

MINTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 2020

The March 9, 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 Jackson made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember David and seconded by Councilmember Cousar to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on February 10, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Mayor Pro Tem, Dr. Wallace started his report talking about the Chili Cookoff which will be Saturday, March 14 in conjunction with the St. Patty's Day Festival at the South Plaza. He said there will be music and fun. He wanted to continue on some points from the past because he wants them to stay in front of us. We are getting a long-term plan for sewage west of I-95 and also development and annexation of Hwy 34 hopefully out to Harlees Bridge Road. It doesn't look like we are doing anything but these things are in the process of being worked through. These things won't happen quickly but we are working on them.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Glen Wagner started his report discussing the Truck Route in Dillon that was passed in the late 90's to early 2000's. He put SCDOT's response in your packet; they are not comfortable with that truck route. We don't have an alternate route coming from I-95 and Hwy 34. SCDOT is in the process of doing a traffic study due to the Inland Port. Glen stated that last year we applied for a FEMA grant to do a Storm Water study. We were notified last week that we were awarded a grant of about \$240,000. FEMA will pay 75% which is roughly \$185,000 and the City will match 25% which is roughly \$65,000. This grant is strictly for the Storm Water Study. Councilmember David asked if he had gotten with DNR to clean out Little Pee Dee River? Glen stated that will be a part of the study. Burt Rogers and I met with the Disaster Preparedness and SCEMD folks last

Friday to talk about these things. This hasn't been bid out yet but we have until 2022 to use this grant. Councilmember David asked after the study is done will you obtain another grant? Glen Wagner stated no, but once the study is completed, we can take the study to the Federal or State Government to ask for help with the cost. Next, Glen said The State Revolving fund along with FEMA and the Federal Government back in December gave the state money through a loan program to use to do mitigation on any infrastructure water or sewer that creates problems with flooding when we have hurricanes are a lot of rain. We have one area in particular that we are always battling, the Hillside Drive area. That line is by the High School area, the swamp, and then comes by River Drive. That line has holes and breaks in the pipes. That area floods our lift stations and we can't move any sewer into that area. SRF has a program now that we can roughly borrow \$1,000,000 and pay \$100,000 in interest within 20 years. The only way we will fix this is by using our own money. This area doesn't qualify for grants because it's not a low-income area. These pipes are over 40 years old. Glen asked if the Council was interested in borrowing this money? It is a competitive type loan but the quicker we can get our information in the better chance we can have. AECOM sent over an estimate of \$350,000 to line 6200 feet of pipes. Councilmember Jackson made a motion for the City Manager to apply for the loan. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Glen went on to discuss the State insurance plan. We have paid our premiums and submitted paperwork before the March 1, 2020 deadline. PEBA will be here May 5th to speak with employees and answer any questions they may have. Those of you that want to be on the insurance if you can please be there that day. Janet will be going to a seminar so she will be able to do open enrollment before the end of May. Lastly, I just want to remind you that the Police Department will be holding a Community Meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm at the Wellness Center.

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 asked if Janet can provide him the local A-tax funds through email. Janet replied yes.

Dillon Downtown Coordinator

Downtown Coordinator, Bridget Thornton started her report giving an update on the Masterplan process, on February 27, 2020 we did a 2nd series. Benchmark planning was in charge of that meeting. They went through all of the data that was collected. They met with Councilmembers David and Washington and also Todd Davis so we did have representation there. They presented the feedback and asked if they had missed anything in that session. This session was also a public forum. The next session will be an actual workshop. That session will be in May. The Small Business Forum will be coming to Dillon and meeting with the banks to provide loan guarantees to small businesses.

Andrew Hardin

Andrew Hardin came before Council to discuss a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. A copy of his speech is attached to the minutes. Glen stated it is a federal law when it comes to guns. He said Council could pass a Resolution supporting it. Dr. Wallace stated, "we don't know if we have the authority to do what you are asking."

V. Citizen's Report

David Lawacer asked how much do we spend in one year on the Golf Course? Dr. Wallace stated around \$30,000 per year. Mr. Lawacer asked how much are we collecting to offset that amount? Dr. Wallace answered it's subsidized up to \$15,000 a month. Mr. Lawacer stated they are opposing Golf course because they citizens don't want it. He went on to say those funds can be used to promote Downtown. He said the Golf Course is taking too much money. We are losing way too much money on the Golf Course and we could use it at the Wellness Center. Mr. Lawacer asked if we can put a public swimming pool at the Wellness Center? Dr. Wallace stated the Council was looking into a therapeutic pool. He said that a public pool would be a huge liability. Kenneth Smith asked where are we on getting PDRTA? Glen Wagner stated it will be discussed during the budget. Dr. Wallace said he is pretty sure that we will do something. Kenneth Smith said this would be good for the citizens of Dillon. Councilmember Eller said Mr. Strickland came last month and said PDRTA will start in April but I don't even know where the stops are. Mr. Lawacer asked what will the Community Meeting with the police entail? Chief Lane said it will be a question and answer session and please show up to the meeting and voice your concerns. Councilmember David stated he thinks if you weigh out the options the Golf Course is more profitable than the Wellness Center. We produce income at the Golf Course. Councilman David went on to say in Government we are here for the people and if it helps the people, we don't want to take it away. Councilmember David asked, "Mr. Lawacer, do you think the Golf Course should go away?" Mr. Lawacer said, "yes, and at least we own the Wellness Center." Allen Watts wanted to let Council know that if we start to receive complaints about his fence on 8th Avenue; we have a permit and we are working on it.

