

July 5, 2018

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 for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present. Attorney Chris Drummond is absent due to illness and Town Clerk Karen Monteith is on vacation.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 Regular Meeting as per presented: seconded by Councilman Lister passing unanimously.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018 Working Session as presented: seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

No public hearings were held on this date.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Councilwoman Wilson read a Proclamation recognizing National Summer Learning Day on July 12, 2018. The proclamation reflects the Town Councils desire to share July 12, 2018 as Summer Learning Day, a day to reflect on the importance of keeping youth learning, safe and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year ahead.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #852 – Zoning & Building Permit Fee Increases

A Resolution revising the Fee Schedule for Zoning, Building Permits, and Plan Review Services, to increase the fees to cover administrative costs. The fees were last increased in June 2014.

In discussion: Mr. Donald Mulrine, Town Administrator, reported that MDIA does all the electrical and plumbing inspections for the Town and the Town needs to cover those charges along with the time that it takes for town employees to work on permits.

Mayor McNinch has reached out to the Town of Centreville and Easton and they also have concerns on their permit fees.

Mr. Mulrine suggested that this Resolution be tabled to allow for the Council to continue reviewing the suggested fees.

Mayor McNinch asked that this Resolution be tabled at this time to allow Council time to review fees over the Summer. No action was taken.

Ordinance # 692 – Request from Denton Project LLC to Rezone Property

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton to grant the application request by Denton Project LLC to rezone Parcel 903 on Caroline County Tax Map 104, Grid 13 from Recreation and Parks (RP) to Mixed Residential (MR).

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #692, seconded by Councilman Johnson passing unanimously.

In discussion: Mr. Mulrine, Town Administrator shared that the zoning was changed from Mixed Residential to Recreation and Parks because a school was possibly going on the property, but now that is no longer happening, so the owner request that the property be changed back to its original zoning of Mixed Residential. The Planning

Commission and Town had approved this last month. This Ordinance is just formalizing the decision and following the steps required by the State of Maryland.

Ordinance # 693 – Request to amend Zoning Map

An Ordinance of the Town of Denton amending the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Denton to apply the Mixed Residential (MR) Zoning District to a parcel of land rezoned from Recreation and Parks (RP) in the Town of Denton located on Caroline County Tax Map 104, Grid 13, Parcel 903 and consisting of 21.34 acres of land. This Ordinance will change the zoning map back to the original zoning of Mixed Residential.

Councilman Branson made a motion to introduce Ordinance #693, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Passing unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mayor McNinch reported that she and several members of the Council attended the MML Conference and meetings in Ocean City. The Mayor was elected District Vice President of the MML.

Mayor McNinch also attended the ESAM meeting and dinner and was appointed to serve as the Secretary for ESAM.

Mr. Mulrine announced that the Caroline County Municipal Meeting will be held on July 18 at 6pm.

Mr. Mulrine gave an update on the trash collection. The new company started on Tuesday, July 3, 2018. The truck could not dump the waste due to the dump being closed for the July 4th holiday. The company was back in Town today to finish the missed stops. There is a problem with excess trash and liquid in cans. The company could not compact the trash because of water/liquids in the can that would be leaking on the streets. The Code Enforcement Officers will be addressing the problems. Republic Waste was one day late emptying the dumpsters due to the holiday.

Mr. Mulrine announced that the Town of Denton would be receiving a grant for \$70,000 to go toward the replacement of Waste Water Treatment Mixers. The mixers are 11 years old and run constantly.

Mayor McNinch acknowledged that considering the shooting in Annapolis she would like to extend her appreciation to all First Responders who go beyond the call of duty.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Parking Station – Kiosk Acquisition

Mr. Mulrine and Chief Rodney Cox provided an update on the Parking Kiosks indicating they have received partial approval for placement of the Kiosks from the County. Staff will send a follow up letter for the County seeking approval to sign off on placement of the kiosks.

Agenda #2 – Denton Police Department Security Upgrade

Chief Cox remarked that the new cameras and locks, part of the Safe House security upgrade, have been installed and he appreciates the extra security.

New Business:

Waste Recycling:

Mr. Mulrine announced that the new trash hauler will do recycling biweekly for \$8.00 per month. Residents that are interested in recycling will need to contact the hauler and pay them directly. The trash hauler also has large trash containers that can be purchased at a discount.

