

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 12, 2021

The April 12, 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 7:03pm. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Wallace gave the invocation.

- II. **Approval of Agenda**
Councilmember David made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Approve minutes of the March 8, 2021 Regular Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Jackson and seconded by Councilmember Washington to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting March 8, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr Wallace began his reports saying that he only has a few comments. He said he's been in this position for the past year during covid pandemic. He went on to say if we continue to immunize and people get more comfortable, I feel we should be out of this pandemic by summer. He said we could lose the mask and start hugging each other again. We are now loosening up a little bit. Next, he said that he has learned a lot during this past election cycle. Lastly, we had this discussion in executive session but it excites me that we are going to move forward with the golf course. There is tremendous play out there. People that I have never seen play are playing golf. It's a fun sport. Spring is in the air and Dillon is beautiful this time of year. I'm hoping in the near future restaurants will be opening up.

City Manager's Report

Glen began his report saying a month or so ago I emailed each of you about the American rescue plan about an emergency relief bill. We are estimated to get \$2.3million dollars between now and March 2022. This distribution will be two installments. The first installment is scheduled for May or the first of June and then the next year we will get the remaining balance. The Municipal Association is awaiting guidance on how this money should be used. They said we cannot use this money to cut taxes. We have three years to use this money, we can't bank it for future projects. Dr Wallace asked if we can use it for projects that are already in the making. Glen stated we will

have to spend it by December 30,2024. Glen said we will put the funds to the side until we know exactly what we can use it for. We are waiting on the Treasury Department to give that money out. This money is 75% of our general fund from 2019 that is how they came up with the amount. Dr. Wallace said to ask Congressman Rice if they can add the water and sewer into the general fund to receive more money. Next, Glen discussed issues with the garbage truck. It is having steering and electrical problems and has been in and out of the shop. We had to rent a commercial garbage truck to take time to fix our truck and that cost is \$12000. Councilmember Eller asked how much have we spend in repairs this pass year? Glen said we have spent \$31,500 in repairs to date. The truck is 5 years old. Next Glen stated that he received a letter saying we will receive a grant of \$180,000 to do a FEMA study. We also applied for our match of \$60,000 so our storm water study can be a cost of zero dollars. We also applied for \$100,000 but we didn't get that grant. Lastly, we have our Celebrate Main St. Festival scheduled for April 24 and hopefully the weather will be great. We hope to see everyone there.

Finance Report

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

Councilmember Eller asked if we can use \$50,000 to do a splash pad or update the parks for the kids. We have money that is just sitting there. Can we use it to enhance the parks for the kids?

Pee Dee Coalition

Steve Johnson began by saying the City of Dillon has graciously given \$1,500 yearly to the Pee Dee Coalition and he request that we give \$2,000. He said the money is used for the ongoing daily expenses for running the office. Next, he said it's unfortunate that we have to a month dedicated to Sexual Assault and Domestic Abuse Awareness, but that money also goes towards assisting victims that are placed in our Shelters. Lasty, he said the Open House will be in October and he would love for everyone to come and see the new office space. We would like the Community to see what they have helped Pee Dee Coalition with.

Public Hearing – Dillon Grade School Apartments (JV Martin Development) Tanya Haddick & Sam Howell

Tanya Haddick began the public hearing saying that they are planning to break ground for the Dillon Grade School apartments by the end of August or the beginning of September. She explained that Covid has put them behind schedule. The type of bond that we need has to be issued by the housing authority and Dillon doesn't have one so we have to use the City of Florence. Councilmember Eller asked how many units? Tanya Haddick responded, "30 units and we will also rehabilitate the auditorium and the gym". She went on to say these units are for people age 62 and older. These are all one-bedroom apartments. Next, she explained they will start marketing when they are about 80% done with the project. Councilmember Eller asked, will there be an average income?" Tanya Haddick responded, "I think for Dillon it will be a maximum of \$21,500". Stephanie Mitchell asked will the bonds cause some type of tax increase because in her reading that isn't so but she wanted to make sure. Mrs. Haddick said, "that's correct." The city of Dillon will have no obligation to these bonds. Dr. Wallace closed the public report.

V. Citizen's Report

Stephanie Mitchell said her building demolition started today and it should be cleaned up soon with a nice green space.

VI. **Old Business**

Ordinance #21-04 – Amend Title 5, Chapter 1- To include provisions for increasing demolition costs to be charge to Residential Property Owners – 1st Reading Councilmember Washington made a motion to amend and Councilmember Jackson seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #21-05 – Amend Title 4, Chapter 6 – Wastewater Pretreatment and Discharge – 1st Reading Councilmember Cousar made a motion to amend and Councilmember Jackson seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #21-06 – Repeal and Amend Title 4, Chapter 2 – Discharge of Septic Tank Wastes – 1st Reading Councilmember Jackson made the motion to repeal and amend. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

VII. **New Business**

Resolution #02-21 – Approve the Issuance by the Housing Authority of the City of Florence of its multifamily housing revenue Bonds (Dillon Grade School Apartments) Councilmember Jackson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #03-21 – Purchase Certain Property from Lula W. Coleman Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve and Councilmember David seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #04-21 – Purchase Certain Property from Rose Merry Bethea, ETALS Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #05-21 – Fair Housing Month Resolution Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #06-21 – Authorizing submission of application for Community Grants Councilmember Eller made a motion to approve. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #07-21 – Approval to accept bid for 20th & Hudson Water Tank – RIA Grant Councilmember Eller made a motion to approve. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

VIII. **Councilmember's Reports**

Councilmember Eller began his report asking if Clay Young, City Council, and County Council get together to see if we can bring jobs to Dillon? He went on to say at the last meeting he asked about reinstating the K9 unit. Chief Lane said he can't get anyone to apply. We need someone to do this a full-time job.

Councilman David began his report thanking Burt Rogers for all that he does for the City, he goes over and above what needs to be done in any situation. He went on to say that Benny Genwright has really come through for him as well. He said he has to call on him a lot. Councilmember David went on to say that Just riding around the community there is a lot of trash all over. The residents need to take an effort and pick up the trash even if other people have thrown it out. Everyone needs to take a hand in keeping the area clean. He said he is concerned about the litter by Food Lion and Dollar General. Next, he said he has gotten many calls concerning dogs in my district. He said he knows we are doing the best we can but the residents are going to have to do their part as well. If you know your neighbor has vicious dogs you need to do your part and call Code Enforcement. Lastly, Councilman David asked Benny Genwright has he heard anything about

Zaxby's. Benny said they are to start applying for permits soon to renovate Zaxby's, but they haven't given a date.

Councilmember Washington asked has the grant ran out for MLK? Have we done anything about other buildings that haven't been done?

Councilmember Jackson asked will they get the athletic field with the apartments? Glen responded it's owned by the School. He said he asked about a year ago and the school didn't want to do anything with it. Councilmember Jackson went on to say he just think it looks bad all chained up when kids could be using it. Glen said he will write a letter to the superintendent this week to see if they want to do something with that field.

Councilmember Cousar asked are they going to realign the parking spaces downtown because he came through today and people are parked all kind of ways. Also, trash on the quarters hadn't been picked up for weeks.

Councilmember Eller asked about condemning houses because people are living in these houses. Benny Genwright stated it might be another year before we can condemn the house because we don't want to be in violation of DHEC. Councilmember Eller also how is it that some people get citations about grass being too high and others are not. Glen responded with we do it by what we see or when we receive complaints. We then put the address on a list and if they are not cut then we will cut it.

IX. Executive Session – Discuss Contractual Advice on Donation on Land & Recreation

Councilmember Jackson 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.

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 8:30pm.

Approved: 
Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: May 10, 2021