

January 7, 2016

Regular Meeting

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

Councilman Porter made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Member

Mr. Dallas Lister was sworn into office to serve a five year term on the Denton Town Council by Mayor Abigail McNinch.

2016 Annual Election of Officers

Office of Mayor

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to appoint Abigail McNinch to serve as Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2016, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Office of Vice Mayor

Councilman Branson made a motion to appoint Robert Clendaniel to serve as Vice Mayor of the Denton Town Council for 2016, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

Office of Mayor Pro-tem

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to appoint Lester Branson to serve as Mayor Pro-tem of the Denton Town Council for 2016, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing unanimously.

With the installation of officers now complete for 2016, Mayor McNinch presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

FY2015 Financial Report Review

Mr. Rob Churchman, of Cherry Bekaert LLP, provided an overview of the Town of Denton's June 30, 2015 Annual Audit and Financial Report. Mr. Churchman shared that it was a very clean unmodified audit and that there were no findings or issues.

Proclamation – Mr. Clifton Friel

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation in recognition of Mr. Clifton Friel and his 30 years of dedicated service to the Temple Lodge.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

Miscellaneous

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provide an update on the Crouse Park Project, indicating that State Highway Administration is ready to move forward with their portion.

Mayor McNinch shared that the Town's Tax Differential Letter has been submitted to the County.

Mayor McNinch and Councilman Porter will be the Town Representatives during any County Tax Differential discussion. Councilman Lister agreed to be an alternate.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Small Business Loan – Night Kitchen LLC

Mr. Taylor Hale, Owner of Night Kitchen LLC., came before the Council seeking a Small Business Loan. Mr. Hale is in the process of relocating his manufacturing coffee roasting business to Denton and requested a \$20,000 small business loan to help with the relocation and renovations to the building they are going to occupy.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Town's Business Loan Review Committee has reviewed the loan application package and made a favorable recommendation for the Town Council to consider funding.

Mr. Mulrine added, that he is waiting on final approval from the State CDBG Office.

Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney, recommended the Town obtain Personal Guarantees from both Mr. Hale and his wife, as additional security.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the Small Business Loan Request for Night Kitchen LLC., for \$20,000, contingent upon the State's approval and obtaining personal guarantees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mulrine discussed the status on the Crouse Park Pump Station Upgrade as was included in the FY2016 Budget. This item will be placed on the February agenda for consideration of approval on the cost to move forward with the project.

Mr. Mulrine shared that he has been working with Broadband to ensure connecting fiber to the proposed Crouse Park Visitor Center.

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Chesapeake Culinary School and announced that the Historic Preservation Grant Funding has been awarded.

Councilman Porter asked to have a proclamation prepared to recognize Mr. Steve Konopelski for his accomplishments on the Food Network's Holiday Baking Show. His participation in this show put Denton on the map.

Mr. Mulrine also mention that Mr. Konopelski recently won the Small Business Chamber of Commerce Award for the year.

Mr. Mulrine also would like to recognize Shoreline Vinyl for winning the Mid-Size Business of the Year Award.

Councilman Clendaniel asked for an update on the liner replacement at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the plant has been operating successfully on one cell; able to delay the process for a little while in anticipation of receiving notice soon on the USDA Funding. The Town has submitted an application to USDA for the repairs to the liner, as well as for upgrades for the plant to move away from the chemical process and to convert to ultra violet. Hoping for the USDA announcement in early spring.

Mayor McNinch and Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the work efforts going into submitting the bond bill for upgrades to the Sharp Road Park and the Choptank Athletic Association.

Mayor McNinch shared that she recently met with Mr. Ken Turner, Dept. of Correction, who has taken over the community service program.

Mayor McNinch opened the meeting to allow for public comments.

Mr. Bill Jesmer came before the Council to discuss 700 Gay St., asking to have the building permit reinstated and seeking assistance.

Mr. Drummond explained that the Court has ruled that the building permit has expired and that what Mr. Jesmer is asking is beyond the scope of what the Town can do without an owner of the property.

Mr. Drummond recommended for Mr. Jesmer to work to open an estate and to get a personal representative assigned.

Mrs. Mary Fowler approached the Board asking for the Council to hold a second meeting of the month to handle residential items and no other business item.

Mayor McNinch offered for Mrs. Fowler to submit items to be placed on the agenda.

Mrs. Fowler mentioned some items that are of concern.

Mayor McNinch asked Mrs. Fowler to submit a letter with her concerns and offered to meet with her.

Mrs. Fowler acknowledged that she will submit a letter.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch again thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*