

September 3, 2020

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.

Access to the meeting was made available Online using Microsoft Teams, in person attendance was restricted.

Public Hearing

None

Chief Rodney Cox – Retirement

Mayor McNinch asked Chief Rodney Cox to come forward to be recognized for his years of dedication and his retirement from the Denton Police Department.

Mr. Mike Arntz, a Representative from Congressman Andy Harris's Office, presented Chief Rodney Cox with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and congratulated him on his many years of service and his retirement from the Denton Police Department.

Chief Mike McDermott of the Federalsburg Police Department expressed his gratitude in working with Chief Cox and commended him on his ability for leading and solidarity, not just for Denton, but also the entire County, and all fellow law enforcement officers. On behalf of the Caroline County Chiefs Association, Chief McDermott presented a plaque honoring Chief Cox for his years of dedicated leadership, his expert guidance, and his positive contributions during his service as the Chairman of Caroline County Chiefs Association, and to the community, and congratulated him on his retirement.

Delegate Jeff Ghrist, representing District 36 and the Caroline County Delegation, presented Chief Cox with a Certificate of Recognition in honor for 25 years of service and dedication to the Denton Police Department.

Mr. Don Mulrine, Town Administrator, on behalf of Governor Hogan and the Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford presented Chief Cox with a Governor's Citation, commending Chief on his many years of dedicated service.

Mayor McNinch, presented Chief Cox with a Proclamation of the Denton Town Council, recognizing, and thanking Chief for his 25 years of service with the Town.

Councilman Branson presented Chief Cox with a Retirement Plaque, expressing the Denton Town Council and Staff's deepest gratitude for his many years of dedication. Sharing that it has been an honor to have worked with him for many years and thanking him for his dedication and support.

Councilman Johnson thanked Chief Cox as a fellow law enforcement officer as well as a Council Member, sharing that he admired him for his dedication to the community and commitment to his personnel.

Councilman Lister expressed how Chief has inspired him with his creativity and integrity for the community and to his employees. He added that his continued support for his staff and the way he fought for his personnel during the budget session is to be commended. He has great respect for Chief's values and integrity to the Department and the community.

Lieutenant George Bacorn, thanked Chief Cox for his support during his career and presented him with his official Retirement Badge and LEOSA Card.

Chief Cox was very humbled and thanked everyone in attendance, the Council, and his staff. Chief stated that it takes teamwork to build a foundation to run the department and to help him do the job that needed to be done. Chief graciously thanked Lt. Bacorn for his many years of being his right-hand man, tackling the duties before them. Chief Cox recommended Lt. Bacorn to fill the job he leaves, sharing that they have worked together on everything for the past 22 years.

After 33 years in law enforcement, Chief thanked his wife and children for all their support and thanked Councilman Branson for swearing him in as Chief in 1998.

Minutes

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented; seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

Attendance

Mayor McNinch announced that Councilwoman Wilson was attending the meeting virtually, all other Council Members were in attendance.

Appointment of Acting Chief

With the retirement of Chief Rodney Cox, the Town Council acknowledged the appointment of Lt. George Bacorn to serve as Acting Chief.

Petitions, Remonstrance's, and Communication

Proclamation – Caroline Goes Purple

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation recognizing the month of September as “Caroline Goes Purple” to bring awareness to the public about the national opioid epidemic.

Proclamation – International Underground Railroad Month

Mayor McNinch read a Proclamation to recognize September 1-30, 2020 as International Underground Railroad Month.

Proclamation – YMCA 10 Year Anniversary

Mayor McNinch had Mr. Angel Perez come forward and read a Proclamation to congratulate the Caroline County Family YMCA on their 10-year Anniversary in Denton.

YMCA Welcoming Week Announcement

Mr. Angel Perez from the YMCA announced and shared details about the YMCA's Welcoming Week September 12-20, 2020.

Mayor McNinch commended Mr. Perez and the YMCA and their continued commitment and efforts they take to engage the community.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution #876 – FY20 General Fund Budget Amendment

Mr. Mulrine provided a summary of the amendments to the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, sharing that many Departments came in under budget and explained the effects of COVID-19.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt Resolution #876, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Resolution #877 – Nuisance Flooding Plan

Mr. Mulrine provided a synopsis of the Resolution to adopt a Nuisance Flooding Plan for the Town of Denton. This is a required mandate from the State of Maryland.

