

March 7, 2019

Regular Meeting

Vice-Mayor Branson 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.

Vice-Mayor Branson thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that all Councilmembers were present, except for the Mayor, who was attending to a personal matter.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 Regular Meeting and the February 19, 2019 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilman Lister, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

none

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Letter – Ken Motter 2A Bills

The Council reviewed a correspondence from Ken Motter, resident and downtown business owner, making the Council aware of upcoming bills pertaining to local businesses.

Vice-Mayor Branson commented that the Town has shared concerns with representatives in Annapolis.

DDMS Board Resignation Letter

Staff shared that Mr. Steve Konopelski, President of the Downtown Denton Main Street Organization, submitted he resignation letter.

The Council thanked Mr. Konopelski for his services and wished him well.

MML Letter

A letter from MML endorsing the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program was shared.

Caroline County States Attorney's Office Report

The States Attorney's Office monthly activity report was reviewed.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #860 – Parking Violation Fee Schedule

A Resolution establishing a fee schedule for parking violations. This item was deferred until after discussion and action for Ordinance #697.

Ordinance #697 – Amended Parking Restrictions

An Ordinance amending or repealing and replacing various subsections of Section 120 of the Town of Denton Code, generally outlining parking restrictions for public streets within the Town of Denton and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Councilman Johnson asked for a change in the definition for "Utility Service Vehicle" to match the Maryland State Code; under Title 22, these are listed just as "Service Vehicle".

Mr. Christopher Drummond, Town Attorney, recommended striking the definition from the Town Ordinance completely since it is covered by state law and the Ordinance references following state law.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Ordinance #697 as amended to eliminate Section 120-1 A (6), and to repeal Section 120-31(C) and replace it with language for having the fees for violations to be established by Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously, 4-0.

Resolution #860 – Parking Violation Fee Schedule

A Resolution establishing a fee schedule for parking violations in connection with Ordinance #697.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Resolution #860, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

Discussion was held in which Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson would like to see the fines be tiered for multiple offenses. Staff was instructed to research implementation of increased fines for multiple offenses for future consideration.

The motion to adopt Resolution #860 as presented, passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

None

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Strategic Plan

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided a brief update on the Strategic Plan, discussion on this will continue at the March Working Session.

Agenda #2 – Chicken Regulations

Council reviewed a proposed ordinance and application drafted by the Planning Commission establishing provisions for allowing residents to keep or maintain chickens within the Town limits. The proposed ordinance and application will go back before the Planning Commission for final recommendation at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 26th, at 6 p.m.

This item will come before the Council again in April for consideration of introduction.

Agenda #3 - Cambio Wi-Fi

Mr. Steve Kirby, of Cambio Wi-Fi, provided the Council with an update on bringing Wi-Fi to Town, and stated that it is expected to go live next week.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Body Camera Program

Lt. George Bacorn came before the Council to discuss and seek authorization to purchase an updated Body Camera Program and a software package. For a full replacement guarantee package for five years, the initial cost is \$16,000 for the first year, then \$7,797 for the remaining four-years.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the purchase for \$16,000, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously 4-0.

Councilman Johnson requested that once the program is implemented to have a showing of how it works for the public and staff.

Councilman Branson clarified the annual fee \$7,797 will now be approved in the budget.

Agenda #2 – Fuel Management System

Chief Cox discussed changing fuel vendors to reduce cost. Staff will continue to research options and bring findings back for further discussion.

Agenda #3 - Chesapeake K-9

Chief Cox provided an update on 12-year old K-9 Buddy who is nearing retirement and discussed acquiring a new Police K-9. The Department is looking to acquire a German short-hair K-9, trained for drug detection and possibly tracking.

Chesapeake K-9 has accepted the Denton Police Department's Application seeking funding. They have agreed to start collecting funds to cover the cost of a new K-9 for the Department.

Chesapeake K-9 will be hosting a 5-K Fundraiser in Annapolis on May 19th, and the Police Department will occasionally be providing them assistance with some of their events in appreciation for them being willing to help with the acquisition of a new K-9 for Denton.

Councilman Lister made a motion to facilitate the Chesapeake K-9 process for acquiring a new K-9, seconded by Councilman Johnson, the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Agenda #4 - FY2020 General Fund Budget

Mr. Mulrine provided a summary and discussion was held on the proposed FY2020 General Fund Budget. A final draft will be presented at the March 25th Working Session.

(Councilman Lister stepped out of the room for a brief period.)

Agenda #5 - Historic & Architectural Review Commission Appointment

Mr. Marc Lacoste submitted a letter of interest seeking appointment to the Historic & Architectural Review Commission, to fill a vacant position with a term expiration of December 31, 2021.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Marc Lacoste to the Historic & Architectural Review Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing 3-0 (Councilman Lister reentered the room).

Agenda #6 - Resurfacing Crouse Park Boat ramp and Fountain Ave.

Mr. Phil Clark, of the Denton Public Works Department, provided a quote received from David A. Bramble, Inc. for resurfacing the Crouse Park Boat Ramp, Fountain Avenue between 3rd and 4th Street, and to install new sidewalks. Using Highway User Funds from the State, Staff asked for approval to move forward with the project with a total cost estimated at \$112,880.

Councilman Johnson made a motion for the resurfacing of the Crouse Park Boat Ramp and Fountain Ave. as presented in a contract with David Bramble. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson and passed unanimously 4-0.

Agenda #7 - Tax Differential

Discussion was held on the Caroline County Tax Differential proposed for FY20, and funding for school resource officers.

Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson will represent the Town at the County's annual tax differential meeting scheduled for March 12th.

Agenda #8 - Credit Card Surcharge Fee

The Finance Department recently conducted a review of the credit/debit card activity, surcharge and merchant fees for the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund. Discussion was held in which Mrs. Monteith proposed changes to help offset the merchant fees.

Councilman Lister made a motion to reduce the credit/debit card surcharge fee for all Utility Bill Payments to 1.75% and to implement a flat fee of \$3.50 per transaction

for all other card payment types accepted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously, 4-0.

Miscellaneous

Discussion was held on the following miscellaneous items:

No response has been received from the County on the Town's questions about meeting to discuss the new Impact Fees.

March 22 – a meeting is scheduled with a park Consultant to help design and come up with plans for future improvements for each park.

The request for proposals for the layout, seeding, walking path, and mulch for Sharp Road Park is getting ready to be put out to bid.

It's been muddy, but Staff is working with Choptank Community Health to fill in the hole. They are planning to be open in August.

March 29th – Goodwill will be opening.

March 9th – Betty's Dress shop will be opening downtown.

A walk through of the Gardens is scheduled for next week.

A walk through of Shore Health is set for next week.

Staff is working on drafting legislation for making some streets one-way in Town to reduce traffic flow issues.

Councilman Lister and Mayor McNinch attended the Downtown Denton Main Street meeting last week, stating it was well attended.

With no further discussion, Vice-Mayor Branson adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer