

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 11, 2022

The July 11, 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 James Washington
Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Councilmember Timothy Cousar
Councilmember Johnny Eller
Councilmember Jay David - Absent

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. Councilmember Douglas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the June 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, June 30, 2022 Special Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Douglas to approve minutes with a correction to the June 13, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace began his report saying he doesn't have much. He went on to say he missed the first Friday this month and he asked Lisa Moody how did it go. She responded that it didn't get rained out and everything was fine. Eats on the street is Wednesday. Dr. Wallace said the Eats on the Streets is a lot of fun and he gets a lot of feedback. Glen said we have Dixie League Baseball Tournament this weekend. Twelve teams will be here. The tournament will start Friday night with a meal for the coaches and players. The games will finish up on Thursday.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report asking for nominations for the vacancy on the Election Commission. Glen went on to discuss Redistricting is due. He said we received a report in February or March that kind of explained the population in each district. The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs wants to do a zoom meeting in August at our regular Council Meeting. They will send their draft by the end of this month on how they think the district lines should be laid out. Once received, I will forward it to you. This has to be a public hearing session where the public can be involved. That public hearing will be on the agenda during a regular session meeting. Keep in mind, just because they suggest it doesn't mean we have to agree with their draft. I do think it

will be best to use their version. Glen ended his report saying he believes that Dr. Wallace and Councilmember Eller districts were below the threshold.

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 said the overtime in Police Department is way over budget and he's afraid that we are burning out our police officers. The Wellness Center is \$200,000 in debt. I wish we could do something on that end. I wish we could curve the cost out there. Glen said we came in pretty close on revenue the expenses we budgeted \$380,000 and spend \$352,000 we have never collected \$350,000 in revenue. Councilmember Eller said he was just trying to find out if there was a way that we could cut the cost to keep from losing so much money. Glen said upgrades won't change the expense.

City of Dillon Downtown Coordinator-Lisa Moody

Lisa began her report saying there are three buildings downtown that are under contract; Petal Pushers, Johnson building, and the McLaurin building. Gigi and Docs and Bristol's on Main will be closing July 23. Lisa gave a list of area happenings. She went on to say she is currently working on four different grants. SC Ports Authority has grants available there is not a match but we are requesting money for economic development and the police department. The MASC hometown economic development grant is based on city population. Lisa continued saying the Energy office grant is for hook ups for electric cars it's an environmental grant. Next, Lisa said we have three artist that will be joining us next month to present information on the murals. They will have prices and bring some of their artwork so you will have an idea of their styles and rendering. Dr. Wallace asked if there was any idea on where you will put the pictures that are on the First Bank building because we have to preserve those. Glen responded he didn't know yet. Dr. Wallace said if we had one of the buildings that we gutted we could put them on the walls of that. Lisa said she is working with Pee Dee Council of Governments on the July 18th to put a vision in place for the Visitors center and Farmers Market stage area. Councilmember Eller asked if food vendors could be at the tournament? Lisa responded, yes, we have two vendors. Councilmember Eller asked if the others saw the Conway mural? Glen responded one of these will be similar to that.

Citizen's Report

Clarissa Thompson spoke about her concerns on the farrow cat issue in her neighborhood. She said during the day they roam around and mate at night. She said it looks like wild kingdom because cats are everywhere lounging around. She said she knows we have neighbors that are feeding the cats but the problem is more cats keep coming. Cat urine is horrible and the smell starts to build up. We have tried calling animal control to put up traps but when they came, they didn't leave any. It's at a point were some of the neighbors want to come up with their own solutions but I'm not for that. I am here as a last resort to get something done so people can come out of the house. Glen said they do have a problem and we have no place to take them the animal shelter said they are full and they won't take them. The animal shelter has reached out to a lady that says she will take the cats to myrtle beach if we would trap them. Councilmember Eller asked how many cats. Ms. Thompson said one night she counted 25. Glen said we can't do what people did many years ago we just don't know the answer. We are working on it. Dr.

Wallace said but it doesn't look promising. The humane society tried to get them out I don't know if they were successful.

Ashland Carmichael introduced herself as a recent graduate from Wofford College. She went on saying being a young adult, she has realized there is not much for us to do here. She said she wanted everyone to see her face and is looking for a building downtown for something safe for young people to do. Dr. Wallace said we don't have a lot of places to go. Councilmember Eller asked can you give us an insight on what you are trying to do. She said during the day I would like to have coffee pastries and at night I would like to do an inside outside place to have adult beverages. Watch football games and draw people from other communities.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller started by saying he wanted to speak about the American Relief Plan money and demolition. Glen said Benny Genwright is working on a list now and notifying property owners. Commercial buildings will be a priority. Glen said hopefully we can advertise in August and receive bids. Councilmember Eller asked are we still trying to move forward on the merchant association. Councilmember Eller said he would like to see more business owners in the meeting to get more dialogue.

Councilmember Washington asked have we done anything about the Bethea property on Martin Luther King Boulevard? Glen responded no we haven't done anything. Councilmember Washington asked will we do something about Rownds property? Glen responded yes.

Councilmember Jackson asked are we ahead on this stormwater? Burt Rogers responded we are way ahead. Councilmember Jackson said we need to ask the community if you see trash in the drain, please get it out. Burt said he had a crew doing that today.

Councilmember Cousar asked if there was any word on splash pad? Glen responded it's been ordered we are waiting on them to ship the material.

VIII. Executive Session

Councilmember Eller made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. After much discussion, but no actions taken Councilmember Cousar made a motion to go back into open session. The motion passed 5-0. Once in open session, Dr. Wallace explained that Council discussed the contribution by Marlboro Electric to give the City of Dillon funds to help the new Elementary school by land. Dr. Wallace said his concern is that we don't have confirmation from the Municipal Association of South Carolina but said that Marlboro Electric has done this in a few communities and it has worked well. Dr. Wallace said we need a motion to accept the offer with the idea that they would help buy the land and run sewage for the elementary school. Councilman Washington made a motion and it was seconded by Councilmember Cousar. Dr. Wallace said we are agreeing to move

forward providing they give us legal documents. We aren't liable until we sign. Councilmember Eller said he wants Representative Hayes to come speak with Council. Dr. Wallace said he thinks Dillon could grow and he thinks this is a good partnership to get into. Councilmember Eller asked what if we get a huge sinkhole can we use the \$450,000 infrastructure funds to fix it? Councilmember Eller asked if Representative Hayes could come speak with Council. Councilmember Eller said he can't vote without the proper documents. Dr. Wallace said the City doesn't want to obstruct the school project. Only the City can give the school sewer. Councilmember Eller said Marlboro Electric didn't want to do anything with the County, and out of respect we should all be on the same page. He said he wants to talk about annexation and a time frame. Councilmember Eller said we have no documentation from Marlboro Electric with stipulations and if we vote to do this, we will need documents. Dr. Wallace said we are only voting to move forward with negotiation of an agreement, not to accept the agreement. After discussion, 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 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

August 11, 2022