

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 8, 2021

The November 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 Timothy Cousar
Councilmember James David

Councilmember Douglas Jackson
Councilmember James Washington
Councilmember Johnny Eller

- 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 Cousar made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the October 11, 2021 Regular Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Eller to approve minutes. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr Wallace began his report saying he can see light at the end of the tunnel we are averaging zero to one COVID case per day. He said he thinks Dillon and South Carolina is in a good place. He went on to discuss the Downtown Development meetings by saying they have been pretty energetic. If you have a building downtown and it's not ready for occupancy, expect to get some penalties and fines. He said we are going to get people help to upgrade their buildings. Last he said he is trying to get together with developers to put together neighborhoods.

City Manager's Report

Glen asked that everyone turn their attention to paperwork that he put in their chair about flooding. We asked that you go online to pinpoint flooding. We have Kevin Krick here tonight to go discuss the flooding issues. Glen asked that everyone pass the information along to folks so they can input the information. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Glen went on to say he put in a plan for the American rescue money. Between now and April 2022 we have to submit a plan to the federal government on how we can spend the money. We need to talk and start planning for this money. Glen said he has listed premium pay for those employees that have worked during the pandemic from March 2020 thru the end of June 2021. Glen stated he picked the end of June because it was the end of our budget year. The cost is estimated at \$225,000. Dr. Wallace asked if we can renovate the First Bank building for \$250,000? Glen responded that he thinks we can. Councilmember Eller asked if we had a plan to renovate the building. Glen said

yes downstairs is easy just putting up walls for officers to have space. Most of the money will be used to renovate upstairs. Chief David Lane said he thinks most of the repairs will be cosmetic. Glen said we haven't gotten bids on anything as of yet. Next, Glen said we will use the American Rescue money for Water meter upgrades. We are trying to get to a point where we are not manually reading meters. We are changing out meters now but the software is the biggest cost. We are looking at \$445,000 for that. We will put aside \$500,000 for Stormwater match programs. Last month we applied for \$3M for 100% grant money and we won't know anything about that until next year. Glen said he just wanted to give you some idea of how we can spend this money. We can't use it for pension, debt service, or reduce taxes. We need to have some kind of plan submitted by April 30, 2022. Councilmember Eller asked Glen about the Premium pay, he said, originally it was \$2000 per individual how did you come up with \$1 per hour. Glen answered he started thinking of people who work different hours and giving everyone the same amount of money wouldn't be fair. He said after talking to different people throughout the region, this is some of the different things that other municipalities were doing. So, however many hours you worked you get \$1 for each hour. It just depends on the hours worked. Glen said if you used sick time or was on vacation you don't get paid for that time. Councilmember Jackson said how many hours does the department heads work per week. Glen said 40 or 42 hours per week. Fire Department works 56 hours per week. Councilmember Cousar asked how would you give the volunteers. Glen said per call. Councilmember Eller said he would like to go back to the original plan and everybody across the board gets the same. The part time people were getting \$750. Glen asked so what about people that weren't here the whole time? Dr Wallace said prorated it. Councilmember Eller said he doesn't think a Department Head and an hourly worker should get the same amount. Dr Wallace said department heads are constantly on call...do you ever think about that? Councilmember Eller said yes, and I think we compensate them really well. Councilman Eller said if you do it the same across the board then it's cut and dry. Councilmember Washington interjected by saying some department heads are out there doing the same as the hourly worker. Councilmember Eller said I understand, but they are compensated really well. Glen said that's on the agenda so we will talk more on that later. Glen went on to say he met with three local banks last week and proposed to them would they be open to a partnership with the city to give out money to business owners or property owners to stabilize their buildings. The property owner would take out the money as a loan and the city would guarantee 40%, the property owner would be responsible for money over that. As with a construction loan the borrower pays no money during the construction. After the work is done and the contract is complete the city will pay up to 40% of that loan and the property owner would pay the rest. The three banks were interested but the attorney would have to draw up some paper work. If the borrower defaults on the loan, then the bank will own the building not the city. Dr Wallace said he thinks we should lower our portion of the loan. Councilmember Eller asked how many would we do? Glen responded five and we will put up \$150,000. Councilmember David asked if we get any equity on the building and Glen responded no. Janet Paschal said we can always take out a second mortgage on the loan. Councilman David asked if you have one owner with six buildings could he get the money for all 6? Glen responded that will be between the owner and the bank. The city wouldn't select who gets the money. That will be all on the bank. The City now owns the property behind the old first bank building. The Trucks prohibited signs will be posted on Commerce drive. We have received \$3700 from Department of Revenue from Sunday Sales,

