

MINTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2020

The June 8, 2020 Regular meeting of the City Council was held at the City of Dillon Wellness Center, 1647 Commerce Drive, 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 recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Wallace gave the invocation.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
Councilmember Washington made a motion to approve the Agenda with the correction by Glen Wagner to change Ordinance #20-09 from General Fund Budget to Combined City Budget. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the May 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and the June 1, 2020 and June 4, 2020 Budget Workshop**
A motion was made by Councilmember Jackson and seconded by Councilmember Cousar to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 11, 2020 and the Budget Workshop of June 1, 2020 and June 4, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace started his report commending Council on a very good Budget Workshop meetings. He commended Glen Wagner and the Directors on a balanced budget. He stated that is something that not many Governments do. He went on to talk about the Police Department. He said we have 28 police cars and we will look at four police cars per year at \$180,000. We haven't totally funded that but we are working towards it. Dr. Wallace said he is proud of the way Council handled that. He said it's a good conservative budget. We look to max grants and loans to expand our Sewage and Treatment plant. He also stated that he wanted to change the May 11, 2020 minutes to show 7,000,000 people died of starvation during the Great Depression and not 10,000,000. He hopes that as we go back to work our City and Country will not suffer. Lastly, he said maybe we are over the worse of this virus.

Smith Brooks 2019 Audit Report

Smith Brooks gave copies of the Audit Report to the Mayor Pro Tem, City Council, and City Manager.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner started his report saying he is pleased with Councils' input over the two nights of Workshop. The first reading on the City Combined Budget is tonight. He said he included 2mill increase in the budget. He also said the budget includes \$1,200 salary increase for fulltime employees, purchase two police cars, and purchase mowers for Public works. Resolution #02-20 is a CDBG application for sewer upgrades at Rosewood Apartments and in the Newtown area. We are doing the surveys now. The grant is for \$750,000 with a city match of 10% for an estimated cost of the project of \$825,000. Glen said we are 50% finished with the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd project. He said they should be completed within 3 to 4 months. Glen went on to say that the Downtown Master Plan is on schedule and he met with them via telephone and they plan to present a draft to Council in August. The Police Department has applied for Grants to purchase laptops in patrol cars, possible additional police cars, drones, and hopefully we'll hear something in the next few weeks. Glen went on to talk about proposals for Hillside Drive improvements. He said he sent the proposals to 5 or 6 engineering firms and they should reply before July 9, 2020 and since this is Federal money, we have to follow Federal guidelines.

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

Richard Calhoun commended Council for getting a clean audit. He said he wants to impress on Council that at this time it is very good to have the Golf Course available especially from an Economic development. He thanked Council for the support. He went on to say that if you don't go to the Golf Course you won't know who uses it. He stated the facilities are used by commercial businesses and the schools use the facilities for sport events and practices.

Matt Moody said he's been in several Council meetings for his employer First Bank and he is also on the Twin Lakes Board. He said he was in a Council meeting in November or December and a few citizens voiced their opinions and he didn't say anything. Mr. Moody stated when the citizen voiced his opinion, he didn't say anything but he wondered how much time that citizen spent at the Golf Course. He said First Bank, First Citizens, and Perdue are frequent renters of that facility. We also have weddings there and it serves a lot of purposes. There is no other venue to hold these functions. Mr. Moody went on to say in regards to the Golf Course, it is amazing. He stated the diversity of people is not what you think and he is very proud to be a board member. He said it is far from a white-collar Golf course and he is very proud to be a member. The pros far outweigh the cons but it's not perfect. He said when people at different industries form committees and look at relocating to Dillon, they obviously look at the amenities and to think about taking away the Golf Course is not looking toward the future. If you don't look at the future Dillon can never grow. He thanked Council for past support and I ask for your continued support going forward. We really need this facility for the growth of our City and County.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. **New Business**

Ordinance #20-09 2020-2021 Combined City Budget 1st Reading – Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve 1st reading and Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #02-20 CDBG Grant Application – Councilmember Washington made a motion to approve and Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #03-20 SCPEBA Insurance Plans for Retirees – After Glen Wagner gave more information on this Resolution, Councilmember Washington made a motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Twin Lakes Golf Course 2-year Lease Agreement – Councilmember Washington made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 5-1. Councilmember Eller made a motion to table the lease based on citizens weren't able to come due to conflicts. He said we just got this on the Agenda Thursday. There was no second. The motion failed. Councilmember Eller wanted to go on the record saying that he is not against the Golf Course, he just doesn't think the City of Dillon should be involved. Councilmember Eller asked how many members were at the Golf Course? Glen said he wasn't sure, one of the board members answered about 60 members. Councilmember Eller wants the record to reflect that he is not against the Golf Course he is against the City being involved due to the fact that our children don't have anything. He stated over the course of seven years the city has given the Golf Course over \$350,000 and we have nothing for the kids in our County. He stated he has been on Council for 11 years and he's only gotten \$25,000 for upgrades in his district and the money being spent on the Golf Course could be used to upgrade the parks. Councilman Eller asked for a ledger of hidden cost that are not showing on the record for the Golf Course and we are paying \$875 a month (\$75,000 over 7 years) for a sign in Florence County for your golf course and that is ridiculous. He said he is here to let the people know about the money being spent or lost. He said that money could be used to upgrade uptown. We have 30 empty upfront stores empty right now and the money could be used for that. He is all for golfing he just thinks the City of Dillon should come out of funding the golf course. He ended saying no disrespect to anyone but that is where he stands and that's how he feels.

Citizen, Kenny Stephenson said if you keep people in town playing golf they will eat here in town and play golf. He said if I go to Florence to play golf then that is where I will eat and spend money. Councilman Eller asked why was a check cut for \$5,000 from A-Tax for the last three years to the United Methodist Church? Dr. Wallace stated that he donates his salary to the Methodist Church. He said the City writes a check to the Methodist Church and they write a check to Helping Hands. Councilmember Eller asked why can't the City just write a check to Red Cross? Dr. Wallace stated he decides that because it's his check. Councilman Eller said we are cutting you a check for \$8,000 for the employees to get physicals through your office. Dr. Wallace stated yes because he does a service. Councilman Eller asked if we can put on the next Agenda to bid out to medical facilities to provide the service that Dr. Wallace does. Dr. Wallace stated he wanted to clear up the original \$5,000 that's written to the Methodist Church was his salary. Councilman Eller stated yes and he only gets \$3,600 for his salary so that's \$1,400 more than him. The motion passed 5-1.

Councilman David stated that the Golf Course pays at least half of its way and it is a quality of life and if you don't have this, you have nothing. He said no one will come to this county if we don't

offer this. He said financially he thinks the Golf Course is in really good shape and it offers a tremendous service to the elderly and to your younger people. It's a true asset to the City and to the County. As far as charitable services the Golf course is second to none and brings a tremendous amount of charity. If you do away with that where does your money come from? Councilman David stated they brought in over \$500,000 in charity over a long period of time. Councilman Eller asked if Councilman David could prove that because he can prove that the City has lost money. Councilman Eller asked if the City could commit to putting laptops in the patrol cars if they didn't get the grants. Glen Wagner stated, "yes, we could do that." Councilman Eller also asked if we could take \$50,000 from the hospitality tax to upgrade the complexes.


VIII. Councilmember's Reports


Councilman Eller asked if the City could commit to putting laptops in the patrol cars if they didn't get the grants. Glen Wagner stated, "yes, we could do that." Councilman Eller also asked if we could take \$50,000 from the hospitality fund to upgrade the complex and do things for the kids. Glen stated he will bring something back to the next meeting. Councilman Eller asked how often are the police officers allowed to get training? Glen stated yes, they can go at any time. Police officers are given a list of training and all they have to do is ask.

Councilmember Cousar asked how many police cars do we have. Chief Lane answered 28. Councilman Cousar asked is it mandatory for them to have dark tinted windows? He said if they can see him, he should be able to see them. He stated if he has to make a report, he needs to see the officers that are driving the car. Chief Lane said all police cars have numbers on the side for that reason. Chief Lane explained that if they need to take a victim to identify a suspect they can ride by the suspect and they won't be able to see the victim.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Jackson 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: July 13, 2020