The Town will continue to get input from the public as to what services they would like to have regarding trash pickup. The first step to gathering this information would be from social media, the Town's website, and Facebook Page. If there is not enough response staff may mail surveys. Staff also will be reaching out to HOA's. The Town needs to determine if the residents want recycling or just trash pickup. Do they want containers and what size and type?

Councilman Branson remarked that recycling cost as much to pick up as the trash. Denton is the only Town in Caroline County that does not charge a fee for trash pick-up. If recycling is wanted with trash pickup the Town may need to consider charging a fee.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Mulrine was asked to update the Council on various projects going on in the Town.

Sharp Road Park:

Mr. Mulrine remarked that a meeting will be set up with Brandon Nier, President of the Choptank Athletic Association, the various Sport Teams, the Council, and Delegate Jeff Ghrist regarding changes at the Park. Phase 2 of the Park is ready to go to bid. Phase 2 will include the electric, well, building and bringing the sprinkler system up to specs as per Phase 1. Phase 2 will also include a walking trail around the perimeter of the park, stripping the fields, leveling them and resodding them. There will be 2 new fields. When the park is turned over to the Association, they will have all the information needed to run the park. Mr. Mulrine is currently working with Southern States regarding the right fertilizer needed for the soil on the fields.

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Mr. Mulrine reported that the bids are due to the Town Office next Friday, July 13, 2018 by 2pm. After bids are collected they will be opened at the Visitor Center at 2:15 pm. The State will review the paperwork and the vendor that is chosen by the Town. They hope to have a decision by the August Meeting.

Choptank Community Health:

Mr. Mulrine reported that Choptank should be applying for permits soon. Choptank was informed that they will need to install 3 Phase Electric that will cost the project an additional \$30,000.00. Mr. Mulrine is working with Choptank to see what can be done to offset this additional cost.

Shore Health Building:

Mr. Mulrine reported that the project is back on schedule. The project had been behind 6 weeks because of bad weather earlier this year.

Road Work:

Mr. Mulrine reported that the road work on South 3rd Street and Randolph Street was completed by Bramble in 1 ½ days. The Town will be doing a tour of the roads looking at conditions to determine where the next project will be.

Miscellaneous:

Councilman Johnson remarked that the Optimist Club which helps children would be meeting at Harry's on Wednesday, July 18 at 7 pm. Anyone who would like to come is invited. He also asked if Stop Bleeding Kits were available at all Town Buildings.

Mr. Mulrine reported there is one at the Town Hall and one at the Visitor Center. Councilman Johnson would like to see them placed in all buildings.

Public Comments:

Mayor McNinch opened the meeting for public comments.

Mary Turnbull, of 109 S. Sixth Street, shared her concerns of lead paint on houses in Town and wanted to know what the Town is doing about this.

Mr. David Renshaw, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, replied that he is currently working with MDE on this problem. Rental units are inspected and required to correct any issues with lead paint. With private residential properties there is little the Town can do unless the homeowner invites the Town onto the property. Any rehab work requires a permit and once a permit is requested from a property owner that opens the door for conversation. The public should contact the Town should they have any concerns.

James Turnbull, of 109 S. Sixth Street, wanted to address some issues that he had with Planning and Codes Department employees. Mr. Turnbull was told that any complaints about Town Employees could not be discussed in public. The complaint needs to be put in writing and discussed in a private setting. Once the complaint is submitted in writing, an investigation will be conducted by the Supervisor or another person in the chain of command. The Town Council will review the report in a private setting and decide as to the appropriate action that needs to be taken. Mr. Turnbull will put his concerns in writing and get the information to the Town Administrator.

Patrick Allison of 303 Sydney Lane remarked that he just recently moved to the Town in May and he has worked with Mr. Renshaw with some projects he is doing at his home. He remarked that Mr. Renshaw has been very helpful and professional. He also said that he loves living here in the Town and is looking to volunteer.

Nicole Fisher was present tonight to support the Proclamation for National Summer Learning Day.

Mayor McNinch remarked that the Town of Denton will work thru the issues addressed tonight.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joanna Reedy,
Account Clerk*