

August 4, 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 asked that the record reflect that all Council Members were present with the exception of Councilman Porter, who was out of Town.

Mr. Mulrine mentioned to the Council that the Police Dept. would like to request to hold an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2016 Regular Meeting and July 18, 2016 Joint Working Session with the Planning Commission as presented, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Resolution #834 – 2010 Comprehensive Plan Amendment/Septic Tier Map

Mayor McNinch opened a public hearing at 7:03 PM to receive public comments on Resolution #834 – A Resolution of the Town of Denton to amend the Town of Denton's 2010 Comprehensive Plan, dated September 2, 2010, to include the Septic Tier Map.

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the State:

The Mayor acknowledged a letter of support for the amendment received from the Maryland Department of Planning.

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the County:

The Mayor acknowledged a letter of support received from the Caroline County Department of Planning & Codes.

Mayor McNinch asked for comments from the Council:

At Councilman Lister's request, Mr. Donald Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an overview of the Resolution.

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

With no further comments, Mayor McNinch closed this public hearing at 7:04 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's and Communication

Proclamation – 28th Annual Caroline Summerfest

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation recognizing August 19 through August 21, 2016 as Caroline Summerfest Days. The Proclamation will be signed jointly with the Caroline County Commissioners and presented during the Festival Opening Ceremony.

Proclamation – Matthew Criss & Jeremy Fisher

Mayor McNinch read Proclamations recognizing and congratulating Matthew Criss and Jeremy Fisher on earning their Eagle Scout Awards. The Proclamations will be presented to each scout during the Eagle Scout Awards Ceremony.

Caroline County Humane Society Letter

Mayor McNinch shared a letter received, announcing the Caroline County Humane Society 3rd Annual Tots for Tails Block Party Fundraiser is scheduled to be held in Downtown Denton on Saturday, October 15th, 2016.

University of Maryland Shore Regional Health

Mr. Mulrine shared a letter received from University of Maryland Shore Regional Health seeking a letter of support for their proposed hospital facility.

Councilman Lister made a motion to have the Mayor send a letter of support, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #834 - 2010 Comprehensive Plan Amendment/Septic Tier Map

A Resolution of the Town of Denton to amend the Town of Denton's 2010 Comprehensive Plan, dated September 2, 2010, to include the Septic Tier Map.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel. In discussion: Mr. Mulrine provided an overview.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #835 – Police Car Acquisition

A Resolution authorizing the Town of Denton to purchase two 2016 Dodge Chargers with financing from Provident State Bank.

Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Branson. In discussion: Chief Cox provided additional information.

The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Board and Committees

Mr. Mulrine, provided some information on recycling as a follow up to the joint working session recently held with the Planning Commission. Staff will continue to research recycling and what other Town's charge for refuse fees.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Bates Trash Removal Update

Mr. Mulrine shared an update on the services being provided by Bates Trucking and Trash Removal, indicating the replacement of dumpster units with front loaders has started.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Denton Police Department Upcoming Events

Chief Cox provided a summary of all of the community events the Officers of the Police Dept. have been involved in and are supporting; such as sponsoring a Little League Team and a Youth Soccer Team; Officers meet with local youth groups, offer child finger printing and ID cards. The Explorer Program currently has 12 participants enrolled that help in the community; Officers assist at Camp E.S.P.A and the annual MLK Basketball Tournament. The Department collects Toys for Tots, and runs food drives all year around. Help with the NUTS program and will be holding their annual National Night Out Event in the fall. Chief added that with filling the vacancies in the Department, it will allow them to do more in the community and they are exploring starting an academy for the youth.

Chief Cox graciously thanked the public for showering the Department with gifts of appreciation and for showing support for the Officers.

Council members thanked the Chief and the Officers for all they do.

Agenda #2 – Faces Lease

The Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore building lease is expiring and was brought before the Council for consideration of approval.

Councilman Lister made a motion to discuss the lease, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel.

The contents of the lease and proposed amendments were discussed.

Councilman Lister made a motion for Mr. Mulrine to move forward with drafting the lease with amendments discussed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lister and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mulrine will send a draft of the lease to the FACES Board of Directors for review.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney, provided an update on the Business Loan for Pizza Empire. He will continue to work with their Attorney to finalize.

Mayor McNinch mentioned it was time to conduct the Town Administrator's Annual Performance Evaluation. She asked everyone to fill out the form and return it as soon as possible. The Mayor announced the Council will hold an Executive Session on September 8th prior to the regular meeting to meet with Mr. Mulrine.

Mayor McNinch mentioned upcoming events:

8/4 – Quilters Show

8/5 - Dept. of Social Services Family Fun Day

8/12 – Car Show

8/19-8/20 – The 28th Annual Caroline Summerfest

The Mayor opened the meeting to accept public comments:

Mrs. Mary Fowler, of 508 Market St., shared comments about the Police Dept.; and concerns about the Town needing to improve on public relations, Resolution #835, Ordinance #681, the Attorney being too easily accessible to the Town, and property maintenance.

Mr. William Jesmer, of 700 Gay Street and owner of 12 N. 7th St., shared comments about the Police Dept.; the Council being more open for community involvement, and how to obtain access to the Council.

As part of the redesign of the Town website, staff will make sure the email links to the Council members is fixed.

With no further public comments, the Mayor asked for consideration to go into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, as requested by the Police Dept.

At 7:56 P.M., Councilman Clendaniel made a motion to enter into an Executive Session on a legal matter involving personnel. Councilman Branson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The Executive Session was held in the training room, on the second~~ed~~ floor, of the Town Hall at 4 N. Second Street.

Present

The Mayor, Councilman Clendaniel, Councilman Branson and Councilman Lister were present. Councilman Porter was absent.

Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney and the following staff were present: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief Rodney Cox, Lt. George Bacorn, and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

Discussion

Discussion was held to review Police Department action regarding an Officer's issuance of a parking citation and the response by the owner, of the vehicle, in open court.

With no further discussion, the Council relocated to their meeting room.

At 8:26 PM Councilman Branson made a motion to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Clendaniel, passing unanimously.

Regular Meeting Reconvened

Mayor McNinch reconvened the Regular Meeting and announced that no action was taken by the Council during the closed Executive Session and asked the Town Attorney to provide a synopsis of the closed session.

Mr. Drummond stated, the matters discussed in Closed Session had to do with action taken by a Town Police Officer regarding a parking citation that was properly issued and that the owner/operator of the vehicle objected to in open court last week. The matter is of concern to the Police Dept., particularly because of the operator of the vehicle, who made certain representation in court. The Council in Closed Session suggested to staff to prepare a letter to the employer of that individual, making clear the Town's view of its dissatisfaction of what was said in open court by the that individual.

Mayor McNinch asked if anyone had any other comments:

Mr. Mulrine shared that a couple from Alabama recently docked their boat at Crouse Park for a few days for repairs and they were very complimentary over the Town's hospitality for them during their stay. The owner suggested for the Town to apply to Active Capitan, to get Crouse Park added to the list of places for boats to tie up to.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission recently held a meeting and Walking Tour in Denton.

Mayor McNinch announced that the next Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities Meeting will be held in Chestertown on Sept. 20.

At 8:31 P.M., with no further discussion, Councilman Branson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*