

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2022

The May 9, 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 Eller made a motion to approve the agenda with an added Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the April 11, 2022**
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 said his report is going to be brief. He went on to say he has been vaccinated, boosted and thought he was doing pretty good at being careful but he ended up getting covid. He said he sat behind someone that gave him covid. Dr. Wallace said masking and quarantining was miserable for him. He continued saying he missed the festival and First Friday but everyone is excited about that. Next, he said we just got done walking downtown to discuss enhancing the beauty that we do have. We have trees that need to come out. Glen said Burt has marked some of the trees and we will start working on that. We need to know if council wants to replace those trees or remove the planters. We will ask the Downtown Committee what they think about removing the trees at the next Downtown meeting. Councilmember Eller asked if there had been any recommendations on trees during the meeting. Glen responded no we hadn't made any recommendations but I brought back to you about removing planters for parking. Councilmember Eller said some of the Dillon Community Alliance members wanted the center planters removed from downtown and I didn't know if you had discussed that as a committee. Glen said DCA will like to see the planters come out for more parking spaces and possibly removing trees that are blocking signage. The trees don't look big but the stumps are big and they are in a small space. Lastly, Dr. Wallace explained we may get the stumps down but we won't be able to plant anything there.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report saying we talked last month about scheduling a workshop meeting I mentioned May 23 and May 26 like we have done in the past. He said he wants to have the first reading of the 2022-2023 Budget at the first meeting in June and second reading at the end of June. Glen said he has already gotten with the department heads. He went on to say we do know that PEBA health insurance is going up 18%. We won't see a change in the beginning of the year but the second half we will see an increase not to the employer but to the employee. Councilmember Eller asked are you trying to find that money in the budget? Glen responded, "not at this point." Glen asked if everyone was good with those dates at 6pm. Councilmember Eller asked if you can send us a reminder a couple of days earlier? Glen said, yes, I can. Glen said he put in your packet an email that he and Janet received from the actuary study for retirees but he doesn't know much about it. The City of Marion did this 10 years ago and Allen Anderson said they put \$100 per employee per year in an account which isn't enough. Glen said he will try to get PEBA here in June but he hadn't been able to get in touch with anyone yet. Councilmember Eller asked if it is possible that they can come back before we discuss the budget? Councilmember David asked about a municipal bond. Glen responded that he has no idea but Dillon County did not fund their program. They don't put money back for this. Glen went on to say that right now we have 8 employees that have 28 continuous years that are eligible. We have one in the police department. Next year we add one or two more from the police department. Of the 80 employees that we have now most probably won't retire from the City of Dillon. Last month you voted to allocate \$300 per employee for fuel as of May 4 we have spent \$10,298 with a balance of \$8,000 left. On an average of what's left they have \$150 left in their account we have two employees that have used their \$300 and they are very appreciative. Glen said the last thing he has is our next election is scheduled for April of 2023. We have one vacancy on the election committee and we need to appoint someone for that third position. I would like for Council to come back with some names in June. There have been discussions for changing election to November but you will have to change our ordinance if the city would like to do that if the South Carolina Election Commission mandates election. I recommend we get out and let the county take it over. Councilmember Wallace asked would it shorten the term for that year Glen said it will expand. City council can change election day to the first Tuesday in November. Janet Paschal said our Election Committee will end up going to the County and if we end up with a protest then the county would run that election but we do need a 3rd person on our committee.

Finance Report

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

Farmers Market – Pat Laird

Pat Laird gave a budget of \$265,650 for the Farmers Market. Dr Wallace said we thought your group came to us wanting land we wanted to know how much land that you need and then you asked for \$250k. Pat responded yes, you talked about the American Rescue Plan money so that's why I put it in. She went on to say we need some kind of agreement from the city to say we have this property. We have a long list of people to ask for money but how can I ask for money if I don't have a place to put the Farmers Market. We are going to stay true to what we said we are going to raise this money but if at some point you have extra money then we won't turn it down. Glen asked if the proposed budget is actually \$265k. Glen went out and got the dimensions but I don't remember exactly what it was. Pat said it will include the parking lot. In the middle of the

land, we have a sewer line and a water line. I think council has agreed to allow this to be done. Dr. Wallace said we want to be able to have a venue for the Farmers Market but to also be able to use that building for other things. Do you need an agreement letter that we allow the Farmers Market to be built on this property? Pat said she is hoping that when next May comes, we will be in our new space. Councilmember Eller made a motion to provide a letter saying we will provide land for the Farmers Market. Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Pat said she will get an actual drawing for what she wants. Glen said we need to dress up that block and fix that alleyway. Glen said we will try to get you something this week or the first of next week. Pat said Johnnie Luehrs and I got a call for Senior Farmers market to get vouchers for fruits and vegetables on June 9 from 10am -2pm they will have to bring something to show that they live in Dillon, you have to be 60 years old, self- declare income and we will give them five \$5 vouchers to use at the farmers market. DSS funds this.

