

April 2, 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.

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

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026 Regular Meeting and the March 16, 2026 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Mayor McNinch recognized Karen Monteith who just celebrated 30 years of service with the Town.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness Month

Councilman Johnson read and presented officials from CASA of Caroline County with a Proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month.

Victor Reynolds, Communications and Outreach Coordinator for CASA of Caroline, thanked the Town for providing a Proclamation and for their continued support. Mr. Reynolds shared that there is a significant increase in the need for volunteers to guide children at the most vulnerable stages of life in Caroline County. Currently they have 50 children waiting for a mentor. Everyone is encouraged to wear blue on April 17th and to join them at the Eden Town Brewery at 4:30PM for their annual pinwheel planting.

Mr. Reynolds introduced Kathleen Dormody as CASA's new Executive Director.

Ms. Dormody thanked everyone for their support and shared CASA needs a few more board members if anyone is interested, she would be glad to talk with them and looks forward to working with everyone.

Citation – Bullock's Deli 50 Year Anniversary

Councilman Branson read a Proclamation to be presented to the owners of Bullock's Deli with a Citation in celebration of their 50-year anniversary.

Citation – Caroline County Sheriff's Office Deputy K-9 Mattis

Mayor McNinch read and presented Council Citations recognizing, remembering and memorializing former Caroline County Sheriff K-9 Officer Mattis, who recently passed away.

Maryland State Police Trooper Jacob Rideout and Caroline County Sheriff Deputy Corporal Mark Hopkins, former partners of K-9 Mattis, were present to receive the citations. Both Officers shared heartwarming stories of their time working with K-9 Officer Mattis and thanked the Town for their support.

Bird City Maryland Presentation

Pamela Kellett, Maryland Bird City Coordinator was present to announce the Town of Denton has been recognized as Caroline County's first Bird City Maryland community, and the 14th designation in the State. The Denton Bird City Committee is planning to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at Summerfest. The Eastern Blue Bird has been selected to be Denton's official Bird.

Mayor McNinch thanked Ms. Kellett and other committee members present for all their work, and thanked our own Robin Lahnemann, an employee of the Town, for spearheading the local committee and assisting in meeting the requirements for the designation.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 905 - Support of HB 1142

A Resolution of the Town of Denton in support of HB 1142 / SB, establishing the task force to modernize County and Municipal revenue sources.

Mayor McNinch provided information on the background behind the request for the resolution for seeking a task force to study modernizing revenue sources.

Discussion was held and there were many concerns shared about asking the State to consider sharing sales tax revenues with counties/municipalities which could result in the State increasing the sales tax rate or other fees. Increases in taxes and/or fees could fall back on the residents, or possibly there would be budgetary cuts for the state. Rather than reallocating revenues, the State may raise fees.

Councilman Johnson shared that the bills have already passed the House and the Senate to create the task force.

Mayor McNinch made a motion to modify the Resolution with amendments stating what has been said. Discussion continued, and there was not a second or any action taken on the motion.

Councilman Taylor questioned that since there is no rush as it is already moving forward is there a need for the Town to submit a resolution, or can they have more time to discuss this further.

Mayor McNinch suggested discussing additional language to be placed in the Resolution with the Town Attorney when she returns.

No action was taken as this time.

Ordinance #767 Denton Town Code Chapter 73 – Subdivision Regulations

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton repealing and reenacting with amendments Chapter 73, Land Subdivision of the Town Code.

Councilman Lister made a motion to introduce Ordinance #767, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

In discussion, Peter Johnston, the Town Planning Consultant, provided an overview of the changes to the regulations being proposed and answered questions.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #767.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #768

This item was deferred to be discussed with New Business Agenda Item #3.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Agenda #1 – Crouse Park Bulkhead Renovation Construction Contract

Staff submitted a request seeking the Council's approval to award an associated agreement in the amount of \$282,714.00 to Bay Coastal Contracting, LLC for the Crouse Park Bulkhead Renovation construction. Bay Coastal was the lowest, responsive bidder.

DNR Waterway Improvement Funds will be used to cover \$249,999.00 of the costs. The remaining \$32,715 will be funded through the Town of Denton Parks CIP fund.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

In discussion, Katie Northam, Town's Project Manager, provided background for the project, sharing that four bids were received and it is the recommendation of the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and Town Staff to award the contract to Bay Coastal. Staff advised that there will be some inconvenience of use for the boat ramp and that they will provide notice and signage directing users to Martinak State Park.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to approve the construction award to Bay Coastal Contracting, LLC.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Personnel Manual

Discussion on the draft of the newly revised Personnel Manual continued to be held.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the new manual as amended, seconded by Councilman Taylor.

In discussion, Emily Spencer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Robin Lahnemann, Acct. Clerk III, Scott Getchell, Town Administrator and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer provided responses to questions from the prior discussion and shared changes made to the draft of the new manual, which included handling sick leave abuse – chronic absenteeism, and whether any changes needed to be made for Leap Year.

Mrs. Monteith shared that the Council can move forward with their motion to approve the new manual, and that Staff will present a Resolution at the May meeting establishing the new Personnel Manual as policy.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch asked for a vote on the motion to approve the manual.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #3 - FY2027 General Fund Budget

The first draft of the FY2027 General Fund Budget was presented. Mr. Getchell shared that a Budget Working Session will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, April 13th, with a follow-up discussion on Monday, April 20th at 6:00PM.

Ordinance #768 - FY2027 General Fund Budget Appropriations

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to appropriate funds and estimate income in accordance with the budget being adopted for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 was presented for consideration of introduction.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to introduce Ordinance #768, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Councilman Taylor shared that the Planning Commission did not meet in March.

Councilman Lister shared that the Utility Commission is looking for a volunteer to fill the one vacancy on their board, and movement has started for drafting the Town's first broadband agreement.

Mayor McNinch and Councilman Taylor attended the Town's Park Clean up day at Sharp Road Park, along with lots of Staff, and it was nice to see that there was not a lot to clean up.

Councilman Taylor gave a shout out to the Denton Public Works Crew for keeping the park clean.

Mayor McNinch shared that the new ball fields construction on the County portion of Sharp Road Park is moving along nicely.

Councilman Johnson and Councilman Lister shared the ball fields look great and will be amazing next year.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*