that the Planning Commission is monitoring House Bill 538 in which the primary concept is to allow mobile homes/manufactured homes anywhere residential housing is allowed, which will require the Town Code to be updated.

Councilman Lister stated that the Utility Commission did not meet in Sept.

Mayor McNinch stated that she attended the Chamber of Commerce Meet the Towns gathering with Chief Bacorn and the Downtown Denton Main Street Manager and mentioned how good it was to network with other towns and the community businesses.

Mayor McNinch attended a White House Briefing last month with MML, the main topics of discussion was the ARPA funding coming directly to the Town and there is a new push for other federal monies to come to the Towns. The other top discussion was on China Water Systems and cyber security breaches, encouraging agencies to be hyper vigilant to safeguard water systems, police intel and other vulnerable vital resources.

Councilman Taylor shared that he will be away for next month's meeting.

Mayor McNinch will be attending MML and questioned if there would be a quorum if everyone was not in person.

Mrs. Ryan clarified that if the majority are able to communicate, it constitutes as a quorum.

Mayor McNinch shared that she feels like it is better to have people in person.

Mrs. Ryan stated that the Council could establish a policy for in-person meetings.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*