

March 12, 2015

Regular Meeting

The Council meeting originally scheduled to be held on March 5, 2015 was postponed until March 12, 2015 due to inclement weather.

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, acknowledged that all Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Porter, who was running a little late.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2015 Working Session and the February 5, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #665 – Table of Use/Semipublic

Mayor McNinch opened a public hearing at 7:01 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance #665 – An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Official Use Table of the Denton Zoning Ordinance to permit semipublic, educational, cultural, religious, philanthropic, social, and fraternal uses in the Recreation and Parks District as a conditional use.

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the State: there were none

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

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the Council: there were none

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the Public: there were none

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch closed this public hearing at 7:02

PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Mayor McNinch asked if any Councilmembers had anything they wanted to add.

Councilman Clendaniel suggested it was a good time for Mr. Mike Jordan, who was in the audience, to speak with the Council.

Mr. Mike Jordan recently moved to the Denton. He shared some ideas for ways to make Denton a better Town.

Councilman Porter arrived at 7:06 PM.

Mayor McNinch thanked Mr. Jordan for his suggestions and encouraged him to become a volunteer.

Mayor McNinch brought up discussion on reducing the Town's share for Health Care for Council members. Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, was asked to research what would be necessary to change the Health Care Policy for Councilmembers.

Staff will provide Mr. Drummond the history of this benefit.

Proclamations - Caroline County Habitat for Humanity & Mr. William

Clemens

Mayor McNinch read a proclamation congratulating the Caroline County Habitat for Humanity on their 20th Anniversary and Mr. William Clemens for his dedicated services as the Executive Director of Caroline County Habitat for Humanity for five years.

Proclamation - Hunter Geisel

Mayor McNinch read a proclamation congratulating Hunter Wayne Geisel in recognition of his Eagle Scout Honor.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #810 – Arts & Entertainment District Expansion

A Resolution of the Town of Denton endorsing an application to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development for the renewal and expansion of the Denton Arts and Entertainment District designation in historic downtown Denton.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to adopt Resolution #810, seconded by Councilman Porter, passing 4-1 with Councilman Clendaniel voting No.

Resolution #811 – Police Car Acquisition

A Resolution authorizing the Town of Denton to Purchase a 2015 Dodge Charger Police Car including emergency equipment installed, with financing to be obtained from PNC Bank.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to adopt Resolution #811, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Ordinance #665 – Table of Use/Semipublic

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Official Use Table of the Denton Zoning Ordinance to permit semipublic, educational, cultural, religious, philanthropic, social, and fraternal uses in the Recreation and Parks District as a conditional use.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopt Ordinance #665, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner.

In Discussion: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an overview of the Ordinance.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to adopt Ordinance #665.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #667 – Child Care Ordinance

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to amend the Official Use Table of the Denton Zoning Ordinance and the provisions contained in Chapter 128 of the Denton Town code with respect to family child care and child or adult care centers.

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of the Ordinance, seeking ways to streamline the permit process.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to introduce Ordinance #667, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Ordinance #668 – 522 Gay Street to the Caroline County Habitat for Humanity

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton authorizing the Town to convey 522 Gay Street to the Caroline County Habitat for Humanity.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to introduce Ordinance #668, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine provided an overview and history of the property.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion to introduce Ordinance #668.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

Mr. Mulrine briefed the Council on the next Ordinance being drafted; working with the Planning Commission on amendments for allowing medical care facilities and clinics.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Tax Differential

Discussion was held regarding the Caroline County Municipal Tax Differential. Councilman Porter expressed that the Town just wants the formula to be fair. He explained the formula being used by the County is based on historical assessment averages, when it should be based on more recent assessments.

Mayor McNinch suggested sharing at the Municipalities meeting next week, and recommended talking directly with the County Commissioners about this.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Town Trash Service – 3 year Extension

Mr. Mulrine mentioned that the Town's current residential trash collection contract with Chesapeake Waste is set to expire on June 1, 2015 and asked for consideration to extend the contract for an additional 3 years. The dumpster contract had previously been extended; the Town is now seeking bids for that collection.

Councilwoman Lightner made a motion to extend the Chesapeake Waste contract for 3 years, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – FY2016 General Fund Budget

A preliminary draft of the Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund Budget was presented and discussed.

The Town Attorney also mentioned that County staff has not responded to the Town's request to discuss the Hotel Tax Agreement.

Officer Franklin, (County Commissioner Franklin), was in the audience. He mentioned that he believed that a closed session is scheduled to discuss this item at their next meeting.

Agenda #3 – Non-Binding Impasse – Denton Police Dept.

The Non-Binding Impasse presented to the Council at their previous working session has been turned over to the Town Attorney for review.

Officer Franklin asked if the Council has a time line of when they will discuss again.

Mr. Drummond will review and suggested placing this on the April Agenda for additional discussions.

Agenda #4 - Friends of the Grape MOU

As part of the funding for the second floor of the Chesapeake Culinary School, USDA is requiring the grant recipients, the Friends of the Grape, to have an updated Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to the funding of the second floor kitchen that the Friends of the Grape has received.

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of the agreement, and each agencies involvement in the project.

Once the construction is complete the MOU between the Board of Education and the Town will also be updated.

Councilman Porter made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lightner, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mulrine gave an overview on the Caroline County Habitat for Humanity Gay St. Project.

Mayor McNinch gave highlights of the recent visit from the Maryland State Comptroller, Mr. Peter Franchot.

Councilman Porter provided an overview on the Denton Volunteer Fire Dept. recent discussions with Caroline County Staff pertaining to the continuance of the Emergency Management Services Squad.

Councilman Porter announced that as of June 1, 2015 the DVFD will be a Class 4 Fire Dept. in the ISO rating standards. Only 17% of the fire department in the Nation are in this category. Citizens living within the Denton responder area may see their fire insurance go down.

Councilman Porter mentioned the loss of a close personal friend and co-worker with the recent passing of Ridgley resident and longtime fire fighter David Ross. They anticipate a very large crowd for the viewing and memorial services that are being held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church this weekend.

Councilwoman Lighter took the opportunity to thank the DVFD and all of the first responders for their services.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*

The Council scheduled for an extra budget working session to be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Denton Town Office.