Staff, along with a Consultant, have prepared the Plan which reflects that Crouse Park is the only Flood Zone in the Town.

Councilman Branson made a motion to adopt Resolution #877, seconded by Councilman Johnson.

In discussion, Councilman Johnson provided a summary of the Planning Commissions discussion on the Plan.

With no further comments, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion to adopt.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #709 – Vehicle and Traffic Code Amendment

An Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 120 of the Town of Denton Code, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, to revise traffic regulations, parking regulations, and parking meters and to provide for parking kiosks for public streets within the Town of Denton and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Councilman Lister made a motion to introduce Ordinance #709, seconded by Councilman Branson.

Discussion was held, regarding the changes to the Code and comments received from the Sandy Meadow's HOA. The Council will continue to accept public comments for the Public Hearing that will be held next month.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch called for a vote on the motion on the floor to introduce Ordinance #709.

The motion passed with 4 votes. Councilwoman Wilson abstained from voting.

Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

Mr. Mark Chandler, Water & Wastewater Superintendent, shared there has been an equipment failure at the Goose Creek Pump Station, following a storm. Staff is seeking quotes for the repairs and working on submitting an insurance claim. Mr. Chandler asked the Council for approval to approve up to \$10,000 for an emergency repair.

Councilman Branson made a motion to approve to spend up to \$10,000 for an emergency repair, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Mr. Chandler will keep the Council updated on the final cost.

Mr. Mulrine announced the Veterans Parade is scheduled for November 13, 2020 to begin at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Franklin Street Water Main Replacement Project, sharing that the preliminary drawing has been drafted and approval has been received from MDE. Staff will work to obtain bids soon.

Mr. Mulrine announced there will be a Car Show held on Friday, September 11th.

Mayor McNinch mentioned other downtown events are being held all while encouraging social distancing. Third Thursday's, Not A Phase Clothing held a 1-year Celebration, the YMCA outdoor movie nights, and the Tuesday Farmer's Markets.

Mr. Drummond announced that District Court Judge Doug Everngam has retired.

Unfinished Business

Agenda #1- Sharp Road Park Update

Mr. Mulrine provided an update on the Sharp Road Park Project. The Town is utilizing the Dept. of General Services Bond Bills previously awarded to the Town and he discussed the designation of funding for the required match.

Councilman Lister talked about the phases completed and those still pending, recommending approving the funding for the Town match to work toward finishing the next phase.

Councilman Lister made a motion to allocate the Town's designated Park Fund, seconded by Councilman Johnson, passing unanimously.

Agenda #2 – MOU – Sharp Road Park

The Council reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Caroline County Youth Soccer Association. The MOU established the terms for the CCYSA to use the storage building located in the park.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Councilman Branson, passing unanimously.

New Business

Agenda #1 – Caroline County Legislative Requests

Discussion was held on the County's request for accepting suggestions for the upcoming 2021 General Assembly session. The deadline to submit such requests is September 18, 2020. Discussion will continue at the next working session.

Agenda #2 – Network Security

Mr. Mulrine, Acting Chief Bacorn and Mrs. Monteith provided an update on the Town's Network Security and Technology Security Recommendations from Corsica Technologies.

Staff will schedule a conference call in October with Corsica Technology to go over everything.

Miscellaneous

Councilman Johnson shared a comment he received stating that the Town's Planning & Codes Staff is easy to work with.

Councilman Branson shared that he has received a compliment regarding Public Works grinding up trees.

Mr. Mulrine shared that the Town had over 200 requests for brush collection, and they did a wonderful job.

Councilman Lister and Councilman Johnson held discussion about the Market & 3rd St. traffic light, changing the traffic flow and making a portion of Market St. one-way. Concerns about relying on the State roads, Franklin and Gay for traffic flow and the 2nd St. & Market intersection 4-way stop were discussed.

Mayor McNinch congratulated Chief Cox again on his retirement and Lt. Bacorn on his appointment as Acting Chief.

Rodney Cox thanked the Council for all their support.

With no further discussion, Mayor McNinch adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Monteith,
Clerk - Treasurer