

August 3, 2017

Executive Session – 6:30 PM

At 6:34 PM, Councilman Branson made a motion to hold an Executive Session to consider a matter that concerns a proposal for a business to locate within the Town of Denton, and the sale of real estate owned by the Town, and to seek legal advice.

This session was held in the second-floor training room at the Denton Town Hall, 4 N. Second Street.

Present

Mayor McNinch, Councilmen Lister, Branson, and Johnson. Councilman Porter was away on vacation.

Staff present included: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer, along with the Town Attorney, Mr. Christopher Drummond.

Discussion

Discussion was held pertaining to a business looking to possibly locate in the Town's Industrial Park and the sale of land.

No action was taking during this session.

At 6:59 PM, Councilman Lister made a motion to close the Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

The Executive Session was closed and the Council relocated to the meeting room to prepare for their Regular Monthly Meeting.

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 Councilman Porter was absent, and that all other Council members are present.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2017, Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Mayor McNinch announced that the Council held an Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss a potential new business and possible sale of land. No action was taken during the closed session.

Public Hearing

None

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Sweet Caroline

Mr. Ben Cahall, Coordinator of the Sweet Caroline Organization, came before the Council sharing information about an upcoming scholarship fundraiser event they are planning for October 28, 2017. Seeking approval for the use of the Visitor Center to hold the event.

The Council will decide on approval under new business.

Presentation – Walsh Family

Mayor McNinch presented Mr. JOK Walsh with a plaque, expressing the Council's token of appreciation for the Walsh Family's hard work, support, and dedication to the Visitor Center and thanked them for their generous donation.

A second plaque was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Mary Anne Knotts Walsh, which will be displayed at the Visitor Center.

Mr. Walsh thanked the Council for recognizing their efforts and for support in finishing the Visitor Center project.

Denton Plaza Median Letter

The Town received some additional correspondences pertaining to the median on Legion Road near Denton Plaza.

Mr. Mulrine provided an update, and shared that he is working on alternative routes.

Councilman Johnson shared that he recently visited the area, and that he has many concerns about the safety of those traveling in that area and there are many points of potential contact. He suggested coming up with a long-term plan, that will take into consideration the safety and fiscal responsibility.

Discussion only, no action was taken on this item.

Mayor McNinch skipped over the Summerfest Proclamation and Channel Market request, to give additional time for Mrs. Simmons and Sheriff Bounds to arrive.

Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mr. Mulrine announced that Jeremy Fisher will be awarded the 4-H Diamond Clover Award, next Tuesday, August 8th, ceremony to be held at the Scout House for anyone that would like to attend.

Mr. Mulrine stated that Chief Cox has sent a letter to the Sheriff's office regarding the new parking changes, and the new 30-minute parking signs have been ordered.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Public Works Propane Service

This item is a continuation from the July meeting.

Councilman Porter previously tabled this item and was not in attendance, this item remained tabled, until the next meeting.

Agenda #2 –FY2018 Water and Sewer Budgets

Discussion continued on the FY2018 Water Fund and Sewer Fund Budgets, no action was taken. Mr. Mulrine shared additional detail on capital needs for meter replacements and the need to install a muffin monster pump to handle issues on S. Second Street.

New Business

Sweet Caroline Request

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept Sweet Caroline's proposal for their event on October 28, 2016 and approve the use of Crouse Park Visitor Center, at no cost, subject to signing a lease agreement. Seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Channel Marker

Sheriff Randy Bounds came before the Council seeking to use the Visitor Center for an upcoming Channel Marker's meeting on August 18th, at which time the Caroline Sheriff's Dept. will present the "Chasing the Dragon Program" to the Channel Markers Staff, with lunch to be catered by the Culinary School.

Councilman Branson made a motion to allow the Sheriff and Channel Markers to use the Center on the 18th of August, at no cost, seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Mayor McNinch shared that she previously attended the “Chasing the Dragon Program” and indicted how great the response to these programs have been. Thanking Sheriff’s Bounds and his department for pulling this program together.

Proclamation – 29th Annual Caroline Summerfest

Mayor McNinch read a proclamation, proclaiming August 18th and 19th as Caroline Summerfest Days in the Town of Denton, Caroline County.

Mayor McNinch welcomed Mrs. Sue Simmons from the Caroline County Recreation and Parks Dept. who shared some details about the upcoming 29th Annual Caroline Summerfest Event.

Agenda #1 –Public Safety Officers – Property Tax Credit

Councilman Johnson provided additional information regarding the State’s recent adoption of House Bill 979 pertaining to County and Municipal Governments being authorized to grant tax credits to Public Safety Officers owning property within the Town limits. He would like for the Town to research this for Fire Department Volunteers.

Councilman Lister suggested sending a letter to the County to see if they will consider.

Mayor McNinch questioned the fiduciary expense.

Councilman Branson was concerned about how the Town scrambles to balance the budget now, and with Denton having about 75 volunteers, how would the Town offset these tax breaks.

Staff will reach out to the State Dept. of Assessments and the Maryland Municipal League to gather additional information.

Agenda #2 – Denton Main Street

Mr. Steve Konopelski, Downtown Denton Main Street President, provided an update to the Town Council about what’s happening with the organization. He shared details about their upcoming Supper at Sunset Event, asking to use the Visitor Center for the event in September. An application has been submitted to the Liquor Board for a temporary alcohol license.

Councilman Lister made a motion to allow the DDMS to use the Visitor Center on the 16th of September, with a rain date 17th, at no cost. Seconded by Councilman Branson.

In further discussion, Mr. Konopelski asked for assistance from Denton Public Works to provide trash receptacles and remove the trash.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Spectrum Energy

Mr. Chip Macleod, Attorney, and Mr. Mark Gilliss, owner of Spectrum Energy, came before the Council to share their interest in purchasing lots 1-4 in the Industrial Park – Phase III for a power plant. They shared details about the proposed natural gas project and answered questions.

Spectrum Energy asked to enter into a Letter of Intent with the Town on the property, while they make application for the power plant license.

Mr. Drummond reviewed the letter of intent and provided additional comments to the Council, and mentioned that the Council will be asked to enter in to a Lease Purchase Option Agreement on the property in the future.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Intent, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Mayor McNinch stated that she would like to visit their plant in Smyrna and encouraged other members to do the same.

Agenda #4 - Water and Sewer Allocation

BLT Cantina, LLC, submitted a request for approval for six (6) ERU's for the proposed Taco Bell restaurant to be located at 615 Legion Road. The cost of six (6) ERU's is \$54,000.

Councilman Branson made a motion to grant the allocation, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

In discussion, Mr. Mulrine provided additional details on the project that will be going before the Planning Commission for final approval. Discussion was also held about Legion Road.

With no further discussion, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion to grant the allocation.

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Mediation

Mayor McNinch inquired about seeking a mediator to work with the Town and County to improve their relationship. Discussion was held. The Mayor will explore.

Agenda #6 - Public Works Purchase – Sharp Rd. Park Hydrants

Mr. Mulrine and the Denton Public Works Dept. submitted a request to purchase pipe and hydrants to water grass at Sharp Road Park using Bond Bill Grant Funds. Two bids were received, one from Dover Plumbing Supply for \$9,289.06 and one from Bel Air Road Supply for \$14,431.25. Public Works would like to go with the Dover Plumbing Supply bid.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the purchase from Dover Plumbing Supply, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mulrine provide an update on the fiber connection and shared the County is still working on an MOU.

Mayor McNinch announced that she will open the Visitor Center on Friday, Aug 18th from 7:30pm – 9:00pm for visitors.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer*