

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 21, 2020

The September 21, 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 Jackson made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the August 10, 2020 Regular Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember David and seconded by Councilmember Cousar to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting August 10, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace started his report saying that as of August 21, 2020 we have had 28 COVID related deaths. He said he really didn't have much to report because things were going well. He asked Glen about an event on September 24, 2020. Glen responded that Clay Young sent an email and it is a meeting on Economic Development. Duke Energy is giving money for industrial expansions.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report saying Care South had a COVID testing site set up at the Wellness Center today. He said Care South is working with DHEC to do more testing. Glen continued his report talking about condemned properties such as the old Madison Estate. He and Benny Genwright met with family members at City Hall and explained that the City could tear the building down. They spoke with Jamie Estes to get more information on how putting a lien on the property would work. Glen said the property owners would have to pay the lien when the taxes are due. If they didn't pay the taxes, the property would go to a tax sale and the property owners would have 12 months to redeem it. He said he wanted to educate the family but they have never opened an estate so they can't do anything with the property. Glen said the family has hired an attorney to open an estate which could take about 8 months. Benny Genwright stated the structure is a liability to the City. He said the building could fall at any time injuring someone and the City would be held liable if no action is taken. Glen stated it would cost the City around \$31,000 to tear the building down and we might not get reimbursed. Councilmember David

asked if we could purchase the building at auction and use grant money to tear it down. Glen stated yes, we could do that but if we used grant money that we couldn't do anything with the building. Glen stated he offered to purchase the property for a minimum of \$2,500-\$5,000 and turn it into a green space. Dr. Wallace asked Glen to find out if the family is willing to accept for the property. Councilmember Eller asked Glen to get more bids on tearing the property down. Glen responded, "yes, he will work on getting more bids." Councilmember Jackson made a motion to offer the family \$5,000 to purchase the Madison Estate. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Glen continued his report saying that he and Burt Rogers will meet with engineers to show areas for Stormwater drainage issues. He is not sure how long this will take and what information they will give back. He said he gave them copies of maps from 1975. He said we still have areas that flood pretty bad and will take the engineers to those areas. Glen went on to give information on active grants, and awarded grants. Lastly, Glen discussed special events. He said since COVID we have shut down events. We have three major events coming up and wanted to know if Council wanted to continue with the events. The first event coming up is the Trunk or Treat sponsored by the City of Dillon Police Department scheduled for October 29. He stated that he made a suggestion to have it outside around the track at the Wellness Center. Dr. Wallace stated if the Police Department want to do it then we should do it. Glen said we also have the Holiday Goodness scheduled for November 21, which is held inside. We can't have any more than 250 people insider per the Governors' Executive Order. We also have our annual Christmas Tree Lighting that we have to figure out how to safely spread people out as much as possible. All of these events will require people to wear masks. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to continue with the special events and follow guidelines. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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 #20-13 Amend Title 5 Chapter 4 City of Dillon Code of Ordinance to allow signs to be erected at a maximum of 100FT within the Highway Commercial District – 1st Reading

Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve and Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

Ordinance #20-14 Rezone R. Walton Brown, Etal property from a B-2 Highway Commercial District to a R-7 Medium Density Residential District – 1st Reading Councilmember David made a motion to approve and Councilmember Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #06-20 to allow the Dillon Community Alliance to administer the City of Dillon Façade Grant Program. After much discussion, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to

approve. Councilmember Washington seconded and after much discussion the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report asking if we put police cars in the budget? Chief David Lane answered, "we did not get the JAG grant". Councilmember Eller asked if old police cars were put on Gov Deals and does the money go back to the police cars. Chief Lane responded, "yes, most of those cars were purchased with from drug funds and that is where the money will go back to". Councilmember Eller went on to ask if Perdue should be helping the City with cost when we have to buy things to cut down on the odor? Glen responded, "yes, we can ask". Lastly, Councilmember Eller made a motion for Jack McInnis to do research on getting UPFIT Grant money back from business owners who didn't complete projects as agreed upon. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Councilmember David started his report thanking DCA for taking over the Grant program to help the City. He went on to ask if we can look into purchasing protective vests to protect police officers from rifles because AR-15 rifles are out there and we need that kind of protection. Chief Lane stated that he will look into it. Lastly, Councilman David asked if we can look into doing away with the Residential Historic district. Glen stated he will have to go back and research any agreements that we may have with the state.

Councilmember Washington began his report saying Duke Energy has cut the tree limbs on Martin Luther King Blvd. He also asked if anything can be done about Rownds? Benny Genwright stated that we have condemned the building.

Councilmember Cousar asked if we would be replacing equipment in the parks on 8th Avenue and Elizabeth Lane? Glen stated we aren't sure yet but we will be doing something.

Councilmember Eller asked if we can use the \$50,000 Hospitality fund to fix the park? Glen responded, "maybe".

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

10/12/2020