

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Denton held a regular meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00pm at Town Hall.

The following members were in attendance: Mayor Larry Ward, Mayor ProTem Deanna Grubb
Commissioners: Anne Carter Bean, Scott Morris, Hayden Hicks, Barbara Hogan
Town Attorney, Misti Whitman, Town Manager, Angel Jenkins; Town Clerk, Paula Hedrick

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ward called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor ProTem Grubb made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of 7A, 10A and 18A.

Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

4. Approval of January 2, 2024 minutes

Commissioner Hogan made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 minutes

Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

5. Public Comment

Citizens may speak on items not listed on the printed agenda. Please state your name and address and observe the three-minute time limit.

2024 Junior Miss North Carolina Sunshine Queen Hailey Gray a resident from Denton was present and wanted to attend a council meeting and meet the Mayor Ward. Ms. Gray shared information regarding her title and her motto. Always remember "To be Kind-To be Gracious-To be Helpful. Be the Sunshine in Someone's Day". Hailey has been instrumental in making Denton beautiful by updating our area Flower planters and updating South Hwy 109 Town sign with flowers and mulch.

6. Presentation by Davidson County Fraternal Order of Police for Lodge 97 to Mark Hicks Retirement and 30 Years of Service – Tony Staley, President

Mr. Staley President of the Davidson County Fraternal Order of Police was in attendance and presented Retired Chief Mark Hicks a plaque for his years of service as an Officer for the Town of Denton.

7. Davidson County Health Department Updates – Lillian Koontz, Health Director

Ms. Koontz shared there are recent cases of rabies noted in Southern Davidson County. Rabies is preventable with vaccinations. Studies show a 5-year trend to that Southern

Davidson County is the highest areas for cases of rabies. The North Carolina General Assembly requires all domesticated animals to be vaccinated. There will be Clinics staged in the throughout the County starting in April 2024.

If there are exposure to a rabid animal it is most important to start post exposure treatment immediately. If left untreated in humans is 99.9% fatal.

7A. Update from Davidson County Animal Control – Officer Christian Soles

Officer Soles shared a Public Service announcement regarding (FIV) Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. This virus kills and damages cells in a cat's immune system. There have been several stray/feral cats in the Denton area that have tested positive for the FIV virus. In patrolling the area Officer Soles has noticed a alarming cat issue in the Denton area. There are several locations that have been reviewed with an excessive amount of cats running loose. This virus is very contagious and spreads through deep bite wounds, mostly occurring in cats that are not contained. Ms. Soles has spoken with four (4) property owners regarding the number of cats in and around their property. She will be looking at another location in the coming week.

Officer Soles recommendation is to limit the number of cats and dogs per household.

Request a proof of vaccination and enforce an animal license program within the Town.

8. Davidson County Medical Ministry Mobile Unit Coming to Denton –

Julie Andrade & Shawntae Lewis

Ms. Lewis is the Practice Administrator for Davidson Medical Ministries. She stated that their goal is to provide better access to medical care for residents of Davidson County. They assist in communities regardless of their income, insurance, race, ethnicity, or religion. They will be in the Denton on Tuesdays at the Denton Public Library. Ms. Andrade is the Manager of the bus and will be available to do pre-registration with area residents. They not only serve the Denton area and Davidson County but multiple counties as well.

9. Review and Approve the 2024 Calendar of Events – Angel Jenkins

*Ms. Jenkins presented the 2024 Calendar of Events which is a combination of events that are held by our Parks and Recreation Board and Town Hall staff.

*Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Bean asked if they would still be holding the Harvest Pageant.

*Ms. Jenkins answered that plans are to still include the Harvest Pageant along with the Denton Street Festival as they did last year. Concerns were shared that there seems to be too many queens.

Commissioner Morris asked if they are buying a crown.

*Ms. Jenkins stated that the pageant contestants pay a \$25.00 registration fee, which covers the cost of crowns, t-shirts, and a small gift. The pageant is a service pageant, and the participants collect "good luck seeds" from friends and family. The funds that are collected go to a local non-profit. In the past several years, they have collected toys, monetary donations and food for either Project Santa, South Davidson Family Resource Center, local backpack program for the schools and Mountain Vista residents. The pageant is also on a point system based on their contributions that were collected, and their participation in the pageant points.

*Ms. Jenkins suggested that the Parks and Recreation Board be invited to the next Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss the pageant.

*Ms. Jenkins stated that Keith Loflin and Tim Loflin would be coming to do a presentation on their 2024 Tractor Ride.

*Commissioner Morris stated that the Chili Cook Off needs to be more than just a taste test by the judges, allowing the public to taste and vote.

*Ms. Jenkins stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will be hosting along with local churches the Backpack program again this year.

*Commissioner Morris and Commissioner Hogan suggested that we arrange for an Outstanding Band to come sing in the park. Suggestions given were The Entertainers, To Much Sylvia, Chocolate Chip, Band of Oz just to mention a few. We could ask for corporate sponsors, have food trucks and even a wine truck.

*Mayor Ward asked if they would like to approve the Calendar of Events from March thru June 2024 until further discuss of the pageant.

*Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the Calendar of Events from March thru June 2024. *Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

10. Resolution to Approve Police Department Surplus – Angel Jenkins and Chief James

See attached surplus request.

