

MINTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 10, 2020

The February 10, 2020 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. 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.

Councilmembers in attendance:

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Phil Wallace
Councilmember Douglas Jackson
Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Johnny Eller
Councilmember Timothy Cousar
Councilmember Jay David

- 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 Cousar made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilman Jackson and seconded by Councilmember Cousar to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on January 13, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Wallace began his report saying he had been very busy. He attending the Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Thursday night and it was a nice event. He also attended the 2nd Annual Dillon County Economic Summit to give the welcome. He stated there was a lot of things going on around the County and the City of Dillon. He went on to say that we can do tremendous economic development but we have to have places for people to live. He said he wasn't able to attend the Father/Daughter Dance but I heard it was a nice event. Dr. Wallace spoke with Downtown Development a week ago and says he is really anxious to see what they have to show us. He said it would be difficult for a population of 8,500 to support a sewage treatment facility and hopefully we can do industrial development as well as economic development.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Glen Wagner started his report discussing revenue for the Wellness Center. He stated in January 2018 we had 515 members and as of February 9, 2020 we have 446 members. He said he met with members on occasion and they said one of the things that the other Gym had is automatic draft but most members didn't want that. We extended the hours from 8:30pm to 10pm from Monday through Friday for 5 weeks and we've only had 1% utilizing that extra time. We will continue to close late through February. We have a committee that I have met with twice

and they say the rates are good, amenities are good, but the weight machines need to be replaced. We are now looking at the cost to get these machines replaced and will bring cost back next month. Most people say they used the new facility because it was something new but have left because it has no showers, no space, cleanliness, and no water fountains. Next, Glen talked about Sunday Alcohol Sales. He said he believes that without Sunday Alcohol Sales we can't recruit new restaurants and businesses. He said we have a new restaurant opening within 3 weeks that would probably like to sale alcohol on Sunday. I am told that Del Sol Mexican Restaurant loses a lot of money on Sunday due to not being able to sale alcohol. Glen went on to say that Marion and Marlboro counties have passed this in the last few years and he doesn't want to miss the boat. He said he would like to come back next month with an ordinance to put Sunday Alcohol sales on the voting ballot for November 2020. He doesn't know yet what the cost will be to put on the referendum but we will have to have this done by Summer if we want to put it on the ballot. This would be on-site premise sales meaning restaurants and off-site premises meaning in the grocery and convenience stores. Glen stated that we would need to move forward with this and let the public decide in November. Lastly, he said the audit for General Fund and Water and Sewer will be next month.

Finance Report

Finance Director, Janet Bethea gave copies of the Financial Report to the Mayor Pro Tem, City Council, and the City Manager. Councilmember Eller wanted to discuss the Wellness Center stating we are losing \$15,000-\$18,000 per month. Curtis Boyd is making a profit at this new Gym. We need to come up with a way to make a profit. He went on the say the problem he has is that we are showing more deficit this year than last year and he would like to see us do different things to get a better handle on this. Dr. Wallace answered the Wellness Center is not revenue driven. We would love to make more money but we need to focus on the quality of life. It is membership driven.

Dillon Downtown Coordinator

Downtown Coordinator, Bridget Thornton started her report giving information on the Benchmark Planning. She talked about the Benchmark listening session held on January 28, 2020. She said they met with Dillon Downtown Development Committee and the Ambassadors. On January 30, 2020, they visited businesses downtown, the Port, and the corridor to the Martin Luther King Project. The next meeting will be February 27, 2020 at 6pm at the Wellness Center. She stated this is a public forum and they will give a brief presentation before opening up for group participation. Bridget finished her report by saying the Dillon Downtown Development Website will go live tomorrow, January 11, 2020. Also, if any businesses would like to be a part of the directory please email your information to her.

