

January 3, 2013

Regular Meeting

Mayor Porter called the regular meeting of the Denton Town Council to order at 7:00 PM on this date leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Porter asked that the record reflect that all Council members were present.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2012 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Danielson, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Member

Dennis D. Porter was sworn into office to serve another five year term on the Denton Town Council by Vice Mayor Dean Danielson.

2013 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Councilman Gregory made a motion to appoint Dean Danielson to serve as Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2013, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Office of Vice Mayor

Councilman Danielson made a motion to appoint Conway Gregory to serve as Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2013, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-tem

Councilman Gregory made a motion to appoint Dennis Porter to serve as Mayor Pro-tem of the Denton Town Council for 2013, seconded by Councilman Danielson, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2013, Mayor Danielson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Councilman Clendaniel commended Councilman Porter on recently being elected as the Denton Volunteer Fire Company Chief.

Mayor Danielson thanked Councilman Porter for being the Mayor for the past year.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #650 – Critical Area Program

Mayor Danielson opened a public hearing at 7:04 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #650 - An Ordinance of the Town of Denton repealing and reenacting with amendments the provisions contained in Chapter A129 Critical Area Program and amending Chapter 128 Article II Definitions and Article VIII Special District: Critical Area Overlay District and amending Chapter 73 Land Subdivision Definitions of the Denton Town Code with respect to the Critical Area.

Mayor Danielson asked for comments from the State:

A letter from the Critical Area Commission was placed into the record.

Mayor Danielson asked for comments from the County: there were none

Mayor Danielson asked for comments from the Council:

Councilman Gregory asked for some clarification on the Critical Area Commissions response.

Mr. Tom Batchelor, Senior Codes Enforcement Officer, provided an explanation of the Critical Area Commissions (CAC) communication. In working with the CAC, on some of the Council previously mentioned concerns, Mr. Batchelor learned that some aspects in the Town's draft ordinance have more restrictions than what is required in the this area. Mr. Batchelor made a request to see the state's model to use to amend the Ordinance before it is considered for adoption.

Councilman Gregory asked how these restrictions made it into the Ordinance.

Mr. Batchelor explained that Mr. Gradecak, the author of the Ordinance, was hired by the State of Maryland Dept. of Planning to work with the Municipalities to draft legislation. The language probably reflects requirements for other areas that the CAC staff has advised are not required for this area.

Councilman Gregory asked questions about restrictions on the river, wooded areas and what the provisions would be for removing trees, raising concerns as to what affect this will have on the residents with property along the Second Street area.

Mr. Batchelor explained the different zoning requirements for preservations of woodlands in some areas. Depending on the type of construction work being done, some areas may require the property owner to hire an outside surveyor or design professional before a permit can be issued. Provisions for removing trees will also depend on the type of work being done, the amount of vegetation already on the property, and the amount of disturbance.

Mayor Danielson recommended suspending continuing the public hearing until next month to see if the CAC staff can come meet with the Council to discuss these concerns in more detail.

Councilman Porter recommended having them attend the January 17, 2013 working session.

Mr. Batchelor will contact the CAC to see if they can attend the working session.

Mayor Danielson asked for comments from the Public –there were none

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to continue this public hearing at the February 7, 2013 meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Case, passing unanimously.

With no further comments, Mayor Danielson closed this public hearing at 7:20 PM to be reconvened on February 7, 2013.

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Proclamation – Specialist First Class Jordan Dill

SFC Jordan Dill returned home from a tour in Afghanistan on December 22, 2012.

Mayor Danielson and the Council members presented Specialist First Class Jordan Dill with a proclamation in appreciation for his dedicated service to the U.S. Army and this country and to welcome him home.

FY2012 Financial Report Presentation

Mr. Rob Churchman, of Cherry, Bekeart & Holland, provided an overview of the Town of Denton's June 30, 2012 Annual Audit and Financial Report. Mr. Churchman announced that they had a clean unqualified opinion with no findings to report.

Councilman Gregory asked if they found the Town's grants to be in compliance.

Mr. Churchman said that they found no malfeasant in reviewing the grants. They conducted a single audit as required on the Fifth Ave Road Construction project and everything was found to be in compliance.

Mayor Danielson thanked and expressed his gratitude to the Finance Staff for doing a great job in keeping the daily activities in order.

Caroline High School - Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) Letter

The Council was provided a letter received from the Maryland Historic Trust approving the Town's request to rehabilitate the Caroline High School building.

Mayor Danielson stated that he really appreciated Mr. Mulrine's the Town Administrator, persistence in working with MHT to get this project moving forward.

Caroline County - Shore Health Interested Party Status

Mr. Mulrine shared a letter with the Council that was received from Senator Colburn regarding Caroline County's request to the Maryland Health Care Commission seeking "interested party" status.

The Council recognized Senator Colburn's concerns, but they also support Caroline County's efforts to work toward having a health care facility in Caroline County.

Councilman Gregory made a motion to have the Town Administrator draft a letter to be sent to either Senator Pipkin or Caroline County stating that the Town supports their efforts. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

In further discussion, Mayor Danielson suggested talking with Caroline County to see who they want the letter sent to.

Mr. Mulrine will reach out to Commissioner Larry Porter and let him know of the Council's support.

Councilman Clendaniel recommended this also be discussed at the Association of Municipalities meeting in January.

Councilman Porter wanted to make it clear that by the Town Council showing support for Caroline County to have a seat at the table on the Shore Health Board and that the Council is not trying to stop the Memorial Hospital at Easton's expansion. However, the importance of being involved in future expansions is necessary for the health care needs for Caroline County residents.

The motion passed unanimously to send a letter of support for Caroline County.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance #650- Critical Area Program

An ordinance of the Town of Denton repealing and reenacting with amendments the provisions contained in Chapter A129 Critical Area Program and amending Chapter 128 Article II Definitions and Article VIII Special District: Critical Area Overlay District and amending Chapter 73 Land Subdivision Definitions of the Denton Town Code with respect to the Critical Area.

This item has been deferred for consideration following the continuance of the public hearing to be reconvened on February 7, 2013.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

None

Miscellaneous

Councilman Porter raised concerns about the recent deaths and incidents related to a drug epidemic that is becoming a problem in Denton. He recommended that the Chief, Town Administrator, and the Town Council get together and find a way to do

something and involve the Drug Task Force and Sheriff's Dept. to come up with some options to help resolve this serious problem, and the Town may need to consider going to the state to seek assistance.

Mrs. Sue Cruickshank, of 901 Market St., shared that there has been several deaths in such a short time and that she agrees that the Town needs to find a way to help.

Mr. Russ Strong, of 424 S. Second St., expressed the need to raise public awareness and reach out letting citizens know of the problem.

Councilman Gregory said that before they can raise awareness at the State level that the Town should obtain some statistics; what the rate is in Caroline County.

Councilman Porter said that the problem needs to be cut off at the source.

Mayor Danielson added that many do not know what they are messing with.

Councilwoman Case shared that she hears from some of the students in school that some choose to do drugs as recreational because there is nothing else to do.

Mr. Mulrine will share with the Police Dept.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21st. – Martin Luther King Walk, beginning at 10AM at the General James F. Fretterd Community Center Building

Jan. 24th –Grand Opening for Sweetly Made, 323 Market St. 5PM.

Mr. Scott Getchell, Director of Public Works, thanked the Council for showing their support of staff by voting on the COLA at the last meeting.

With no further discussion, Councilwoman Case made a motion to close the meeting at 8:47 PM, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*