

September 17, 2019

Community Strategic Plan Meeting

Working Session – 6:05 PM

The Denton Town Council opened the Working Session at the Crouse Park Visitor and Heritage Center at 6:05 PM. Town Administrator, Donald Mulrine, Introduced the Mayor and Council Members to the Public for the Meeting on the Town of Denton Strategic Plan.

In Attendance:

Mayor Abigail McNinch, Vice-Mayor Lester Branson, Council Members Dallas Lister, Keith Johnson and Doncella Wilson.

Strategic Plan:

Mayor McNinch opened the Strategic Plan discussion with a brief summary of the Town accomplishments in 2019. Mayor McNinch then talked about the Town Government Mission and the 2030 Vision Plan.

Council Member Keith Johnson discussed the Policy and Priorities portion of the Strategic Plan to inform the Public the Town efforts to get online Bill payments and possible Tax Billing by the Town, in lieu of using the County.

Council Member Johnson discussed ongoing efforts on Traffic congestion at Legion Road and the Town Priority to build the Commerce Road from Wal-Mart.

Council Member Johnson also talked on the Tax Differential, new Parking Meter System and Highway User Funds.

Vice-Mayor Lester Branson also reminded the Public that the Loss in prior years of the Highway Users Fees by 98% caused the Town to move General Funds to cover the Highway Department Budget for the past years.

Council Member Dallas Lister discussed Management Priorities of the Strategic Plan. He discussed his election and his entry in the Town Budget Process right after the Election and his efforts to catch up on how the Government works.

Council Member Lister discussed various Town Projects including the Visitor Center, and the current upgrades to the Waste-Water Treatment Plant. He also discussed the Cambio WIFI Partnership and the Town efforts in Placing Fiber Optic Cable in the Town and how our facilities are now connected.

Vice-Mayor Lester Branson discussed the Town of Denton Major Projects portion for the Strategic Plan. He also informed the Public of the Funding for the Waste-Water Treatment Plant and the Cell Refurbishment, both utilizing MDE Grants and Loans with forgiveness in three years of the Projects completion. Vice-Mayor Branson also talked about the History of the Plant, as well as, the Plant Employees and their efforts to continually come in under our permitted releases of Nitrogen and Phosphorous. He also discussed the Town Utility Commission Members and their backgrounds in serving the Community.

Council Member Doncella Wilson discussed the Community Partnerships of the Strategic Plan. Briefly discussing her work in Social Service and her volunteering in the Community. Council Member Doncella called on Robert Thomas, Track Coach at North Caroline High School, to speak on his work with the Championship Team over the years at North Caroline

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High School. His team all started as 9th Graders and there is no feeder patter like other sports. He also talked on the Special Olympics and his work with the America Legion #93 and their 100th year Anniversary being celebrate this November.

Council Member Doncella then asked Angel Perez, of the YMCA, to give a brief explanation of the YMCA current programs.

Mrs. Beth Brewster, of the Chesapeake Culinary School, talked about the Hunger Program and the School Backpack Program, where they are now providing 500 backpacks with food every week.

Mrs. Debbie Bennett, Executive Director of the Caroline County Library, was called on to discuss the Library Programs from 3D printing to Garden in the Library.

Mrs. Audrey Clemens, Downtown Denton Main Street Manager, talked on the current events coming up in the downtown Denton, including the Supper at Sunset scheduled for October 12, 2019. Mrs. Clement also talked about the calibration with the Arts Council and the Gardens.

Mrs. Ann Jacobs briefly discussed the opening of her new Edward Jones Business on Franklin Street.

Question and Answers:

Mr. Ken Gornic of 206 S. 5th Avenue opened the question and answer period with the new Recycling Program: Both Council Members Johnson and Lister explained the reason behind the decision with facts on the current cost of Waste Service in the Town, and how the Bids for the Collections have increased.

Mr. Santo Mirabile of 101 Sunset Drive brought to the attention of the Mayor and Council of an odor in the area of the 2nd Street Pump Station. The Town Administrator stated that they will investigate and bring recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Ken Motter of 1201 Tuckahoe Court asked about the Southern States Complex and his wishes for the return of the property to the public sector. The question was explained, during the process of purchasing the Complex with State Funds and that over the 5-year waiting period, similar meetings will be held with residences on what to do with the property.

The Mayor requested the Town Administrator discuss the Department of Social Services Relocation Project, the MOU with a Private Owner, which will keep the new building on the tax roll. The building is scheduled to open in January of 2021.

Mr. Gornic asked about the Choptank River Bridge and if there were any plans of beautification.

Council Member Lister reminded everyone the Bridge is owned by the State. The Town can look in to the possibly of partnering with the State regarding the Bridge. The audience was reminded of the Murals on the Bridge and the long process for approvals.

With no further business to discuss, the Working Session was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*D.H. Mulrine, Jr.
Town Administrator*