

July 6, 2017

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 held a moment of silence in memory of the past Mayor and former Councilman, Robert Clendaniel, who recently passed away.

On behalf of the Maryland Senate, Mayor McNinch read a Resolution, extending their sincerest sympathy to former Councilman Clendaniel's Family.

Mayor McNinch also read a Memorial Tribute received from the State of Maryland offering their condolences to the family of Robert L. Clendaniel, signed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Secretary of State.

Mayor McNinch thanked everyone one for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present, except for Councilman Lister, who was running a little late.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 1, 2017 Regular Meeting as published, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #688 – Parking Regulation Amendment

Mayor McNinch opened a public hearing at 7:03 PM to receive public comments on Ordinance # 688 – An Ordinance repealing and reenacting certain provisions of Chapter 120 of the Denton Town Code, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, specifically relating to Section 120-17 Special Purpose Parking Zones.

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 7:04 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Caroline County Boat Ramp Fee Program

Mrs. Sue Simmons, Director of Caroline County Recreation and Parks, provided an update on the Boat Ramp Fee Program, sharing that the CCRP Advisory Board has designated \$5,000 to be transferred to the Town to help with paving upgrades to Crouse Park.

Councilman Lister arrived at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an update on the conditions of the boat ramp and parking lot.

Letter from Caroline Co. Dept. of Emergency Services – Legion Rd. Median

The Council reviewed letters received from the Caroline County Dept. of Emergency Services and the Health Dept. in support of having a cut in the median for access for emergency vehicles on Legion Road.

Councilman Porter stated that he is a contractual employee of the Caroline County Dept. of Emergency Services, and since this now involves them, he felt it was best for him to recuse himself from any further discussion on this issue.

Discussion was held about the safety of the intersection. The Town is waiting on a traffic safety study before considering any changes.

Mr. Mulrine shared that an additional traffic study is being done to allow an entrance to the Denton Plaza at the Shell station, which could help to reduce traffic at the Legion Rd. intersection.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #845 – FY2017 General Fund Budget Amendment

A Resolution of the Town of Denton to amend the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Councilman Porter made a motion to adopt Resolution #845, seconded by Councilman Lister.

Mr. Mulrine provided a synopsis of the year-end projections.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #688 – Parking Regulation Amendments

An Ordinance repealing and reenacting certain provisions of Chapter 120 of the Denton Town Code, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, specifically relating to Section 120-17 Special Purpose Parking Zones.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Ordinance #688, seconded by Councilman Porter.

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview, and discussion was held.

Councilman Lister made a motion to amend the language in the Ordinance – First St. - North - County Employee Parking - 3 parking spaces as per signage and permitted by Caroline County, between Gay Street and Market Street; and to include the handicap parking space on North 2nd St. across from the Town Office that is already in existence.

Councilman Porter seconded the amendment, passing unanimously.

The Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance #688 as amended.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Lieutenant Bacorn of the Denton Police Dept., introduced new officers, Mr. Daniel Fallert and Mr. Curtis Knierim. Both will start the academy on July 10th.

Councilman Johnson shared information and discussion was held regarding Maryland House Bill #979 that went into effect this week. The bill pertains to Counties and Municipalities being able to offer a Real Property Tax Credit for Public Safety Officers. Staff and the Attorney will research to find out what is involved and what fiscal impact this may have on the Town, if implemented.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- WWTP Project Upgrade Update

Mr. Mulrine and Mr. Scott Getchell, of GMB Engineering, provided an update on the WWTP Ultra Violet Upgrade and Replacement Liner Project. The MDE Grant Agreement for the liner replacement was reviewed.

Councilman Porter made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Grant Agreement, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Fiber Optic Connection

Discussion was held pertaining to an email received from Ken Decker, County Administrator, regarding details of shared fiber optic lines. Action is pending receiving an MOU from the County.

New Business

Agenda #1 – GMB Contract Renewal

The Annual Contract with George, Miles & Buhr, LLC. for Technical Engineering services for On-Call Support was provided to the Council for consideration for renewal.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the Contract Renewal with GMB, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Speed Camera Contract Renewal

The Speed Camera Contract with Brekford Traffic Safety is due for renewal.

Councilman Branson made a motion to discuss, seconded by Councilman Lister.

In discussion, Lt. Bacorn provided details on the changes to the contract that were required due to newly adopted legislative changes.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the contract, seconded by Councilman Branson. The motion passed 4-1 with Councilman Johnson voting – No.

Agenda #3 - FY2018 Water and Sewer Fund Budgets

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the FY2018 Water and Sewer Fund Budget's that staff is working on. He shared that the budget will reflect an increase in water meter replacement cost, as there are about 300 meters not working properly, most have reached their 10-year life span and need to be replaced.

This item was on the agenda for discussion only.

Agenda #4 - Alternative Payment Options – Credit Cards

A Contract Agreement with ETS and the Town was presented for consideration of approval, this will allow the Town to start accepting debit/credit card payments.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the signing of the Contract with Merrick Bank – ETS Corporation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Crouse Park Upgrades – Parks CIP Funding

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of some changes that were implemented to the Access Controls and Security Alarm System at the Visitor Center in Crouse Park. The Council previously approved using CIP Park Funds to pay for the initial proposal. The Town Administrator authorized some necessary additions to the installation of the security system; and because CIP funds are being proposed to be used to cover the cost, it requires Council approval.

Councilman Porter made a motion to approve using the additional \$3,934.89 from the CIP Park funds, as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #6 - Public Hearing Responsiveness Summary

A Public Hearing Notice that pertains to the funds Denton will receive for the Denton Disinfection and System Upgrade Project was provided. This item was informational only.

Agenda #7 - Propane Vendor

Staff submitted a request seeking authorization to change the propane vendor for Public Works and the Police Dept., to help cut back on cost.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Discussion was held.

Councilman Porter made a motion to table this item to get further clarification and an agreement on the pricing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #8 - Sharp Road Park – Park CIP Funding

Mr. Mulrine provided an explanation and asked for a correction to be made on the company name that was awarded the bid for the pump controls last month. The bid should have been awarded to Mid Atlantic for \$13,630.

Councilman Lister made a motion to correct the vote last month and to award to Mid Atlantic, seconded by Councilman Branson. In further discussion, Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, explained that this type of motion is called a "Nunc Pro Tunc".

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Sharp Road Park Project, and asked the Council for official approval to use up to \$40,000 in CIP Park Funds, as previously discussed.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve spending \$40,000 as outlined in the budget provided. The motion was seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Mayor McNinch told Mr. Mulrine that she wants to be part of the project update meeting with the Choptank Athletic Association.

Agenda #9 - Utility Commission Board

Mr. Leroy Woomer submitted a letter requesting to be placed on the Utility Commission Board.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept and appoint Mr. Woomer to the Utility Commission, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Lister left the meeting at 8:49 PM to return to work.

Mayor McNinch suggested holding an Open House at the Visitor Center for the Public, and mentioned the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was well attended.

Mayor McNinch shared that she recently attended the Maryland Municipal League Conference, the Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities dinner, and was recently elected to serve on the Maryland Municipal League Board.

Mayor McNinch applauded Mr. JOK Walsh and his family, as well as the Caroline Historical Society, on their generous donations for the Visitor Center. She recommended the Town recognize them for their donations.

Mr. Mulrine suggested the Council could consider naming the banquet room in memory of Mrs. Walsh. Staff will place this item on the agenda for next month.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*