V. Citizen's Report

Mr. Turner had questions on the drainage system. He stated it has been 3 years and counting that he has been in Dillon and every time it rains it floods. Burt Rogers said the pipe has been dug up and replaced. Dr. Wallace stated we are working on the issues. Mr. Turner said he has been complaining and nothing is being done. Next, he talked about the new trash truck. He said it's not doing an effective job. Councilman Eller interjected saying he has also had a lot of citizens complaining about the trash containers being broken and have they tried to see if they can turn

them around to see if that works. Burt Rogers answered, yes, the driver is trying to bring the containers down slower so it doesn't break the lid. Mr. Turner asked if the truck can go down each street once to not put as much wear and tear on the roads. Also, he asked if citizens can put the cans on one side of the road. Dr. Wallace said it's not a bad idea and we will let Burt Rogers decide.

GiGi and Docs, Stephanie Mitchell requested that when doing the budget please squeeze some matching funds for grants. She said she is in favor of anything to move this town forward. Next, she said if we don't get Sunday Alcohol Sale we will be left behind. Once we get that you will see businesses staying open later. We don't have to partake but it will be good for the City.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business:

Resolution #01-20 PEBA Insurance – 1st Reading – Councilmember Eller made a motion to accept Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember David and it passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-01 Annex Ali Elhuni and Nidal Alsamneh property at 805 Hwy 301 S., Dillon into the city limits – 1st Reading – Councilmember Eller made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-02 Annex Ali Elhuni and Nidal Alsamneh property at 300 E. Palmetto St., Dillon into the city limits – 1st Reading – Councilmember Eller made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-03 Annex Ali Elhuni and Nidal Alsamneh property at 901 Hwy 301 S., Dillon into the city limits – 1st Reading – Councilmember Eller made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-04 Annex Christopher Miller property at 923 Hwy 301 S., Dillon into the city limits – 1st Reading – Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-05 Annex Quiktrip Corporation property at 1700 Hwy 34 W., Dillon into the city limits – 1st Reading – Councilmember David made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #20-06 Adopt the 2018 Editions of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fire and Fuel and Fuel gas codes – 1st Reading – Councilmember David made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

PDRTA Request

Don Strickland started his report saying that everything is moving forward. We have banks, McLeod, and CareSouth on Board. We have identified 8 buses and right now we are at \$150,000 of the \$200,000 needed. The goal is to start in April. We already have 2 drivers on board. Dillon County has committed to \$36,000 a year for 3 years starting in July. We are able to get the services started. To run these services will cost around \$600,00 per year for expenses once it's full blown. The idea is an economic boost for the City.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller started his report asking if Glen got numbers on the putting laptops in the police cars. Glen answered not yet. Councilman Eller said he saw on Facebook that the police are having a police forum and he is excited about that. He asked if a judge could be there. Glen said they will be invited. Councilman Eller asked about the lease on the Golf Course and Glen answered they will talk about that in executive session next month. He went on to ask if we had hired a laborer yet? Glen answered yes, we have. Councilmember Eller stated that we are getting a QT and will we be getting lights on Hwy 34. Glen answered, "Duke is waiting to see growth before they start putting up lights". Lastly, he asked is the building behind American Finance condemned? Glen stated, "yes, it is condemned but they City would have to spend the money to tear it down".

Councilmember David began his report saying he has gotten positive feedback on the signage and thanked Burt Rogers for that. He stated with so much emphasis on the MLK project we strongly need to look into tearing down the old Rownds building (Basket Factory).

Councilmember Washington asked are the people paying the fines for the citations given for Main street? Benny Genwright explained that five fines have been paid, two are in compliance, two are pending repairs, and one asked for a jury trial.

Councilmember Tim Cousar said he got complaints about the ditch on both sides of East Street. He says there is standing water and it really needs to be cleaned. There is a hole in the yard at 506 S. 9th Ave that was never filled after repairs. He said the lights behind Manning Baptist Church were out.

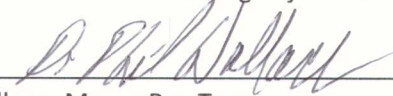
Councilmember Eller asked again how to get the \$15,000 back from Harold Hodgins. He stated he took the grant money and did nothing to the building.

IX. Executive Session

Councilmember David made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to return to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Approved: 
Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem


Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: March 9, 2020