

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 8, 2021

The February 8, 2021 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 Cousar made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the January 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Jackson and seconded by Councilmember Cousar to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting January 18, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace began his report with an update on the COVID vaccine. They are now available in SC for the age of 65 and older. The number of COVID cases are down. The deaths will lag behind the cases and we have had a number of deaths, Dr. Wallace stated. Dr. Wallace went on to say that if you've had COVID, you should wait about 3 months before getting the vaccination and you don't really need it because you will have immunity. He said he got a call from Randy Brown from Perdue to inform him that he has been moved up to a regional position. Randy Brown has been in charge in Dillon for about 12 years. He says there is going to be someone else taking over his position here. He said they are closing the grain plant in Hamer. Perdue is still using about 1.9M gallons a day in the sewage treatment plant. He understood it to be 2M and they have been bumping that pretty close hitting 2.9M over that last week. Dr. Wallace stated he told Randy Brown not to worry about that. He did mention it to Randy Brown that our long-term plan was to put something on that side of I95 so we wouldn't be pumping so much debris from Little Rock and Lake View. They can possibly save with our long-time sewage treatment. Next, Dr. Wallace said he has noticed in the newspaper that we are seeing some drug bust and arrest and he hopes the City is helping with that. People need to see arrest. He said he hopes it doesn't affect anyone in the room but we need to do what we can do. Dr. Wallace went to say he has talked to Glen about and he will need a report from each director explaining what you have done over the last year and what your plan is for the next 12 months. Lastly, Dr. Wallace talked about how the golf course is doing well and it is making more money. They had a tremendous show for the golf

tournament. A week ago, the owner announced that he would give the golf course in some fashion to the city. That will allow us to possibly apply for grants and it will save us \$2500 a month. We have talked about buying land on the other side of the river. I think this will cause us to have land on both sides of the river and put some things out there like possibly a path from the wellness center to the golf course.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report by explaining the information packets that he put on the tables is pertaining to last months' meeting. He went on to discuss Burt Rogers is having some issues with the garbage truck. We received some quotes on what it would cost to purchase a new truck. After looking at these numbers Glen stated that he was wondering if it's worth it for us to be in the commercial garbage business. He said he had Janet Bethea to pull some numbers and was shocked at what those numbers turned out to be. He was preparing to come tell you that maybe we need to get out of the commercial garbage business. When you take what we spend in commercial garbage business verses the revenue that we bring in from the commercial dumpsters we're doing pretty good. Dr. Wallace stated that we might need to purchase a new garbage truck. Glen said we talk about depreciation funds a lot and in the general fund we have right at \$800,000 which we use during our slow period. Glen stated just as the last one that we purchased for residential we have to purchase it so far in advance and we have to write a letter saying we will need this around June or July. Is that something that Council would want us to do? The first quote that we have is from Amick which is \$257,253.97. The second quote is from Carolina environmental and is \$279,300 both are Mac trucks. Councilmember Eller asked what is the warranty? Burt Rogers responded we only have a one-year warranty. Councilmember Eller asked if you could get an extended warranty? Glen said that we can look into that. Councilmember Cousar made a motion and Councilmember Washington second to send a letter and budget for a Commercial garbage truck. Councilmember Eller asked where would we get the money. Glen stated either from the depreciation fund or a bank loan. Glen said the 16th payment for the Wellness Center was paid on the end of January and Janet called BB&T and they will not allow us to make an extra payment. Next, Glen went on to talk about COVID. He said we have posted information on Facebook and today the wellness center was a site for 1st dose vaccination from DHEC. They did 400 doses. The second dose is scheduled for March 8th through DHEC. McLeod reached out to me about 2 weeks ago about scheduling dates at the Wellness Center. I think they have a date in February and one in March. The DHEC contact that I spoke with are now looking for a drive through site. They are looking to do 2,000-4,000 vaccinations with a drive through. Glen stated you will still have to go through the care line on DHEC website to schedule an appointment. The only site on DHEC for vaccinations was Dillon Family Medicine. Councilmember Eller asked Dr. Wallace how many vaccinations has he administered? Dr. Wallace answered none because he can't get it. DHEC hasn't really been throwing things out there and everything is appointment based. Dr. Wallace said his appointment was with CDC. He said he thinks the pharmacies will get it. Dr. Wallace stated if you want your life back get vaccinated. Glen stated we try to put the information out on Facebook once we get it. Public works was hit hard with COVID. They have had 3 or 4 people out at one time. We try to educate our people as much as possible to take precautions. Hopefully we won't see a spike because people probably had super bowl parties. Dr. Wallace said hopefully if we could get our population vaccinated, we could have

this gone by the summer. Lastly, Glen said Benny's office has done a list of 12 single family dwellings to be demolished. We have gotten with utilities to disconnect everything from these houses. We have two completed so far. Hopefully, next week we can get back on that. If a single-family dwelling has been condemned the owners are sent a letter to get the house up to code and if they don't, we can demolish it. Benny and I talked last week and we think we need to increase our cost. It normally takes about 3 days to demolish and 3 employees. We are lucky that we are breaking even when demolishing these homes. After so many months if they don't pay us, we put it as a lien on the taxes. Glen stated his thoughts are whatever the land fill cost plus 50% of that. Councilmember Eller asked what do we have in place dealing with a burned house. If the homeowner doesn't clean up the area can we fine them? Is there a time frame? Glen stated we are stretching them way too far. We try to do demolition this time of year because Public works doesn't have much going on. We won't to get it done but we don't want to lose money. We follow DHEC and do one per block per year.

