

July 20, 2026

At 6:00 PM, Mayor McNinch called the Working Session of the Denton Town Council to order on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance:

Council members in attendance included: Mayor McNinch, Councilman Taylor and Councilman Johnson. Councilman Branson and Councilman Lister were absent.

Staff in attendance included: Scott Getchell, George Bacorn, Mark Chandler, Donna Todd, and Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following items:

Towers Park – Rotary Lease – Boy Scouts Club House

Walt Palmer, Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop #165, met with the Town Council to discuss the renewal of the Towers Park Lease. The long-term lease between the Town and the Denton Rotary Club which allows Boy Scout Troop #165 to use the Club House located on the property will be expiring in August.

Mr. Getchell shared that he has received communication from Sue Simmons, Club President of the Denton Rotary sharing their interest to continue leasing the property in sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop #165.

Discussion was held on whether it would be better for the Town to consider selling the property or continuing leasing. The consensus was to consider a longer-term lease.

Mr. Getchell and Mr. Palmer will work on drafting a new lease.

Ordinance – Cooling Off Period

At Councilman Johnson's request, a draft Ordinance that considers the Town establishing a post-service employment restriction for elected officials and appointed board members seeking appointment to a paid department head position was presented and discussed.

Councilman Johnson expressed that he feels it is inappropriate for an elected official to step down and assume a department head role that becomes vacant. Enacting legislation that would prevent an elected official from running for office on purpose looking to fill an upcoming vacant paid position seems ethical.

The Ordinance will be sent to the Town Attorney for review.

Visitor Center Sprinkler System

Mr. Getchell shared that the design for the proposed Visitor Center Sprinkler System has been completed and it was placed out to bid. The bids came in around a million dollars, which far exceeds the funds available for this project.

Several options were discussed; Staff will review how the allocation of the ARPA fund was written when it was submitted and see if any of the options still qualify to use the remaining ARPA Funds.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*