

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 11, 2019

The November 11, 2019 Regular meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chambers of the City-County Complex Building located at 401 West Main Street in Dillon, SC.

Councilmembers in attendance

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Phil Wallace
Councilmember Timothy Cousar
Councilmember James W. David

Councilmember Johnny Eller
Councilmember James Washington
Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Notices of this regular meeting of City Council was provided to the media and individuals requesting a copy of the agenda informing them of the date, location, and time of the meeting.

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Benny Genwright gave the invocation.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
Councilmember Johnny Eller made a motion to approve the Agenda and seconded by Councilmember Jay David. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of October 14, 2019 Regular Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilman Johnny Eller to table the approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting on October 14, 2019, due to not including his comments about purchasing a new truck for Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Phil Wallace started his report by discussing his meeting with Macio Nance. He stated they were trying to accumulate data on what is needed in the City of Dillon. The first thing they discussed was making I-95 and Hwy 34 into four lanes. They also discussed how to cut funding of transporting sewage to sprayfield. Dr. Wallace went on to talk about cleaning up our Digital Footprint. He stated that we report all crime and many communities don't report as much. Next, Dr. Wallace asked about putting therapeutic pools in the Wellness Center. He stated we could have third graders take swimming lessons. Lastly, he went on to talk about the area happenings...9th Holiday Goodness, 6th Annual Chili Cookoff, 3rd Annual Christmas Tree lighting, Christmas Parade, the 12th Annual Breakfast with Santa, and the Hometown Theater Christmas Program. Dr. Wallace asked that everyone try to support these events as much as possible.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Glen Wagner started his report discussing the planter on Main Street. He stated we got permission from SCDOT to remove it, and we will have to resurface the road. The cost is roughly \$35,000-\$45,000. Glen stated that it would not change the configuration of the traffic flow. Dr. Wallace would like to put mulch, signs, or lights to enhance the planter. Councilmember Jay David says that we should hire an outside landscaper to maintain the planter. He said that we

owe it to Business owners to make Downtown look good. Councilmember David also stated that the planter on S. MacArthur Avenue should be removed. He suggested that we could go back to two-lanes to drown out the traffic on Hampton Street. He went on to say that if you have traffic going in two directions it will keep cars from stopping and cut down on corruption in that area. Dr. Wallace said, "let's talk about it next month after giving council a chance to look at the planter." Glen Wagner stated he will look into it and bring some information back to Decembers' Council meeting. Glen went on to say that all lights on Main Street from the Courthouse to Popes' and from Radford Blvd to Palmetto Street have been changed to LED lights. The City of Dillon has been awarded \$25,000 from the Municipal Association of South Carolina to do a Downtown Master Plan. Mr. Jason Epley is here to present his proposal for the Master Plan. Lastly, Will Williams of Scout Troop 769 has placed a red and white box in the City-County Complex that anyone can place worn flags. They will dispose of the flags properly. Councilmember David spoke about Ports Transportation credits, he suggested that our city website be interconnected. He said investors should be able to go onto our website and get information on grants and Opportunity zones. He stated that commercial grant writing is the name of the game and our website should have all of these links.

Finance Report

Finance Director, Janet Bethea gave copies of the Financial Report to the Mayor Pro Tem, City Council, and the City Manager.

Dillon Downtown Coordinator

Downtown Coordinator, Bridget Thornton stated the City of Dillon was awarded the Downtown Masterplan. She asked if anyone had toured downtown Lumberton, NC over that last five years to see how it has changed? She then introduced Jason Epley of Benchmark Planning.

Jason Epley, Benchmark Planning

Mr. Epley stated he has been working for over 20 years in Downtown Development. His company has been around since 1992 and he has been President since 2004. He went on to say that having a vision for the future is nice but the most important thing is to have road map and an action plan. This Master Plan gives leverage on making Dillon better. Dillon needs a meaningful plan, something that is based on good research and input from you so that it can be implemented. The purpose is to get out of the small things and work toward a goal. I am excited about working with Dillon. Councilmember David stated that we have a lot of traffic in Dillon. Mr. Epley responded with his first observation was that you cannot cross the road without looking. It is good to have traffic. Dillon has a lot of good things going. Glen met with Stephanie Mitchell, Rhett Thompkins, and Bridget Thornton and they would all like to do this Master Plan. Glen asked, "is this something that Council would like to do?" It will cost the City about \$5,000 plus the \$25,000 grant will equal \$30,000. Councilmember Eller asked what is the timeline? Mr. Epley stated the timeline is around nine months. He said the meetings will start around January 2020. He went over the three phases.....Phase one – Downtown Assessment, Phase two – Downtown Concepts Review, and Phase three – Downtown Master Plan Development. The end result will be a Master Plan that is realistic and something that can be implemented.