where do we want to put this money? General fund? Or its own fund? Glen said he has no idea how much money we will collect or if we will collect anymore at all. Lastly, Glen introduced Lisa Moody our new Downtown Coordinator. Lisa Moody gave information on what she has accomplished and what she has planned to revitalize Dillon. She has walked downtown and met with business owners. She has tried an outreach for shop small. She has started a coffee and talk and will start a chew and chat next month. She said we had a successful Halloween event, and her background is in special events. Lisa went on to say she has been working on special events and just completed the grant writing program. With Glens' guidance we have sent surveys to see what we can do for the business owners. Lisa said she is starting grant writing and main street approach. She said her plan is to walk down Main Street in 5 years and be proud of what we have done. Councilmember Eller asked if she has any experience in Commercial Grant writing? Lisa responded that she doesn't. Councilmember David mentioned imminent domain to see what our options are with that property across from the Council of aging. Councilmember Eller said we really need to look at the building because it is about to collapse. Glen said it will cost about \$40,000 to demolish. Glen said he will get another quote and bring in back in December if you want. Dr. Wallace responded that will be good idea.

Finance Report

Finance Director, Janet Bethea gave copies of the Financial Report to the Mayor Pro Tem, City Council, and the City Manager. Janet Bethea was absent so Mayor Pro Tem Wallace went over the Finance Report.

Alicia Berry – Dillon Historic School Foundation Presents

Alicia Berry gave information on the upcoming shows that the Dillon Historic School Foundation will be presenting. The shows are The Legacy Motown Revue on Friday, December 10, 2021, The Andy and Oneida Show on Saturday, January 22, 2022, The Kenya Safari Acrobats on February 25, 2022, Niels Dunker and Jay Mattioli Comedy Extravaganza on Friday, April 1, 2022, and The Tony Lee Group on Saturday, May 28, 2022. All the shows will be at the Dillon Theatre.

V. Citizen's Report

None.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. New Business

Premium Pay for Employees – American Rescue Plan Councilmember Jackson made a motion to give all employees \$1 per hour worked based on 66 weeks and Volunteer Firefighters 2 hours per call at \$1 per hour. We will revisit the Volunteer Firefighters pay again at the next Council Meeting if Council wants to give more. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 5-1.

Ordinance #21-15 Adopt Model Business License Ordinance in Accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176) Councilmember Cousar made the motion to accept the Ordinance. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #21-16 Repeal the existing provisions within Title 7 (Licensing and Regulation). Chapter 1 (Business Licenses), Section 7-1-16 © of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinance
Councilman Washington made a motion to accept the Ordinance. Councilmember Douglas seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #21-17 Annex a tract of land located within the 1600 Block of Highway 301 North (Tax Map #049-15-00-149)

Planning and Zoning Appointment District 2 Councilmember Cousar appointed Andrew Hayes. The appointment passed 6-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller asked what is going on with the dog ordinance? Glen responded the City Attorney is working on it. Next, Councilmember Eller said give a lot of money to the chamber not to charge for the floats in the Christmas Parade. We ask that you get with Johnnie Luehrs and ask they not charge for floats. Glen responded Johnnie said that's their fund raiser and they provide the floats but if people have their own float, then they shouldn't charge them anything. Lastly, Councilmember Eller asked Glen to please get the ball rolling on the splash pad.

Councilmember David asked, since the road maintenance fee is in jeopardy, do we get any money from that. Glen responded no. Do we have any money in jeopardy? Glen responded no but it could be anything that generates a fee it's very vague. The road maintenance fee was focused on because people from out of state use your roads.

Councilmember Washington asked how many officers short is the Police Department. Chief David Lane responded he is short five. The two that he hired didn't pass the exam. Next, Councilmember Washington asked how many murders and has anyone been charged. Chief Lane responded three and no charges as of yet.

Councilmember asked Glen if he had any information on getting the parks repaired? Glen responded, I submitted the request through Representative Jackie Hayes and he is trying to get it into the state budget. Next, he asked if we had any festivals lined up? Glen answered, we have the Holiday Goodness scheduled for November 18 and then start back in March. Councilmember Cousar wanted to know if can we look into having a food truck rodeo in that parking lot since we own that bank now? Downtown coordinator said she likes the idea. Benny said it will be some type of fee. Glen said if we did a festival, we wouldn't charge them a business license but a festival license. As of May 1, 2022 the license would be \$170, it used to be \$500.

Councilmember Eller asked about the restaurant in the Kentyre House building. Benny said the last time he talked to them they weren't in compliance and doesn't have DHEC's approval so I can't issue a business license.

IX. Executive Session

Councilmember Cousar made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0. After discussion, Councilman David made a motion to go back into open session. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

Extend Contract for Glen Wagner, City Manager Councilman Cousar made a motion to extend City Manager's contract for three years to expire February 28, 2025 with a 7% salary increase. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Purchase Property Councilmember Eller made a motion to offer Ricky Talbert \$95,000 to purchase property at 108 S. Railroad Ave. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Police Officers Salary Increase Councilmember Eller made a motion to increase police officers salary by \$3,000 per year. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

X. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro-Tem

Date Approved: _____

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk