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April 23, 2018

**Working Session – 6:02 PM**

*The Working Session of the Denton Town Council was called to order by Mayor McNinch at 9:13 AM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**In Attendance:**

*Mayor McNinch, Councilman Branson, Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Wilson were present. Councilman Lister arrived at 6:39 PM.*

*Staff: Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, Chief Rodney Cox, Lt. George Bacorn and Karen Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer, were present.*

**Discussion:**

**Power Plant Updates**

*Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the possible Power Plant project, indicating that the project is still in the early stages, pending approval from the Energy Commission. The Natural Gas Pipeline is a separate project and to the Town's knowledge there has not been any public meeting planned at this time.*

*As a follow up to the prior discussion with the County, Senator Hershey is looking to see if the Maryland Energy Administration would be able to award a \$28,000 grant to cover the cost of the proposed study for the Sage Group.*

*Mayor McNinch requested each Council Member review the letter previously drafted about the PILOT Agreement to see if they have any changes. Mr. Mulrine will give the County an update on the Town's response for the letter pertaining to the Study request.*

**Fiber Project**

*Mr. Mulrine has met with Maryland Broadband, trying to get the Market Street Pub connected. This will require the Town's help with running a line to the Pub and in exchange MD Broadband will give free WIFI to the downtown. Mr. Mulrine shared that the Town currently has a grant that would cover the cost to the run the line.*

*Mayor McNinch shared a conversation that she recently had with Commission Franklin about the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between the County and the Town. the Fiber has been run to 323 Market St. for the Hotdesks and is waiting on the County plugging it in on their end. Everyone will continue to finalize the MOU.*

**Water Main Replacement Project**

*Mr. Mulrine announced that the Town has been awarded a \$810,500 grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment for the Water Main Replacement Project for Franklin Street. To replace the water lines from Crouse Park to Sixth Street, the estimated cost is \$2.1M. Staff will continue to identify other funding sources.*

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**

*Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the FDR Memorial Project from a couple of months ago. He shared that Statue is estimated to cost about \$100K, and the Committee is inquiring through the State to see if there is any grant funding available to cover the cost. With the upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of President Roosevelt having visited Denton the Committee is looking to celebrate with a new historical marker to be in front of the Masonic Building. Mr. Mulrine will keep the Council updated as the Historical Society continues to prepare for the celebration to be held in September 2018.*

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**Other Miscellaneous**

*The Mayor was a Judge for the Arts Council, Sculptures will be placed around Town. Fiber Arts Center is hosting South Korean Dye Fest, and the First Lady Yumi Hogan may be in attendance.*

*April 24 – ESAM Meeting at the Market St. Pub*

*May – Denton Police will hold their second Citizen's Academy*

*May 3 – National Day of Prayer*

*May 7 – Police Candlelight Vigil*

*May 11 – Police Unity Tour*

*May 16 – Ridgely Fire Dept. Open House*

*Fiber – Mr. Mulrine will be meeting with Joe Smith to identify where all the fiber is located in the Town.*

*Councilman Lister arrived at 6:30 PM.*

**FY19 General Fund Budget**

*Discussions continued on the proposed FY19 General Fund and Highway Fund Budgets were discussed. The deficit has been reduced from \$404K to \$82K. Staff was given instruction to hold off on adjusting hours for the GARCIA and holiday pay for the Police. Place all employees on the new Pay Scale and to publish notice for a two-cent tax rate increase.*

*This item will be on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Agenda for additional discussion and consideration for adoption.*

*With no further business to discuss, Mayor McNinch closed the Working Session at 7:50 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith  
Clerk-Treasurer*