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

Don Strickland, PDRTA, started by saying he has spoken to council a few times this past year. This is the most current transportation schedule that I handed out. He stated that PDRT has added Harbor Freight to the schedule. We've had 3,250 trips just in the city of Dillon. We have seen about a 40% reduction since COVID. We have done 150 trips in Hamer and 59 trips from Latta. One of the biggest things is the man response and that is going to the customers' house. We've had 182 visits. This is a more expensive service but these people can't get to bus stops so we have to get to their house. We plan to be able to connect people from Florence, Marion and Mullins trying to get to Harbor Freight we have plans for that to roll in place this week. It seems like I need to contact Wyman Gordon and Perdue to see if we can help them out. We have partnered with Care South and we are transporting people to there go get vaccines. We were bringing folks from Dillon to Latta to get vaccines. Things are headed in the right direction. We have additional growth needed. There are a lot of people coming from the rural areas to Dillon. We will start permanently putting up permanent bus stops. Walmart is a big part of this but haven't been able to get them to be local contributors. Don Strickland said he really hopes the city will look into being a partner and supporting this service. Councilmember Eller asked if he was trying to secure funds? Don stated we have about 12 stake holders but we are still short due to the additional growth. We have a lot of supporters from Mcleod, Trinity behavioral, and Perdue. We've probably spent close to \$1,000 on signs but they get damaged so we are looking into permanent bus stops. Don said he is not disappointed on where we are because he knows that if it wasn't for COVID we would be in a better position. We are also providing mask for people who don't have one and we make sure everyone has a mask while on the bus. We have medical/food grade sanitizer for each bus. We work with police department and we have cameras on our bus so at any point if you need to look at our cameras, we will be glad to show you. Dr. Wallace said this is a great thing and we are in an underserved area. The County is doing \$36,000 per year over 3 years. Dr. Wallace said we will make sure we put that in our budget.

Stephanie Mitchell wanted to let Council know that on behalf of DCA we are starting our first Friday back up in May. We are trying to get food vendors. We will do it from 7-9pm. We already have one great band lined up from June and we hope it will be as successful as it has been in the past.

VI. Old Business

Ordinance #21-01 Annex Robert D. Miller, Jr. Property – 1727 Lila Court – 2nd Reading

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to annex the property into the City of Dillon. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #21-02 Annex Robert D. Miller, Jr. Property – 1731 Lila Court - 2nd Reading

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to annex the property in the City of Dillon. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

Ordinance #21-03 Annex East Coast Housing, Inc Property – SE of Intersection Hwy 301S -1st

Reading Councilmember Eller stated this is a mobile home park and it is way outside of the city and wanted to ask Chief Lane if they got a lot of calls out there. Do you think we should annex into the City? Councilmember Eller stated he doesn't think it's a good thing to do. Chief Lane said it's all new mobile homes and I'm thinking it's going to be nice and the police won't have to go. Councilmember Washington said they are paying good money out there so I don't think just anybody will be living there. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to annex the property into the City of Dillon. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 5-1.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report commending Sheriff Pernell on several drug bust that he has made. Councilmember Eller says he met with Glen, Jack, David, Keith and the coroner on the hotel. Glen stated he's mentioned the hotel to the Solicitors' office but had no information to pass along. Councilmember Eller stated if the County can do these drug busts with a new sheriff, why can't we. Chief Lane stated he meets with the Sheriff weekly and our folks have been there helping out with the drug busts as well. Councilmember said he appreciates Chief Lane for trying to work with Sheriff Pernell. Glen stated I think we will start seeing some things that we have been trying to get done. Councilmember Eller stated we need to get our K9 unit started. Glen stated we are working on grants for that.

Councilmember David started his report saying he's happy to see the wellness center up on the daily users. I want to reiterate what Dr. Wallace said on the golf course the extra revenue is pretty impressive. We saw a big shift in the beginning of COVID but we have also made some changes but golf was one of the few things that people were allowed to do. This has been the best 12 months that we have had at the golf course. Councilman David questioned about code enforcement account overages on publication and legal ads? What causes us to be so far over budget? Glen answered, because you never know what you are going to have each year. Councilmember David asked if we had to do any extensive work on the telephones at the wellness center? Janet stated she will have to look into that. He also asked a what is Water and Sewer contract invoice cloud, Janet answered that is online pay. Can we get grant money to bring that project on MLK to run to Main Street? Glen answered, "the grant didn't pay for the lights we paid \$159,000 to purchase those light fixtures. Councilmember David asked can you bring something

to us to show what it would cost to bring that up to Main Street? Glen stated we can look into that.

Councilmember Washington asked Glen does the highway department help with potholes in my district? Glen answered we are working on that now.

Councilmember Jackson asked about putting lights on Commerce. Glen answered we can look into putting a light there.

IX. Executive Session – Discuss Land Purchase

Councilmember David made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0. After discussion, Councilmember David made a motion to go back into Open Session and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to negotiate the purchase of the Hayes Property located behind the Wellness Center. The motion passed 6-0.

X. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

March 8, 2021