

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 11, 2020

The May 11, 2020 Regular meeting of the City Council was held via teleconference. 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 recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Wallace gave the invocation.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
Councilmember David made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting and the March 16, 2020 Special Called Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Jackson and seconded by Councilmember David to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of March 9, 2020 and Special Called meeting of March 16, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Wallace started his report discussing Covid-19 saying thank the Lord that we haven't had any deaths. He stated that he has two patients that are very sick with Covid-19. One of the patients started with pneumonia but has gotten very sick. He said we need to start returning to some form of normality. He went on to say that if you are over the age of 65 and healthy you need to be smart but probably are safe to back to normal, but if you have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, obesity, or hypertension you actually need to stay quarantined socially and should wear a mask until we can get a safe vaccine. Dr. Wallace said during the Great Depression 7,000,000 people died from starvation, and today it would be about 30,000,000 people so opening up the economy is a must but we must do it safely. The governor is going to allow us to open up the Wellness Center with restrictions and that is a good thing. The golf course has had record number of people coming out. A lot of families and women are playing golf for the first time. Dr. Wallace said that he is a little concerned about reviewing the finances because we have had a small drop in revenue. Lastly, he said he hopes the small businesses took advantage of the Small Business Loans.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner started his report discussing the Governor's briefing today around 4:30pm. He stated as of May 18, 2020, we can now open Barbershops, hair salons, and fitness centers with social distancing restrictions. The Wellness Center will only open on the Fitness side. There will be no meetings and no basketball held at the Wellness Center. The staff has sanitized and cleaned the Wellness Center to prepare to reopen. Glen Wagner also stated that Monday, May 18, 2020 City Hall will open to the public, we have been closed since March 17, 2020. Glen said he was concerned about people not being able to pay their utility bills. Since March 16, 2020 when the Governor requested that we cannot cut off people for non-payment our delinquent list has not grown. People have taking advantage of paying their bills by phone and/or by mail. When this began, we started looking into having some sort of online payment. We have been talking about it and are now in the process to get online payments started and hopefully that will be in place by the first of July. As of today, we have a total of 160 customers delinquent we usually have about 120 customers delinquent. What I hope to do is, once the Governor lifts the order, we will reach out to the customers on Friday that are on our cutoff list. We will work out a payment plan with the customers to make sure everybody is on a plan and hopefully by the end of July we will have everyone caught up. Business licenses are due and after June 30 penalties will be added on. There have been no issues but if there are any issues Benny and I will sit down and try to work with the business owners once we open back up. We don't want to keep businesses closed that were already struggling prior to the pandemic. This time of year, we usually discuss the budget but since we have been closed, we haven't done much on the budget. We knew about six months ago that our budget would be late since we switched to PEBA insurance. I talked to Council at that time about some savings. We won't know about the savings until we have everyone signed up. Right now, we have 89 employees and we have 41 signed up for PEBA insurance. We will have this done by May 25. Hopefully in June we will be able to have a budget workshop. Glen stated that he thinks we need to do that in person. If we are still social distancing, we can possibly have the Budget Workshop at the Wellness Center. I received notification from the state requesting expenditures by 5pm Friday. The City of Dillon nor any other city in South Carolina have received that money because we had to have 500,000 people in population. The city of Greenville is the only municipality that received those funds. These expenditures will include funds to pay first responders. Congress decided in March and passed in April that every employee received an extra 80 hours of sick leave that have tested positive for Covid-19. Lastly, is personal protective equipment to include mask gloves and hand sanitizer that we purchased for staff we will know those numbers by the end of the week. I am making assumptions that there will be more money for economic development and infrastructure improvements to do shovel ready projects so we will have projects ready to start now. Back in 08-09 era we weren't able to take advantage because we weren't ready. We advertised on Facebook and the Dillon Herald about our meeting tonight. We asked if anyone had questions or comments to email or send by Facebook messenger but we didn't receive any questions.

Finance Report

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

V. Citizen's Report

None

VI. Old Business

Ordinance #20-07 Sunday Alcohol Sales 2nd Reading – Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve and the ordinance passed 6-0.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller started his report saying he won't talk about the Golf course at this meeting. He asked Glen when will we have an audit from Brooke Smith? Glen answered, "we were supposed to have one in April but now we are looking at June". Councilmember Eller asked will there be a charge for online payments? Glen answered, "that will be a council decision". Councilmember Eller said with 160 people delinquent, will you do as much as possible to help the elderly get caught up on their accounts. Glen stated we will work with them to come up with a payment plan. Councilmember Eller went on to say we have had a lot of crime in the last few weeks and the people want to know why our police chief won't give a press release explaining what happened. Glen asked Chief David Lane, "Will you address this"? Chief Lane said, "yes, there has been a lot of crime but somethings are within our control and somethings are not. We let the citizens know today, that this wasn't a drive by shooting it was an argument at a resident and we are doing the best we can. Eller asked are these guys out on bond? Chief Lanes said, "I haven't heard that". Councilmember Eller went on to say we are losing a lot of officers, how are we handling the drug cases since we don't have those officers anymore. Chief Lane stated we have Special Operations working Narcotics. Our street guys are doing their part we are between a rock and hard place. Councilmember Eller stated we need to get together and crunch numbers to give these guys more pay. He asked Glen if he is waiting on the Governor to give the ok on recreations? Glen stated yes, we will know more once we see the written executive order.

Councilmember David started his report saying he appreciates the city employees during this pandemic. He said he had to call a few times to get help with a couple of disabled individuals in his district. He said thumbs up to Burt Rogers he really appreciates his help. Councilmember David asked how many court cases do we have pending for court? Glen stated I don't have that number and no court will be held until the first Wednesday in June. The courtroom will be open to the public next week. I can find that number out tomorrow. David said he would like to have that number. Glen reminded Councilmember David that Municipal Court doesn't fall under his jurisdiction. Councilmember David said he would like for the judge to come before us and talk to us about how we can get these cases out. Councilmember David asked Glen to explain shovel ready project. Glen stated they are projects that are already designed and approved. You have to do a preliminary review and DHEC signs it. If money is sitting out there for shovel ready projects, we will already have that portion completed.

Councilmember Washington started his report complimenting the lights on the sidewalk on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. He said they are looking good. Glen stated we have to wait for Duke Energy to put the underground wiring down so they can pour cement for the sidewalk.

Councilmember Jackson – No Report.

Councilmember Cousar started his report asking how do we get more lighting in my area. He stated more lighting may help with the break-ins and drug activity. Glen stated get with me and show me where you have the concerns so we can look into getting that done. Glen said sometimes it can take 4-6 months to get lights. I ordered some in January and they just got back with me. If it's just adding a light to a pole, we can get that done just get with me. Councilmember Cousar asked Chief David Lane are their speed limits in the residential areas? He stated people come down Main Street going over 100 mph can we get the police to ride on the side roads. Can we get speed limit signs? Glen said that would be a SCDOT question, but I will ask if they will put speed limit signs up. Councilmember Cousar asked Chief Lane to get his officers to patrol 6th Avenue so people will stop speeding through there? Chief Lane stated we will definitely try to do that.

Glen stated I just received a text from the Governor, Athletic fields and playgrounds are still closed under the Governors order.

Councilmember Eller asked, "will the tickets that the officer wrote before leaving be drawn out." Chief Lane stated that will be totally up to the judge.

IX. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

June 8, 2020