

2019-4

February 19, 2019

The Working Session of the Denton Town Council was called to order by Mayor McNinch at 6:30 PM on this date, leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Council members were in attendance, except for Councilwoman Wilson.

Staff present included – Mr. Don Mulrine, Chief Rodney Cox, Lieutenant George Bacorn, Phil Clark, David Renshaw, and Karen Monteith.

Discussion was held on the following items:

Upcoming Events

April 5th - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is now scheduled for April 5th at Calvary Baptist Church.

April 9th – Reading of the 4th Grade Essay contestants at MML

April 10th – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Ordinance #697 Amended Parking Restrictions

Ordinance #697, an Ordinance amending Section 120 of the Town Code, seeking to establish additional restrictions to address parking impeding the flow of traffic and emergency response access; inoperable vehicles and trailers being parked on the streets, enforcement and fines. Setback for parking near intersections, limiting parking to one side of the street or making some one-way traffic only was also discussed.

Staff will make some additional changes to the Ordinance for the March meeting.

2019-2020 Budget

Discussion was held on the FY2020 General Fund Budget; the Constant Yield Notice received from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation indicates the Town would need to increase the tax rate to \$.7888 in order to maintain the same revenues next fiscal year as received in FY19.

Notice from the State Highway Administration indicates that Highway User Revenue cut several years ago by the State will be reinstated in FY20. This should help the Town to not have to use the General Fund real estate tax monies to support the Highway Fund.

Additional budget items discussed included Capital and Staffing needs.

Strategic Plan Review

The Strategic Plan was reviewed. Staff will update and bring back before the Council for final consideration.

Main Street – Community Gardens

Mrs. Marina Dowdall shared the newest concept drawings for the Public Art Plan Project; provided an update and talked about funding needs.

Council members expressed their support and recommended planning to do the Crouse Park portion of the Public Art Project in phases and to hold sponsorship fund raisers to help cover the cost.

Mrs. Dowdall will move forward with submitting an application to apply for grant funding, while everyone works on seeking sponsorship to cover the match.

Mr. Mulrine and Mrs. Dowdall met with Mr. Patrick Allison regarding his recent request to incorporate a vegetable garden in the community garden area.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted to establish the details for the gardens.

The Downtown Denton Main Street will host the Spring Fling Event on May 11.

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Recycling

Staff shared proposals from Eastern Shore Environmental LLC and Infinity for offering residential recycling in Town. Discussion was held about the two proposals, pickup cycle, and possibly charging a refuse fee on the quarterly utility bills to cover the cost.

Culinary School Roof Repair

Discussion continued from the February Regular Meeting regarding the 1-year Workmanship Warranty for the roof repair for the Culinary School. Staff shared input from several roofing contractors, explaining that the contractors would provide a multi-year warranty if they were redoing the whole roof; but since this is a small section, most will only provide 1-year. This item will be placed on the March Agenda for consideration.

Miscellaneous

Maryland Municipal League Golf Tournament is being hosted by Ridgely.

Department of Housing and Community Development will be holding a meeting at the Library in April.

Department of Housing and Urban Development meeting is scheduled for March 6th.

Delmarva Community Transit meeting at the Library on February 20.

Planning Commission will review legislation to allow chickens in Town at the February 26th meeting.

Meeting with a Park Engineer is schedule for next week.

April 29th Savannah Overlook Home Owners Association Meeting will be held at the Visitor Center.

Mayor McNinch shared that the Town has been asked for letter of support for the Medical Cannabis Commission pertaining to growing operations. Council supported the Mayor signing a letter of support.

Mayor McNinch was asked by the Track Coach for a letter of support to go with their application for a Choptank Electric Grant Fund to purchase wrestling mats. A written request will be coming.

Mayor McNinch provided a Legislative update.

February 25 everyone is invited to attend the Eastern Shore Delegation Night in Annapolis.

Chief Cox announced the Police Department was awarded the GOCCP Sports & Athletic Grant.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor McNinch adjourned the Working Session at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk-Treasurer*