VI. Old Business

Ordinance #20-01 Annex Ali Elhuni and Nidal Alsamneh property at 805 Hwy 301 S., Dillon into the city limits – 2nd Reading – Councilmember Cousar 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 – 2nd Reading – Councilmember Cousar 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 – 2nd Reading – Councilmember Jackson 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 – 2nd Reading – Councilmember Jackson 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 – 2nd 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 – 2nd Reading – Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve and the motion passed 6-0.

VII. New Business:

Ordinance #20-07 Sunday Alcohol Sales 1st Reading – Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve and the ordinance passed 6-0. Councilmember Eller asked if this passed does the Blue Laws still apply? Glen stated it will be 24 hours. Any store or grocery store still would have to apply for a license if they want to sale alcohol.

Accept Bids on Hwy #9 Water Tank Improvements – Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the bid from Suburban Contractors of Anderson, SC. The motion passed 6-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller stated that he thought Glen would talk about the motel. Glen stated that he and Chief Lane sat down with the hotel owners and they seem to be willing to contract us to put officers out there. Councilmember Eller said he is hearing that they have makeshift tents behind the motel and behind Food Lion. He asked if they can please check into that. Councilmember Eller went on to say the Animal Control Officer makes just as much as a Police officer starting out. We need to look into this and make some changes. We really need to give all employees a raise. We have employees that have been here for over 10 years and are only making \$13-\$13.50 per hour. Dr. Wallace stated that it would cost the City \$120,000 per year to give each employee \$1.00 per hour raises and we would have to be able to sustain that in the Budget. Councilmember Eller said I'm just asking for you to crunch the numbers and come back with something for the employees. Dr. Wallace said I'm not opposed to giving raises but I want to be able to maintain it.

Councilmember David state that the public needs to know that McArthur to Calhoun has been open up both ways.

Councilmember Jackson stated the water is not standing like it was and it's flowing pretty good so whatever you are doing it's helping.

Councilmember Cousar said Hudson and 6th Avenue has a busted line that needs to be fixed. Hardy Jackson stated we can get it fixed.

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: _____

May 11, 2020

**Speech in support of Dillon County 2nd
Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance
24 Feb 2020**

**Andrew Hardin, of Dillon County, speaking in support
of this ordinance.**

1798 5th US Congress passed Alien and Sedition Acts

- **Unconstitutional – infringed on 1st amendment
freedom of speech and freedom of the press**
- **Virginia and Kentucky passed Nullification
Resolutions saying “We will not comply”**
- **Thomas Jefferson wrote at the same time;
“Nullification is the RIGHTFUL REMEDY
whenever the government violates the
Constitution”.**

**Now, over 200 years later, our governments, at all
levels, are tripping over themselves enacting
unconstitutional gun-control legislation.**

**It is hard for me to process, because the 2nd
amendment is quite simple and easy to understand:
”A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the
security of a free State, the right of the people to
keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”**

The first sentence of the SC Constitution in Article 1, Section 20 reads the same.

“Shall not be infringed”...what does that mean? Well the founding father’s letters were perfectly clear on this SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED BY GOVERNMENT!!

Since 1934 there have been 11 pieces of federal government legislation that have infringed on the 2nd Amendment. They deal with the manufacture, transfer, import, trade, licensing, possession, carry, government background checks, assault weapon bans, purchase of various firearm accessories, even holding manufacturers and licensed dealers liable when crimes have been committed with their products. And now we have proposed “Red Flag” laws that not only infringe on our 2nd Amendment, but also are in direct violation of our 5th Amendment right to due process.

But then we live in SC and we are a RED state so why do we need 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Counties?

Columbia City Council and Mayor:

- **Recently passed gun control legislation on where you can carry a gun in the city, and also passed their version of a “Red Flag” law.**
- **SC Legislature proposed gun-control legislation:**
 - **According to the Greenville News there have been 50 pieces of gun control legislation proposed in the SC legislature since 2017 (luckily, none have passed).**
 - **Currently before the legislature:**
 - **2 “Red Flag” bills, H.3275 and H.4991.**
 - **Three bills restricting who can own a firearm; S.1039, H.3053, and H.4087.**
 - **An Assault Weapons ban -H.4682**
 - **For the past 3 years we have failed to pass Constitutional Carry and we are one of only 5 states that has no form of “open carry”.**

So much for “SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED”, even in our beautiful Palmetto State.

The good news is that the American Public is finally waking up.

Because of the gun control measures being taken by the new Governor of Virginia, 86 counties and 19 cities in that state have enacted some form of 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution. In North Carolina, Eight Counties have declared 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Status. And counties in other states have quickly followed' Pennsylvania, Maryland, Oregon, Washington, Kansas, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Texas just to name a few. In South Carolina we already have 4 counties that have declared themselves 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Counties.

Americans across our great country are finally standing up and saying "enough is enough" and "we will *NOT COMPLY* with unconstitutional gun laws".

Councilmen – I urge you to pass this ordinance. This ordinance, at this time and place.....IS THE RIGHTFUL REMEDY.

As a former law enforcement officer, Husband, and father of 3, I know the importance of the 2nd ammendment. I choose to take stand in preserving the right that was given to us by our founding fathers. I will fight to preserve the rights of not only

the good citizens of this great county, but the residents of South Carolina. I ask that you Do what is right, and protect these rights. Allow our great county to become a 2nd ammendment sanctuary, so that our citizens can protect themselves against the evils of this world.

Thank you for your listening to me and God Bless America.