

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 13, 2022

The June 13, 2022 Regular meeting of the City Council was held at the City-County Complex, 401 W. Main Street, 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 Johnny Eller

Councilmember James David
Councilmember James Washington
Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Janet Paschal, City attorney was in attendance.

- 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 with an addition to approve the purchase of property for CDBG Sewer Grant. Councilmember Eller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the May 9, 2022 Council Workshop, May 9, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, May 23, 2022 Budget Workshop, May 26, 2022 Budget Workshop**
A motion was made by Councilmember Washington to approve minutes. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace began his report saying this is a challenging year doing the budget when we are facing 8% inflation. He said we have actually had some money left over in years passed but with that being said in water/sewer we need to go across I95 and build a sewage treatment plant. In our general fund budget, we have a lot of flooding issues so don't get overwhelmed we are in need of growing those funds so we can be ready when the time comes. Dr. Wallace continued his report saying Covid is hot in Dillon County. The present administration said we were going to get rid of it but we just don't have to report it now. I had it 5 weeks ago but I took the antivirals and I was better. Covid is out there see your doctor for it because they can give you something for it.

Smith Brooks – Audit

Smith Brooks presented Council and the City Manager with an audit report. He gave high lights. He reported that our budget has improved compared to previous years.

City Manager's Report

Glen wagner began his report discussing retirement health insurance. We did an actuary about a month ago and he presented the report that would tell Council how much money we'd have to

put aside each year if the city was going to fund the Retirement Health insurance. He said he asked Smith Brooks if we didn't fund it how would it affect our budget. Smith responded you would just pay as you go there would be a true up to where it would be reflected on the government statements. Glen said right now we only have two employees that are eligible. For one employee it would be \$500 per month or \$6000 per year. Glen said we would want to put a policy in place if we want to do this. Dr. Wallace said the goal of the benefit is to retain long term employees. Excluding Police, the employee would have to be at least 60 years old and employed with the city for 30 years. The Police would have to be age 50 with 28 years of service to the City. Councilmember Eller asked if we can crunch the numbers and come back with an amount next month. Glen said right now we have state retirement, the employees pay 9% and the city pays 18%. Glen said he will bring something back next month. Dr. Wallace said we don't have a total grasp on what this is. Next, Glen said we purchased fuel today and it cost \$4.44 per gallon. We purchase fuel every two months. We haven't purchased diesel yet. Lastly, Glen said we are one person short on the city Election Commission. Does anyone have any nominations to fulfill that vacancy? Council didn't have any nominations. Glen asked if they would think about to bring a name back next month.

Finance Report

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

City of Dillon Downtown Coordinator-Lisa Moody

Lisa Moody began her report discussing area happenings. She said since our last meeting We Got The Juice opened on May 28th. She went on to give information on our upcoming events. The Legacy Review will perform June 18 at the Theatre. Alyssa Richardson is the state director for Tim Scott will be here for our Low-Down podcast on June 24th. First Friday will be July 1st and the one we scheduled for June has been rescheduled to June 23rd, Eats on the Streets was very successful. We had a great turn out the food vendors ran out of food around 5pm but they assured me that it won't happen again. Lisa went on to say the Buy a brick campaign is going through July 1 we hope to get at least 25, they are \$85 for one brick or two bricks for \$100. We met with Kim Ethridge at Pee Dee Council of Government and I will be working to put together on what the Bethea lot will look like for Kim so she can get working on the grant. I will have more information on the murals next month. Glen said we were thinking of painting on a canvas and attaching it to the wall. Lisa said she wants to put a mural on the Family Dollar so people can see it as they come in on the train. The building unfortunately needs a lot of work. We are going towards panels so they can be removed and moved to another location.