City of Dillon Downtown Coordinator-Lisa Moody

Lisa Moody began her report giving and summary on the grants that she is working on. She went on to discuss events in the City of Dillon. She said the Celebrate Main Festival was her first and it was fabulous. She said there was a huge crowd and the weather was beautiful. She continued by saying it was a pleasure to work with Glen it's nice to work with a city manager that gets involved. Next, she said DCA's First Friday event it was kind of hit and miss because of the weather but there was great food and a great crowd. We did our first fitness at the fountain and had 10 people come out. The cost is \$10 per person. Lisa gave a list of upcoming events; the Farmers market was today and she got to help them set up and visit with the vendors. Lisa continued by saying a lot happens at the fountain it's kind of the center of our downtown. She is working with the Dillon Historic School Foundation to host a dinner and show on May 28 and Breaking Bread will cater the event. Dinner will be at Lockemy court and the show which is the Tony Lee Group will perform at the theatre at 7pm tickets for both are \$60. Just to see the band is \$25. We have a lot going on in Dillon. Lisa said she is working for a branding for downtown Dillon. Lisa's May podcast focused on what we do have in Dillon. She went though and talked about all of the business that we have and the events that were coming up. If you walk down the street you can see a lot of things to be done downtown so we focused on that. We have the Juice Bar should be opening on May 28, they are truly looking forward to being a part of our downtown community. Another exciting business coming to Dillon is the Dillon nutrition center. It's kind of like a healthy Starbucks. On our walk Downtown we talked to Montreasa Townsend on how DCA can help her with façade grants to fix her building. The one thing that Lisa said she is hearing the most is why don't we have a restaurant and bar downtown. This pass Friday Lisa talked to someone who said we desperately need a sit-down restaurant downtown. We have business that have been there a long time and businesses moving in. People are hoping to update buildings. If we can get a restaurant downtown that would be great. Councilmember Eller asked what is the amount of the police grant? Lisa responded a match of 50/50 and it was \$150K. Councilmember Eller said I was hoping you was coming to tell us you have someone to paint a mural. Lisa responded that she needs \$100K to do that. Councilmember Eller said try to find a place to put a mural and he believes this Council will come together to let you do that. He said he would like to put a mural on the Family Dollar or Steve Johnson building. Councilmember David asked if the schools had an art department that would let that be a project.

Citizen's Report

Angela Reed began discussing the old JV Martin School building, she said there are about 10 windows missing and boarded up. She went on to say these people were rewarded \$2.4M by HUD and the codes need to be enforced. She said she doesn't understand why there is no accountability for that group to maintain that property. Glen said they are waiting on money from the state to start what they need to do. They aren't going to spend any money until they get all of their money. Councilmember Jackson asked can Benny reach out to see what we can do. Ms. Reed also asked if the lawn can be maintained because it's an eye sore.

Sonja Wynn asked Glen if the 3% increase on water and sewer includes residential and business? Glen responded, "yes".

V. Old Business

Ordinance #22-03 Amend Title 5 Chapter 1 of the City Code of Ordinance to provide provision for regulating Vacant Commercial and Industrial Buildings within the City limits of Dillon-

2nd Reading Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept this ordinance. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #22-04 Amend Title 6 Chapter 5 (Dangerous Animals) section of the City Code of Ordinance to provide provisions therein regulating fence and lease requirements for guard dogs or attack dogs within the jurisdiction of the City limits of Dillon- 2nd Reading

Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept this ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

Splash Pad Glen began discussing that we have been talking about a Splash Pad for years. He said he has provided a copy of what the splash pad would look like in your packets. We will put it next to the current playground at the Wellness Center. This water is not constantly running. It's a triggered mechanism, you would have to step on or touch something to get the water to start. This will not be recycled water but city water so we don't have to have a life guard. The quote through cooperative purchasing is \$129,000. I got roughly \$20,000 committed from Duke Energy. Dr. Wallace asked what is the cost of the water. Councilmember Jackson said will we offer changing areas? Glen answered most places don't. We will need signs to not go in the wellness center soaked. Dr. Wallace asked about insurance? Glen said it's like any other liability that we have. Councilman Cousar made a motion to put in a splash pad. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

RFP Proposal – Gilbert Construction and FBI have submitted design proposals for the bank building, Police Department, and the Welcome Center. Glen said this is not a regular bid process. This is information based on their qualifications and experiences. We have \$425,000 put in for this project. Glen said he's like for Council to appoint a committee to go over these and meet individually with both of these companies and then come back with a recommendation to hire a firm to do the work. These companies have architectures. We won't have to hire an architect. Dr. Wallace, Councilmember Eller, and Councilmember David agreed to be on the committee.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying since we just passed the ordinance regulating vacant Commercial and Industrial buildings within the city limits, I would like for council to take into consideration being city wide. As of tonight, we had roughly \$18k and maybe adding more money. Next, he said he got information that we had 11 murders in the city in the last 3 years. We have 5 that are unknown and haven't been solved. I bring this up because we have a problem in our city. I think it's our responsibility to try to make our town safer. I think we should partner with the county to make our town safer. It's disturbing to know that we have this many murders. I would also like for the city to meet with the county about the wastewater plants. I would like to see Glen spearhead that. Glen responded he will. We have a lot of overtime in our police department I know it burns our police department out. Councilmen Eller went on to say the city of Florence advertised in our area for police officers they are starting with \$45K. We should look at upping our starting rate.

Councilmember David began his report saying he mentioned at the last meeting about storm water drainage. Glen said he mentioned it to the state but I haven't heard anything back. I am thinking about the flooding that we are having every year. I think we should seriously consider something put above ground. We spent a lot of money and I thought it was very informative. I think it would be cheaper to go above ground. Councilman David ended his report saying he knows that Dillon was built in a swamp but he thinks we have some serious issues that we need to look at.

Councilmember Washington asked about paving and C – funds. Glen responded he doesn't know. Next, he asked how do we go about getting Rownds and Son place cleaned up. Glen said they are cleaning now.

Councilmember Jackson began his report saying there are a lot of street lights still out. Glen responded we are turning them in, but it's hard trying to get them done.

VIII. Executive Session

Councilmember Cousar made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Jackson 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 David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. 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 9:05pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

June 13, 2022