

# **MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2013**

The January 2013 regular meeting of City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the City-County Complex Building located at 401 West Main Street in Dillon, SC. In attendance were Mayor Todd Davis, Councilman James Washington, Councilman Johnny Eller, Mayor Pro-tem Douglas Jackson, and Councilman Phil Wallace. Councilwoman Connie Manning and Councilman John Braddy were absent.

Mayor Todd Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00pm by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Benny Genwright. After this, Councilman Wallace made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on the Dilmar property to the executive session. Councilman Eller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Councilman Wallace then made the motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2012. Councilman Eller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Davis began his report announcing that Glen and he were going to meet with the people at Hometown TV, channel 8, to see what they could do to get the public more informed about city events and projects. Next, he asked Glen to check on getting an NFL punt, pass, and kick program started with City Recreation. Glen agreed to look into it. The Mayor then pointed out that this was a new year and new commitments were being made at the Wellness Center. He said we are offering some new programs including yoga and a new cardio class, both of which were doing much better than he anticipated. The Mayor said he was asked about a sound system for the fitness area to help motivate the participants. He said we have started getting bids on this. He invited the public to come check out the facility and the new programs.

The Mayor said he was going to write a letter to the editor of the Dillon Herald about the improved appearance of the Ben Bernanke Interchange off exit 190 on Highway 34. He said the area really looked good and that this was due to the collaborated efforts of SCDOT, the County and the City. He also offered special thanks to County Councilmen Joe Johnson and Harold Moody who pushed to have this area cleaned up, which included the removal or relocation of one of the County trash dump sites. Lastly, the Mayor congratulated Finance Director Janet Bethea on 32 years of service with the City of Dillon and thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

City Manager Glen Wagner began his report by directing Council's attention to the City's proposed Façade Incentive Grant Program included in their packet. The guidelines of the program suggested that the City would give the business owner one half of the amount that was spent on enhancing their façade, up to \$1,000 if \$2,000 or more were spent. The program would be for the storefronts of the commercial Historic District only. The guidelines also stated that businesses would have to get and COA and have approval from the Board of Architectural Review. Businesses owners would be given four months to

complete their project and the City would reimburse them one half of the cost, up to \$1,000, upon completion. Glen asked Council for their input on the number of businesses that would be done each year and on the amount of money Council wanted to budget for the project. Councilman Wallace suggested that each business be allotted up to a maximum of \$500 with a cap of \$2,500 for the budget year. Glen said the proposal with the changes would be brought back to Council next month.

Mr. Wagner then directed Council to the handouts concerning the proposed spray-ground, which would give them an idea of how one looked and operated, plus cost information. The pictures depicted several pieces of playground type of equipment with water features. There were also areas of the splash pad that spouted water. The total cost quoted for a recirculating system was \$336,555.<sup>00</sup>. This amount included a labor cost of \$167,000.<sup>00</sup>, but did not include additional costs for a building to house the water pump equipment and bathrooms. Glen invited council members to view a video on YouTube of a splash-pad or spray ground by the company, Rain Drop. Councilman Eller asked where we were on the pools for the Wellness Center. Glen said we were still getting prices.

Next, the City Manager gave Council an update on the walking trail at the Wellness Center. The landscape architect worked on the design and we have ordered 50 trees for about \$8,000. Glen said he and Burt were considering using crush and run for the path, which would only cost around \$3,500. Councilman Wallace said he thought we were going to use asphalt. Glen and Burt explained that the price of asphalt was very high right now and the crush and run would act as a base until the City was willing to pay the higher price for the asphalt. Glen said he was also looking into lighting for the trail through Progress Energy. Councilman Eller asked when we could reapply for a grant. Maggie Riales did not know the grant time frame.

The City Manager reported that we had received two quotes for a fire truck. He said we were looking at a \$270,000.<sup>00</sup> investment, \$250,000.<sup>00</sup> for the fire truck and \$20,000.<sup>00</sup> for the loose equipment. Glen said there was a 180 day turn-around from the date we order the truck. Councilman Wallace suggested that we purchase the truck with our General Fund depreciation funds and amortize over 10 years with 5% interest. Janet Bethea said that we have \$1.1Million in the depreciation account. Glen asked Council to wait until we received all of the bids before we made a decision. Lastly, Glen asked Council to accept the recommendation of Rhett Tompkins to the Board of Architectural Review. Rhett is the owner/manager of True Value Hardware on Main Street. The Mayor made the motion to accept the recommendation and to appoint Rhett Tompkins to the Board of Architectural Review. Mayor Pro-tem Douglas Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There were no citizens' reports, no unfinished business or new business.

During the Councilmembers' reports, Councilman Eller asked for updates on the Rownd property and on paving the alleys. Glen and Maggie had no knowledge of when EPA would begin work on the Rownd property. Glen also said that he was still get cost information on paving the alleys.

Councilman Washington asked Glen about "C- funds" for resurfacing 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Glen said he did not know if funds were available.

Councilman Wallace asked about short term depreciable assets. He wanted Council to have an idea of what we needed to have in our depreciation account to cover the replacement of these assets when needed. Janet Bethea said she would bring the information back to Council next month. Burt Rogers added that we may need to look into replacing the garbage trucks in 2 – 3 years, both the back loader and the front-end loader. Glen added to his report stating that he had received preliminary costs for the water tower. A 300,000 gallon tank would cost \$991,460.00 and a 500,000 gallon tank would cost \$1.3Million.

Councilman Wallace made the motion to enter into the executive session to discuss a contractual matter with Dillon Vocational School and to discuss the Dilmar property. Councilman Eller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Open session adjourned.

With the conclusion of their discussions, Councilman Wallace made a motion to adjourn the executive session and return to open session. Mayor Pro-tem Jackson seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. In open session, Councilman Wallace made the motion to not sell the old Dilmar properties at this time and the City make it into a green space. Councilman Eller seconded the motion and it passed 5 – 0.

With no other business to discuss, Councilman Eller made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Mayor Pro-tem Jackson. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, J. Todd Davis

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Clerk, Lynn Bowman

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_