Citizen's Report

None

V. Old Business

None

VI. **New Business**

Ordinance #22-05 Adopting a Municipal Budget for 2022-2023 Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the budget. Councilmember Jackson second and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #22-06 – Sanitation Rates for 2022-2023 – Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the Sanitation Rates and Councilmember David seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #22-07 – Adopting a budget for the American Rescue Plan Funds – Councilmember Eller made a motion to accept the budget. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of property at the corner of Hampton Street – The property taxes weren't paid and the previous owners didn't pay us for demolishing the building. The property went to public sale in 2019 and no one purchased it, 2020 no one purchase, it was turned over to the Dillon County land commission no one has purchased it. Glen said he thinks it would be a good idea for the city to purchase it for \$40,000. We get our \$39,000 back, we are out that money but at least we will have the property. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to purchase the property. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Removal of center planters – Dr. Wallace began the discussion saying why don't we take one out at a time and see how we like it. This way we can get a little taste of what we are doing as opposed to taking them all out. Councilmember Eller said he wants them all gone and he doesn't think it will take Burt that long. Burt said it will take them about a week. Each block you do you will have to repaved and it would be around \$70,000 to pave each block. Dr. Wallace said he went downtown Florence and he didn't know what Florence looked like before renovations but it's nice now. He went on to say we were talking about the signage. Having those signs that drop down so when you are walking down Main Street you can see those drop-down signs. Councilmember Washington asked Burt how many parking spaces would taking out the planters give you. Burt responded it will give you four spots. Councilmember Jackson said when we walked down Main Street most of the merchants want the center planters gone. Councilmember David said if we take the center ones out, we will need to landscape. Councilmember David said the merchants have called him about moving the center planters and I would like them all gone. Councilmember Eller said we can enhance our uptown with the façade grants and to help these business owners. Glen interjected and said we aren't talking about parking spaces. Burt suggested doing one block at a time. We have to pave each one of those blocks. We are thinking the state is going to resurface that part of Main Street next year. Councilmember Jackson said he didn't like the planters when we first did but now, we want to tear up something we already put some money in and that's hard for him to do. If the merchants feel like it's going to help the businesses, I'm all for it. Councilmember Cousar said take it out because we have been talking about it for two months. Councilmember David made a motion to take the center planters down. Councilmember Jackson said the ones that aren't blocking the visibility of the business take those out last. Councilmember Eller asked how many are we talking out? Glen responded 20. Burt suggested trying to find out when the road is going to really be paved and then we take them out right before they get paved. Dr Wallace said look at one block and experience what it does and not obligate ourselves to \$500,000 to resurface. Councilmember Eller asked if Burt can reach out to the Department of Transportation and get a date. Councilmember Jackson wants to table it until we

get more information. Dr Wallace said there is no urgency to take them out. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to amend the motion to take the planters out between MacArthur and Hwy 301. Councilmember David seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Property purchase for sewer grant – Kinon Estate – Councilmember David made a motion to purchase the property. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying Mr. Buck Graham can no longer serve on the Planning Commission. He would like to appoint Jeffrey Nichols. Councilmember Washington made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Nichols. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Eller asked for an update on the Splash pad. Glen responded it's been ordered just waiting on them to start working. Next, Councilman Eller said we have \$400,000 in hospitality funds, I recommend putting padding on the walking track at the Wellness Center. Glen said we are going to start replacing the air units at the Wellness Center and I don't have a cost yet. Lastly, Councilman Eller said we had an outcry in the community we have children killing children and I would like to see the City Manager reach out to County to find something for these kids to do besides sitting home thing about how they can kill someone or take their property. Glen said all we can do is see if they will do it and he will put it out there. Dr Wallace said law enforcement and the community can only do so much. Glen said he thinks if the judicial system would give harsher punishments maybe we can see less of this. We need to come together.

Dr Wallace said he reached out because he had an opportunity to mentor a young black boy and he didn't have a dad in his life. He didn't have any direction and he's in jail in New York right now. Dr Wallace went on to say he has spoken to him, he's 24 now but there are so many of them that don't know how to be a man and it's not just the black community but it's the white community too. I think it's got to more than the Council and Police Department when a 13-year-old thinks it's ok to shoot someone dead we have to do something.

Councilmember David said he has received calls about a lot of movement at the Rownds property. When is the demolition of the building across from the council of aging going to start? Councilmember Eller said we need to do something about that because it's about to cave in. Councilmember David went on to say I got a text from a voter in my district saying Harmon Park has two swing sets and they are both broken. Burt said we put all new swings on two months ago. Last thing I have a business owner call me and he asked if we can have an ordinance for a smoke free Dillon when he tells people he doesn't have smoking in his establish it causes an argument.

Councilmember Washington said the only thing they are doing at Rownds and son is taking down the metal. Glen said we are looking and demolishing that. Councilmember Washington went on to say he thinks we need to partner with the County on recreation. AAU comes and gets the best of the best and send the rest of kids home to do nothing. Children don't have anything to do and can't play ball because there is nothing going on out there. Councilmember Eller said if that's going to get these kids off of the street then I will partner with anyone to do this. Councilmember David said we can add our own programs. Councilmember Eller said we put a lot of money in the golf course so why can't we do something for the kids. Councilmember Washington said AAU is

not ran right. If we get with the County, we can get something done. Councilman Jackson said if we do we have some sort of agenda.

Councilmember Jackson said I will touch on some things with the kids. I started coaching at 20 years old. The kids back then had parents that made sure their kids were at practice but over the years it has deteriorated bad. It's not only recreation but it's with the school system too if you look now the person that was doing the shooting were probably the parents backing the kids instead of the school system but we have to do something because it's sad. The kids are standing out there int \$300 Jordans but not the \$35 to sign up for recreation. Glen said we've never turned anyone away regardless of the money. We aren't there to make money but if you offer something free people won't attend.

Councilmember Cousar asked if we had any information on the JV Martin project. Glen responded they should have something by the end of the month.

Glen said we need to add Ben Hayes to the board of Architecture Review. Councilmember David made the motion and Councilmember Washington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Executive Session


Councilmember Cousar made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in Executive session. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to go back into open session. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.


Glen said the final reading on the Budget will be June 30, 2022.

Councilmember Washington made a motion to meet with Marlboro Electric on June 30, 2022. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Approved: 
Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: 7/11/2022