*Commissioner Bean made a motion to approve the Resolution R-23/24-08 Town of Denton Property Surplus. *Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

10 A. Approve Involuntary Commitment Transport Plan – Police Chief Mike James

See attached Local Area Crisis Plan Davidson County, February 2024

*Commissioner Hogan made a motion to approve the Involuntary Commitment Transport Plan. *Commissioner Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

11. Consideration of Recognition for the Late Stan Bingham, NC State Senator – Angel Jenkins

Ms. Jenkins stated a request has been presented to either name a street after or consideration to Adopt a Highway in recognition for the late Stand Bingham, NC State Senator. Ms. Jenkins stated that she would research further and provide more details.

12. Consideration to Update Employee Policy: Exempt Employee Holiday Leave

Ms. Jenkins stated several times in the recent past, we have had requests to pay exempt employees for hours worked over and above their regular hours that are required. A Holiday Pay for Exempt (Salaried) Employees has been drafted for consideration. (see attached)
*Mayor ProTem Deanna Grubb made a motion to approve the update to the Employee Policy for Exempt Employee Holiday Leave.

*Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

13. Approve Ordinance Amendment to add Chronic Violator for Code Enforcement Regulations

Ms. Jenkins stated that we seem to have the same properties that receive letters on code violations. A recommendation has been given by Brandon Emory with (ACE) Alliance Code Enforcement that we add this Chronic Violator Ordinance to our Code Enforcement Regulations. This would allow a representative from ACE to contact the resident with the first offense and notify them that they will proceed to abatement due to being a chronic violator, rather than abate the case and start the process all over again once they fall under another code violation.

Chronic Violator Ordinance – Based off previous & current repetitive issues facing the Town, it is my recommendation that a Chronic Violator Ordinance be added and reflect the following:

- A. Definitions.** CHRONIC VIOLATOR. A person or entity who owns property whereupon in the previous calendar year, the town gave notice to abate at least three times under any provision of this nuisance chapter, and the owner failed to abate the property. A notice of being classified as a CHRONIC VIOLATOR will be sent via certified mail to the owner on or about the beginning of the new calendar year by a Code Enforcement Officer.
- B. Action taken.** Upon determination of a chronic violator and where a property is found to be in violation of this nuisance chapter, the town may, without further notice in the calendar year in which the notice to abate is given, take action to remedy the

violation, and the expense of such action shall become a lien upon the property and shall be collected as unpaid taxes.

The owner will receive an annual notice via certified mail.

*Commissioner Hogan made a motion to approve Ordinance Amendment to add Chronic Violator for Code Enforcement Regulations.

*Commissioner Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

*Commissioner Morris made a motion to proceed with a Lien Foreclosure on 249 Farmbrook Drive

*Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

14. Approve Quote and Budget Amendment for Water Treatment Plant Pump #3 Rebuild

Ms. Jenkins stated that we received a quote from Charles R. Underwood, Inc. to rebuild the High Service Pump (Pump three) at the Water Plant which is out of service. Pumps one and two are regular flow pumps. Pump three was designed to be a high flow pressure pump. We currently do not have a backup pump and rebuilding pump three would take some of the load off the other two pumps according to Mr. Underwood. Pump three would be able to run alone, in the case of issues with the other two pumps. It would be a huge asset to have this pump operational.

*Commissioner Bean made a motion to approve the quote and approve the budget amendment for the Water Treatment Plant Pump #3 Rebuild. Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion passed (4/1. Yay: Bean, Hogan, Grubb, Hicks Nay: Morris

15. Town Department Head Reports- (see attached reports)

Police Department – Chief James

Fire Department – Chief Dorsett

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Troy Branch

Administration – Paula Hedrick

Public Works & Water Plant – Michael High

16. Town Attorney Update

Ms. Whitman stated that everything she has to discuss will need to be covered in Closed Session.

17. Town Manager's Report

A printed copy of the Manager's report is attached to the minutes.

The annual budget meeting will be held on March 19, 2024, 5:30pm at Town Hall.

18. Commissioner Comments / Concerns

*Commissioner Bean stated that a local business owner reached out to her regarding the

broken asphalt that keeps washing in front of his business and piling up on the storm drain. The recent storms have caused the asphalt at Denton Propane to break up and wash to neighboring properties.

*Commissioner Morris stated that we need to have the storm ditches cleaned out.

*Mayor ProTem Grubb asked if the Army Corp of Engineers have looked at the storm drains.

*Ms. Jenkins confirmed that they have been looked at by the Army Corp of Engineers.

**18 A. Closed Session – In Accordance with the NC G.S. 143:318.11 (3)/(6)
Attorney/Client Privilege and Personnel**

Mayor Ward asked for a motion and second to Open Closed Session 8:55pm

*Mayor ProTem Grubb made a motion to Open Closed Session

*Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)

*Mayor ProTem Grubb made a motion to Close Closed Session 9:26pm

*Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0)


19. Announcements


20. Board of Commissioners Adjournment

Mayor Ward asked for a motion and second to adjourn.

*Commissioner Hogan made a motion to adjourn.

*Commissioner Morris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (5/0) 9:27pm


Larry D. Ward, Mayor


Paula Hedrick, Town Clerk