

January 8, 2026

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 Deacon Marcel Smith of the Denton Holiness Church.

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

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Swearing In

Mayor Abigail McNinch administered the Oath of Office swearing Dallas Lister into office to serve a five-year term on the Denton Town Council.

2026 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Councilman Dallas Lister made a motion to appoint Abigail McNinch to serve as the Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2026, 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 2026, seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-Tem

Councilman Lister made a motion to appoint Frank Taylor to serve as the Mayor Pro-Tem of the Denton Town Council for 2026, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2026, Mayor ~~Lister~~ McNinch continued presiding over the meeting.

Public Hearing

None.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

35 Years of Service Award – Chief George Bacorn

Councilman Branson presented Chief George Bacorn with an award for 35 years of service to the Denton Police Dept.

2025 Outstanding Employee Service Award – Sgt. Jerry Stivers

Mayor McNinch presented Sgt. Jerry Stivers of the Denton Police Dept. with the 2025 Outstanding Service Award. Jerry was nominated by his 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 his typical day-to-day responsibilities.

Proclamation – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – January 9, 2026.

Councilman Johnson read and presented a Proclamation to Chief Bacorn and several members of the Denton Police Department, recognizing January 9, 2026, as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Denton.

Swearing in of PFC. Toby Hafer – Denton Police Dept.

Mayor McNinch administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Denton Police Officer Toby Hafer and welcomed him as a member of the Department.

Citation – William Quick – Eagle Award

Mayor McNinch shared that William Olson Quick will receive his Eagle Scout Award on January 10th. His project was bringing the National Wreaths Across America Program to the Denton Cemetery in 2024, and the program continued in 2025. Councilman Lister will present a Denton Town Council Citation to William Olson Quick during the ceremony being held on Saturday.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #765 – 9 N 4th Street Conveyance

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton authorizing the conveyance of property located at 9 N 4th Street in Denton, Maryland identified in the Tax Records of Caroline County as Parcel 823 of Tax Map 0103.

Councilman Lister made a motion to introduce Ordinance #765 seconded by Councilman Johnson.

In discussion, Mrs. Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, provided the background of the Memorandum of Understanding approved in June 2025 with the Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore (“FACES”) setting the terms in which the Town will convey ownership interest of the property to FACES.

Victoria McConnell, FACES President, thanked the Town for the work they have done on the project and for this opportunity for FACES to extend their program.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #765.

The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Agenda #1 – Maryland’s Greenspace Equity Program Grant Application Letter of Support

Scott Getchell, Town Administrator, shared that staff are preparing a grant application to seek \$57,000 in funds to develop a dog park at Sharp Road Park. The grant application is due January 14, 2026. He shared that several letters of support have been received from the community and they are seeking a letter of support from the Mayor.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support to apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – 9 N. 4th Street Purchasing Agreement & Deed

Mrs. Ryan gave an overview of the Terms of a Purchase Agreement associated with the deed for the conveyance of 9 N 4th Street to be approved contingent upon the adoption of Ordinance #765.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve signing the Purchase Agreement, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Denton Main Street Letter of Agreement

Jessica Willoughby, Downtown Denton Main Street Executive Director, provided an overview of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Main

Street Maryland Program Agreement for Aspiring Communities and asked for approval for the Mayor to sign. This is part of the annual commitment the Town makes between Downtown Denton Main Street (DDMS) and the Maryland Main Street Program. This will provide the opportunity for an additional 2-year training to the Director of DDMS.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the Main Street Maryland Program Agreement, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Poor House Run Stream Restoration Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Getchell stated that this item is not quite ready for discussion and recommended placing this on the February agenda.

The Council had no objections to postponing discussion until February.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Lister shared that the Utility Commission went to lunch in December for their meeting. Mr. Adam Jones has resigned from the Utility Commission leaving a vacancy.

Councilman Lister suggested holding an annual luncheon for all the Town's Volunteer Board Members, saying how well received it was by the Utility Commission.

Councilman Lister stated that the County is rock-n-rolling on the infrastructure at Sharp Road Park. Thanks to Commissioner Breeding, the new ball fields are taking shape. The County has received money to install lights and have JR Smith lined up to install them. They may need to relocate the water and sewer lines, but the Project is coming along nicely and should be ready for games to begin in 2027.

Councilman Lister also shared that the County has Blough's (Choptank Excavating) putting in the utility lines and the road for the new Industrial Park Lots.

Councilman Lister mentioned that the site work for the Silicato property, clearing the trees for the proposed WAWA is also underway. It is nice to see some of these projects all coming to fruition.

Mayor McNinch announced that the Eden Town Brewery is open and it a fabulous place to visit.

Councilman Branson added the Brewery is very nice, and the Food Truck run by Caroline's is a great thing to have.

Mayor McNinch announced that the Caroline County Association of Municipalities has made the decision to disband and suggested that the Town host an occasional pizza party for all the elected officials to meet.

Mayor McNinch stated that the 2026 Legislative Session starts next week.

Mayor McNinch thanked Mark Chandler and the Denton Public Works team for letting her drive the new street sweeper, sharing that it was a great experience.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk – Treasurer*