

February 6, 2025

**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.

Pastor Don Reynolds of Calvary Baptist Church gave invocation.

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

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2025 Regular Meeting, and the January 27, 2025 Working Session as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

None.

**Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication**

**Citation – Hunter Durham Eagle Award**

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation that will be presented to Hunter Durham of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 165, congratulating him on earning his Eagle Scout Award on February 2, 2025. For Hunter's Eagle Scout Project, he installed a flagpole and concrete walkway at the Greensboro Cemetery to honor past and current military members.

**Citation – Denton Public Works Dept.**

Councilman Branson read and presented a Council Citation recognizing the Denton Public Works Snow Removal Crew for their tireless snow removal efforts of the January Snowstorm. They worked long hours, came in early, and stayed late to make sure roads, sidewalks, and parking areas were ready for public use.

Denton Public Works Staff present to accept the Citation were Mark Chandler, Richard Jordan, and Bryan Trice.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Resolution #900 – Caroline County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

A Resolution of the Town of Denton adopting the 2024 Caroline County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Town 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, provided a synopsis of the Plan, stating that it is updated every five years.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Resolution #900, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

**Agenda #1 – Town Auditing Service Renewal**

UHY LLP currently conducts the Town's Auditing Service and prepares the Annual Financial Reports. The current engagement is ending with the completion of FY2024. A new Multi-Year Engagement Letter was presented to the Council for consideration. Mr. Getchell and Mrs. Monteith recommended extending these services with UHY LLP through Fiscal Year 2029, seeking authorization for the Mayor and Town Administrator to sign the Engagement.

*Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt and approve signing the Engagement, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #2 – New Street Names**

*As per the Town Code - Chapter 73 Land Subdivision, Section 8.C(14) Street and Alley Names - Street names shall be approved by the Town Council. The following road names were submitted for consideration:*

- *Strato Holdings LLC - Strato Drive - private access road*

*Councilman Lister made a motion to approve Strato Drive as a new road name, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.*

- *Denton Project LLC – Road Names*

*At the request of Mr. Getchell, no action was taken on Denton Project LLC. road names, as they are pending a review of history to confirm accuracy.*

**Agenda #3 - Strato Holdings, LLC/Stormwater Inspection & Maintenance Agreement**

*A request from Strato Holdings, LLC. seeking approval for the Inspection and Maintenance Agreement of Private Stormwater Management Facilities was provided. The agreement has been reviewed by the Town Attorney, who confirmed that it guarantees the maintenance for the stormwater management for the Wendy's Fast Food Restaurant and the commercial access road (Strato Drive).*

*Councilman Lister made a motion for the Mayor to execute the agreement, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #4 - Strato Holdings LLC/Water & Sewer Allocation**

*A request from Strato Holdings LLC seeking approval for 4.5 ERUs for the Wendy's Fast Food Restaurant. The Applicant, Wend Baltimore North LLC, received preliminary site plan approval on November 26, 2024, for the Wendy's Fast Food Restaurant. The water and sewer allocation fee will be \$40,500.*

*Councilman Lister made a motion to approve 4.5 ERU's as requested, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #5 - Caroline County Commissioners/Sharp Road Park Forest Conservation Easements & Forest Conservation Maintenance Agreements**

*A request from the Caroline County Commissioners seeking approval for the Sharp Road Park Forest Conservation Easements and Maintenance Agreements that are required by the Town of Denton Forest Conservation Ordinance for compliance with the Forest Conservation Plan. The Town Attorney has reviewed all the legal agreements.*

*Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, provided information on the agreements and answered questions. Lots 1 & 2 will remain owned by the Town, and Lot 3 will be owned by the County.*

*Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the Forest Conservation Easements and Maintenance Agreements as presented, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.*

**Agenda #6 - Caroline Review Presentation**

*Ms. Debbie Bowden, owner of the Caroline Review, provided a history of the publication and stated that she had joined forces with Ms. Connie Connolly to include resource news. Ms. Bowden made a PowerPoint presentation and shared with the Council some of the new features of the Caroline Review. To provide more instant news*

to the public "eNewsletters" will now be available twice a week by visiting [CarolineReview.com](http://CarolineReview.com).

**Agenda #7 - Utility Commission Vacancy**

Mr. Getchell submitted a request seeking the appointment of Ann Jacobs to serve on the Denton Utility Commission to fill the vacancy left by Scott Hollingsworth, who resigned in December 2024. The term expires December 31, 2026.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the appointment of Ann Jacobs to serve on the Denton Utility Commission, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

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

Councilman Taylor provided an overview of the January Planning Commission meeting, to include the draft zoning ordinance that is ready to be presented to the Town Council. They currently have a Joint Working Session with the Town Council scheduled for February 11, 2025, at the Visitor Center. There was a preliminary discussion on the minor site plan for the Sharp Road Park Project, approval is pending receiving a light study.

Councilman Lister provided an overview of the January Utility Commission meeting as they are working with Waterworth, discussing water and sewer rate changes.

Mayor McNinch provided a 2025 Legislative Session update. Word is that the Highway User Rates are safe this year and there is a huge budget deficit. She also talked about events that are coming up.

Chief Bacorn added that he has been monitoring and testifying on Legislation that pertains to Law Enforcement.

Councilman Johnson shared information on the pending legislation that would not allow a car to be stopped without headlights on or for a single violation. This legislation goes against promoting safe travel.

Mayor McNinch shared that they will be visiting the Fourth Grade Class at Denton Elementary on February 18<sup>th</sup> to promote the Maryland Municipal League "If I Were Mayor Essay Contest" and invited other members of the Council to join her.

Chief Bacorn announced that five-member of the Denton Police Department recently participated in the MD Special Olympics Polar Plunge, and they were able to raise over \$2,700.

Mayor McNinch added that North Caroline High School was able to send a bus with students to participate in the Plunge this year, approximately 140 students from Caroline County attended.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 6:51 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith,  
Clerk - Treasurer*