Don Strickland, PDRTA

Mr. Strickland states that he receives a lot of calls from the public wanting to know if PDRTA can come back to Dillon. PDRTA is currently servicing five counties. He states that 81% of people using this service has no access to a vehicle. The age range is 40-60-year-old using this service to get to work. PDRTA mostly commute on fixed routes but will pick up from home. Bringing this service back to Dillon will connect Florence, Marion, and Marlboro County with Dillon. Several buses will run through the City that will connect Lake View and Latta. PDRTA will employ 2-3 people from Dillon. The Department of Commerce, SCDOT, and industries here will provide \$1.3 million for buses. Mark Siversky from Care First also stated they looked into doing transport but the cost is astronomical. He stated bringing PDRTA to Dillon will get people out of the house and shopping at local businesses. Mr. Strickland stated that 70% of operational costs are paid by the Federal Government and PDRTA has to come up with 30%. Dillon County has committed to \$36,000 each year for three years. We get advertising funding of about \$7,000-\$8,000 a year. AAA funding is around \$10,000 a year. Harbor Freight has committed to \$20,000 a year. Latta has committed to \$4,500 over three years. We have a total of \$120,000 committed. Glen Wagner stated there is a need since the industries are pushing it. Councilmember Johnny Eller asked what would be the operational hours. Mr. Strickland stated the times will start from 8am-5pm, 5 days per week on the public side however, we are looking to get a second shift. We have exceeded our expectations in other counties and I know for a fact there is a need. Councilman James Washington asked if a disabled person could call and make arrangements for a pick up? Mr. Strickland said, "yes, they would need to call the day before". Dr. Wallace stated we will put it on the agenda for next months' meeting and give an answer then.

V. Citizen's Report

Stephanie Mitchell has lights for anyone that wants to adopt a tree downtown.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

Ordinance #19-07 1st Reading - Approve transfer of Real Estate between the City of Dillon and First Bank – Councilmember Douglas Jackson made a motion to approve. Councilmembers Cousar, Dr. Wallace, David, Jackson, and Washington affirmed. Councilmember Eller opposed.

Ordinance #19-08 1st Reading - Close the Alleyway between 100 Block of East Harrison and 100 Block of East Cleveland. Councilmember David made the motion to approve. Councilmembers Jackson, Dr. Wallace, Cousar, David, and Washington affirmed. Councilmember Eller opposed.

Ordinance #19-09 1st Reading – Ordinance to transfer Real Estate from the City of Dillon to Bradley Turner. Councilmember David made the motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #19-10 1st Reading – To provide Retail & Commercial Business Incentives. Councilmember David made a motion to approve. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #19-11 1st Reading – To amend the 2019-2020 Storm Water Budget. Councilmember Jackson made the motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #19-12 1st Reading – Zoning Map Amendment. Councilmember Washington made the motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

VIII. Councilmembers' Report

Councilmember Johnny Eller started his report asking if we are getting anywhere with getting the Upfit Grant Money back? Glen stated no we would have to do a Civil Lawsuit. Councilmember Eller responded by saying we need to look into getting the citizens' money back. He asked for input from Council. Dr. Wallace stated that we would need to have proof of activity before we give money in the future. He went on to say if Council wants to go through a lawsuit for \$15,000, he will, but we will spend \$5,000-\$6,000 chasing \$15,000. Councilmember David said he agrees and we can learn from our mistakes. Councilmember Eller went on to ask are we buying two police cars every year? He said we have \$169,000 in the 3% funds and we should look into getting laptops in these police vehicles. He said it would cost around \$75,000 to get that done and he would really like to see this happen to enhance the presence of police. Councilmember Eller asked for the police to monitor the area behind the library. He complimented Xaviera Williams on helping a young child that didn't want to go to school. Councilmember Eller asked Chief Lane does a DUI automatically means going to jail? Chief Lane stated normally no. Councilmember Eller ended his report by recognizing and thanking the Veterans for their service.

Councilmember Jay David started his report asking Chief Lane about the radio system. Chief Lane stated that we had 800mega hertz system but the hybrid system was free so we use that. Councilmember David wanted to thank Benny Genwright and Angie Freitas for getting things cleaned up around Dillon. He went on to say the Veterans' Day program was great and he asked all Veterans to stand and thanked them for their service.

Councilmember James Washington began his report asking did we get a grant to fix the Rownds Building? Glen stated no we got a grant to take out the Hazmat. Councilmember Washington asked Benny Genwright if some owners were fined? Benny stated yes, they issued nine citations...5 pending and 4 have paid fines. They will also be sending 6 or 7 more certified letters to property owners that are in violation of the city ordinance. They will have 30 days to rectify the situation. Councilmember Washington closed his report by thanking the Veterans for their service.

Dr Wallace said the Trunk or Treat was a success, "Another good ole Dillon event'!

Councilmember Jackson – no report

Councilmember Timothy Cousar asked if the Street department is finished with the water lines on the Quarters? Burt Rogers stated no but they are still working on it.

IX. Adjourn

Councilmember David made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:04pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

12/9/19