

February 6, 2020

Regular Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Lister 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 Pro Tem Lister thanked everyone for coming and asked that the record reflect that Mayor McNinch was absent and is attending the Maryland Municipal League Mayor's Conference; and that Councilman Johnson was also absent while on an assignment for the Maryland State Police. All other Councilmembers were present.

Swearing in of New Denton Town Council Member

Mr. Lester L. Branson was sworn into office to serve another five-year term on the Denton Town Council by Karen L. Monteith, Clerk-Treasurer.

Mayor Pro Tem Lister announced that in January the Council elected Councilman Branson to serve as the Vice Mayor for 2020 and turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Branson. Vice Mayor Branson resided over the remainder of the meeting.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2020 Regular Meeting, January 13, 2020 Working Session and the January 27, 2020 Working Session as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Public Hearing

Resolution #871 – CDBG Grant Application

Vice Mayor Branson opened a Public Hearing at 7:02 PM to receive public comments on Resolution #871 – A Resolution approving the application and receipt of financing for a Maryland Community Development Block Grant. An application of the Town applying for \$400,000 in funding on behalf of His Hope Ministries, Inc. for the potential purchase of property on Market St.

Vice Mayor Branson asked for comments from the State: there were none

Vice Mayor Branson asked for comments from the County: there were none

Vice Mayor Branson asked for comments from the Council: there were none

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, provided an overview of the proposed project, and working with His Hope Ministries in applying for a grant, to seek funding to purchase an apartment house on Market St. to help with housing homeless.

Vice Mayor Branson asked for comments from the Public:

Ms. Lynn Keckler, Director of His Hope Ministries, Inc., spoke about their Unaccompanied Youth Program and their needs for housing, seeking the Council support in applying for grant funding to purchase 908 Market St.

With no further comments, Vice Mayor Branson closed this public hearing at 7:06 PM.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Eagle Scout Brad Cruikshank

Vice Mayor Branson read a Proclamation recently presented to Brad Cruikshank, congratulating him on earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Caroline County States Attorney's Office Monthly Report

The States Attorney's Monthly Activity Report for January 2020 was reviewed.

Veterans Parade Update

Mr. Royce Ball accompanied by Mr. Bruce Wakefield of the Mid-Shore Veterans Group, provided an update on the April 3, 2020 Veterans Parade Planning.

Delmarva Community Services, Inc. Public Hearing Notice

Vice Mayor Branson shared details of a Public Hearing being held in Caroline County at the Library on February 21, 2020 from 10:15AM to 11:15PM. The hearing is being conducted by Delmarva Community Services, Inc. on behalf of the Talbot County Council and pertains to an annual application being submitted seeking grant funds from the Mass Transit Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for public transportation.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #870 – Denton Police Department New Vehicle Purchase

The Police Dept. submitted a proposal seeking approval to purchase a 2020 Dodge Charger with emergency equipment installed and to obtain a loan from Provident State Bank.

Lt. George Bacorn provided additional details.

Councilman Lister made a motion to adopt Resolution #870, to purchase a 2020 Dodge Charger, with a cost up to \$40,000, with financing from Provident State Bank. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson.

Discussion was held regarding the amount in the Resolution that was provided reflecting a different dollar amount, and it was clarified that the motion is to approve Resolution #870 with a cost not to exceed \$40,000, which was the amount previously approved with the budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #871 – CDBG Grant Application – His Hope Ministries Home

A Resolution of the Town of Denton approving the application and receipt of financing for a Maryland Community Development Block Grant to be funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland. Applying for \$400,000 in funding on behalf of His Hope Ministries, Inc. for the potential purchase of property located on Market Street.

Councilman Lister and Mr. Drummond explained that Councilwoman Wilson serves on the His Hope Ministries Board and would have to abstain from voting on this item.

Since the Town Code requires a vote of three to pass, it was decided to defer this item until there is a quorum to vote on it.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mr. Mulrine provided a Legislative update and shared that Mayor McNinch and himself attended the Rural Maryland Council meeting this week and provided information on several bills being considered.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Lease Agreement – Cambio Broadband, LLC – Dark Fiber

Mr. Mulrine provided an overview of the two-year agreement. At the end of the term, the Town will negotiate a Franchise Agreement.

Mr. Chris Drummond, Town Attorney, suggested that section 2.2 (b) of the agreement referencing automatic renewal be removed, explaining that a Franchise Agreement will be a separate document.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the agreement as amended with the deletion of 2.2 (b), seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – MOU Denton Main Street

The Memorandum of Understanding has been amended as requested in January 2, 2020 and was presented for consideration.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the MOU with the Downtown Denton Main Street, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #3 - Fence Agreement

The amended Fence Agreement between the Town, Sandy Meadow II, LLC, and the Miron was presented for consideration of approval.

Vice Mayor Branson confirmed that the Town to pay the legal fees associated with the fence agreement and the developer will pay for the repairs to the easement area.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the Fence Agreement and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously

Agenda #4 - Sharp Road Park – Walking Trails

Public Works submitted a proposal from Duval Bros. to continue to install approximately 4,300 feet of walking trail with millings. The proposal will tie in the walking path from Choptank Community Health and Food Lion with the rest of the park and provide 6,400 foot of walking trail around the park. This will be paid for out of POS, CIPT, along with money that was already paid in advance from the grant funds from 2019 and the new Bond Bill.

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Water and Sewer Allocation

Stahl Point Holdings LLC submitted a request seeking approval for one (1) ERU for the construction of a new office building at 907 Crystal Avenue, Caroline County Tax Map 103, Parcel 622, Lot 3.

Councilman Lister made a motion to approve the ERU allocation request, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – Town Engineer Agreement – Remington & Vernick Engineers

Councilman Lister made a motion to accept the new Engineering Agreement with Remington & Vernick Engineers, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

The contract term is for five years.

Agenda #3 -Deed of Road Dedication

Discussion was held on the Deed of Road Dedication for Briarwood Circle and Sage Drive at Sandy Meadows Subdivision. Staff and the Town Attorney will review Public Works Agreements and bring additional information before the Council.

Councilman Lister made a motion to defer for additional information, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #4 - Wilmuth St. Pump Station Fence

Discussion was held on Caroline County Public Works request seeking permission to move the fence located on the Town's property for the Wilmuth St. Pump

Station. The County recently placed a pole building over the fueling station and the fence makes it difficult for larger vehicles to get into the fueling station.

Councilman Lister made a motion to grant the County permission to move the fence and add two safety bollards inside the fence to protect the Town's equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #5 - Town Auditing Service Renewal

Councilman Lister made a motion to extend and renew the Auditing and Financial Report Services contract with TGM Group LLC, for a Multi-Year Engagement Letter. Seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

The contract services will continue through Fiscal Year 2024.

Agenda #6 - 2020 Census Grant Agreement

The Maryland Department of Planning/Maryland Historical Trust awarded the Town \$5,000 to be used for conducting outreach efforts that focus on promoting and facilitating responses to the 2020 Census.

Councilman Lister made a motion to grant permission to sign the Grant Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #7 - Franklin Street Watermain Project – Engineering Agreement

An Agreement between the Town of Denton and Remington & Vernick Engineers for the Franklin Street Watermain Project was presented for signature. Per the original bid award, the Contract services are not to exceed \$81,850.00.

Councilman Lister made a motion to authorize the signing of the Engineering Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Wilson, passing unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Teresa Allison, resident of 303 Sydney Lane, thanked the Council for adding the walking path to the Sharp Road Park.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer