

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
July 13, 2020

The July 13, 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. Benny Genwright gave the invocation.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
Councilmember David made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the June 8, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and the June 29, 2020 Public Hearing**  
A motion was made by Councilmember Cousar and seconded by Councilmember David to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of June 8, 2020 and the Public Hearing of June 29, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**  
Dr. Wallace began his report discussing COVID-19. He stated that he has been busy trying to weather the storm. He thought we were over the tough part but I was wrong. It seems that everyone that has made a guess about this virus has been wrong. We are seeing huge spikes. I am not sure why we are doing so much testing because it closes the pipeline to test people that are showing symptoms. We have some good drugs that are coming out. We have Decadron medication that creates a tremendous inflammatory response in the body. It's not the virus that causes the disease, it's the body's response to the virus. We are having a lot of different presentations to this disease. He said the last time he looked we've had fifteen deaths. It is impacting our community and definitely impacting our well-being. I think we just need to be vigilant and while you are in public and close to people please wear your mask. Next, Dr. Wallace said he thinks other things in the City are going well. He went on to say he appreciates the efforts of Burt Rogers and Todd Hayes. He said the Golf Course absolutely looks the best that he has ever seen it and he has been here 37 years. Dr. Wallace started discussing the issues with Storm Drainage. He thinks that with the mapping and the things that we have done we might be able to make some significant impact with the flooding with less than a \$20,000,000 investment by

revamping the whole system. We are looking forward to all of the studies coming back from that. Lastly, he said we are also coming close to finishing the old Price Building. We have put a lot more money in it than we wanted to but it is a gorgeous building. We have people looking at those buildings so maybe they will put something nice there that will be a focus for growth in Downtown.

#### **City Manager's Report**

Glen Wagner began his report discussing the Facade Grants from this past year that we have completed. Downtown property owners spent \$74,188 on 10 different properties. The City paid out \$21,573 out of a possible \$24,000 as a match. Out of three years this is the most money that we have spent. We started advertising last week through the Newspaper, Facebook, and our Website. Councilmember Eller asked what can we do to try lure some people to put businesses downtown because we have 30 empty buildings. Glen answered that we gave incentives and we have only had one (Tammy Berry) take advantage of it. She got a reduction of 50% on her business license, 50% on her permits, and we waived the Water and Sewer tap fees. She will also get a rebate of 1% on her tax during the year on hot meals. The building that Stephanie Mitchell purchased beside the Council of Aging is scheduled to be torn down this week. DHEC has finally signed off on the permit. Councilman Eller asked about the building behind American Finance. Glen stated we have looked at the building but it is in an estate. It has been condemned. Councilmember Eller said he thinks that we need to take action because if it falls during a Hurricane it could cause damage to property or hurt someone. Glen stated we can but Council will need to vote on tearing that building down. We will put it on the Agenda for next month. The Benchmark folks will be here in August to present us with their findings. When I talked with them a few weeks ago he asked about that building. He wanted to know the historical value of that building because he understood it was one of the first hotels for minorities in the City. Councilmember Washington asked if we are ever going to do anything about the Rownd Property? Glen said we could do something like an imminent domain. Councilmember Eller stated he thinks it is a disgrace that the City can get grants to build sidewalks and put up lights and we should be able to do something about this. The basket factory has been an eye sore for years. He stated he attends the meetings with the Municipal Association and other towns are turning eye sores into Greenspace and maybe we should reach out to them and see how they did it. Next, Glen went on to say we got a \$200,000 to \$225,000 Grant from FEMA to do the Storm Water Study and our match would be 20%. South Carolina Emergency Management has a grant available that would offset our match. We will apply for that and maybe we won't have any money tied into the Storm Water Management Study. They should begin the study within 60-90 days. The consultants will hold public meetings to find out what's happening in their neighborhood as far as storm water. After these meetings they will come back with a plan. Dr. Wallace interjected by saying they shouldn't interview people they should ask Burt Rogers where it floods. Glen stated that is the process. He has reached out to SCDOT to get some input on our drains and I am waiting on a response from them. Councilmember Eller asked if we are fully staffed on storm drainage? Glen answered yes, we hired two employees back in January. Burt Rogers elaborated on what these two employees' duties are and what they are doing to help with storm drains. Glen stated we have some issues on East Cleveland and North 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, we have about 100 feet of pipe in the rite of way that we will be able to repair ourselves because it is the grass. We have an open ditch



between Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave which is on Mr. Willie Bethea property and he is going to help pay for the piping to fix that. Lastly, Glen said he received an email from Angie Freitas in the Courts saying that Chief Justice Bates intends to issue a statewide order requiring everyone entering or conducting business at a Magistrate or Municipal Courthouse statewide to wear a mask or face covering. If they don't have a mask or face covering one must be provided to them. I just wanted to make everyone aware of that. The Alley that Council voted to close off of Harrison street was scheduled to go to Court in March but due to Covid-19 they weren't able to hold Court. Jack McInnis has recorded the final deeds today.

#### **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**

None.

#### **VII. New Business**

##### **Accepting Bids for Employee Medical Services –**

Dr. Wallace recused himself out of this discussion and vote because his business put in a bid. Councilmember Eller asked if the City has a sealed bid policy? Glen responded no. Councilmember Eller asked that when we bid things out in the future, we need to look into having a policy in place where the bids are sealed and opened in front of Council. Glen responded professional services don't have to be bid out but our procurement policy says vehicles over \$30,000 or more have to be bid out. If it's done through State contract it doesn't have to be bid out. Councilmember Eller asked if we sent a bid request to Care South. Glen answered no, we sent request out to Dillon Family Medicine, Dillon Internal Medicine, Stanton Chiropractic, and McLeod. Glen gave information on the prices and services and requested that they keep the Pre-employment Physicals and Drug Screens with the same provider. Councilmember Eller asked had Dillon Internal Medicine always charged what they show today? Glen responded in 2018/19 they billed \$90 for the past two years. Councilmember Eller said for the record the bids need to be sealed because Dr. Wallace can see the bids, not saying he did but he can. Councilmember Eller asked why did Dillon Internal Medicine increase from \$90 to \$100? Glen said no one had seen these bids until Friday and Council has to unanimously vote yes for Dr. Wallace to win the bid. Glen asked that they vote for each service separately. Councilman Washington asked what do you do, if you don't get a unanimous vote? Glen stated you give the bid to the next lowest bid. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the bids from Dillon Internal Medicine and Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion failed. Councilmember David asked for Glen to give information on that law again. Glen said the law states that any municipal officer that has a financial interest can submit a bid but it has to be a unanimous vote for him to win the bid. Councilmember Jackson made a motion that new employees can go to the provider they choose for physicals and drug screen with no cost over \$100. Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Councilmember David made a motion to use Dillon Internal Medicine for

Annual Fire Physicals. Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion failed 4-1. Councilmember David made a motion to keep Annual Fire Physical as is. Firemen can choose between Dillon Internal Medicine and Dillon Family Medicine. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember David made a motion that employee get the DOT physical where they choose. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember David made a motion that the employee can choose to go to any provider that they choose for Workers Compensation. Councilmember Washington seconded. Glen stated that wasn't a good idea because we need one person for the insurance people and for us to consult with. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept Dillon Internal Medicine for Worker's Compensation. Councilmember David seconded. The motion failed 4-1. Councilmember David asked what is the problem with letting the employee make a choice. Janet Bethea stated sometimes if you go to your personal provider, they would be easier to convince to let the employee stay out of work longer. After much discussion on Workers Compensation, it was decided to get more information from the Municipal Trust and bring it back to Council at the August meeting. Councilmember Eller asked if Dillon Internal medicine and Dillon Family Medicine could specify services that they provide. Councilmember Cousar made a motion that Glen come back next meeting with more information. Councilmember Washington seconded and motion passed 3-2. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept Dillon Internal Medicine to as lowest bid to provide Hepatitis B shots. Councilmember Washington seconded and motion passed 5-0.

Dr. Wallace wanted to make a comment that is not related to the bids but his integrity. He asked each councilmember if he called them or asked anyone about this bid process. Everyone replied no. He said his integrity was questioned and he wanted to make that clear.

**Ordinance # 20-10 Amend and Update Title 5, Chapter 9 City of Dillon Code of Ordinance – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – Councilmember David made a motion to approve and Councilmember Washington seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

**Ordinance #20-11 Amend Zoning Map for Kenny Cook property, AMS Service, LLC – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion 6-0.

**Ordinance #20-12 Amend Zoning Map from Dillon Home Rentals, LLC – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – Councilmember David mad a motion to approve. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

#### **VIII. Councilmember's Reports**

Councilmember Eller asked Glen to explain the new donation policy. Glen stated that in the future when someone brings a letter requesting donations from the City, he will bring it before Council instead of signing off on it. Next, Councilmember Eller asked about the cost of sod on the golf course and on Robinson Court. Burt Rogers said it was a little over \$1,000 for the Golf Course and a little of \$1,000 on Tim Ammons property. Burt Rogers explained they put sod in Tim Ammons yard because they dug it up to fix a pipe. Councilman Eller went to discuss public safety. He wants to know what are we doing to fill these positions. Glen explained we are waiting to fill positions. He said Latta just got a new K-9 and a drone and all of their officers are certified to use the drone. Chief David Lane said that is not true, maybe half of them are. Councilmember Eller asked when was the last time that Dillon had a drug bust. Chief



Lane stated yes, we did get a gun and marijuana. Councilman Eller asked if he could get a copy of that report. Chief Lane responded sure. Lastly, Councilman Eller said we have a lot of illegal activity going on at this motel and we need to do something about it.

Councilmember David asked about the General Fund. What work did we do at the City County-Complex? Janet responded we had to help repair the air conditioning and the elevator. He went on to say he wanted to put as little as possible under miscellaneous. Councilmember David asked why are we always over on office supplies, janitorial supplies, and printing. Glen stated we purchase cleaning supplies for the people doing community service to give them something to do. Explain why we are so over on special events. Janet Bethea stated that is for the events downtown when we had no idea that we were going to do. Councilmember David said he would like to see us get away from using miscellaneous in the Finance report. Councilmember David ended his report thanking the City Police Department, EMS, and Fire. We have had some horrific accidents but the efficiency and what they have done trying to keep others safe was excellent. Thank you for keeping a lot of people from being hurt.

Dr. Wallace started his report saying whoever you decide to use, you need to use one provider. That provider should treat the patient first but also protect the industry. There is a limited amount that you can do without an authorization from Workers Compensation. You have to get a lot of things approved and send it to where they tell you to. A lot of it is mandated by Worker's Compensation insurance it has nothing to do with the provider. Whoever you decide on you need to have a working relationship.

#### 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 9:05pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

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Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

August 10, 2020