

January 2, 2025

Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Lister 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 Dan Gedman of St. Luke's Methodist Church.

Vice Mayor Lister thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that Mayor McNinch was absent due to a family death, and that all other Councilmembers were present.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Swearing In

Clerk-Treasurer/Director of Finance, Karen L. Monteith, Notary in and for Caroline County, State of Maryland, administered the Oath of Office swearing Dr. Lester Branson into office to serve a five-year term on the Denton Town Council.

2025 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Vice Mayor Lister made a motion to appoint Dr. Abigail McNinch to serve as the Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2025, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Office of Vice Mayor

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Dallas Lister to serve as the Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2025, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Frank Taylor to serve as the Mayor Pro-Tem of the Denton Town Council for 2025, seconded by Vice Mayor Lister, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2025, Vice Mayor Lister continued presiding over the meeting.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – January 9, 2025

Councilman Johnson read and presented a Proclamation to Chief Bacorn recognizing January 9, 2025, as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Denton.

Outstanding Service Award Recognition – Emily Spencer

Vice-Mayor Lister presented Emily Spencer of the Finance Department with the 2024 Outstanding Service Award. Emily was nominated by her peers for this award and is recognized for providing excellent service to the citizens and businesses of the Town of Denton, going above and beyond her typical day-to-day responsibilities.

Denton Police Dept.

Mrs. Monteith administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Denton Police Officer Lt. Jeffrey Jackson and welcomed him to the Department.

Mrs. Monteith, administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Denton Police Officer PFC Benjamin Mitzel and welcomed him to the Department.

2024 Financial Report Presentation

Mr. Roy Geiser of UHY LLP, Town Auditor, presented and provided an overview of the Town of Denton's June 30, 2024 Annual Audited Financial Report and Audit Communications as per auditing required communications. Mr. Geiser stated it was a clean audit, providing an unmodified and clean opinion, with no recommendations, nor issues to report.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- DVFC MOU

Mr. Todd Berneski, President of the Denton Volunteer Fire Department, held discussion with the Council on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the Denton Volunteer Fire Company (DVFC).

Discussion included: timing for submitting budget requests, the annual financial reports to the Town; flexibility to use discretion for spending on capital or operating cost.

Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, explained the flexibility of Section 2.

Council members asked the Fire Dept. to submit their priorities, whether capital or operating each year for the Town's budget, and to have an organized method for transfers.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to amend the MOU, changing Section 3 from having documentation of account reports due by April 15th to Sept. 1st. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Mrs. Ryan will make the changes to the MOU and provide for signatures.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Project Updates

Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, provided an update on current private and public capital projects.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mr. Getchell announced the Town received the Risk Management Service Award from LGIT.

With no further discussion, Vice Mayor Lister adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*