

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2022

The September 12, 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

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 but add Contractual matter under Executive Session. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the August 11, 2022 Regular Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Jackson to approve minutes. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr Wallace began his report talking about the Downtown Revitalization Meeting. He said they meet for a long time and enjoy each other's company and sometimes we don't see eye to eye. We will be voting today on some recommendations from our meeting. We will vote on the center planters and totally redo the corners but it's going to take a long time. We are going to put in some trees that will do well in that environment. The trees that we have aren't doing well. Councilmember Eller asked where will the money come from. Glen said it could come from American Rescue Plan money and Dillon Community Alliance requested money from the state so it could come from there. Dr. Wallace said we discussed this in our meeting and the things that they asked for were directed by Glen and they got the grant but the money flows through the city. The city has to approve the funds and that's what this committee does but my understanding was the money was coming from general budget. Councilmember Eller said he asked because we have the ARP money and money that DCA requested from Representative Hayes. Glen said it will \$85,000 to repave the block. Councilmember Eller asked how many planters will we remove. Burt said about 4 on each block. Glen said there are probably 12 or 15 middle planters. Glen said most of it will come from money that DCA requested from the state. The key will be determining the type of tree to put back in these corners. Councilmember Eller asked will the city be doing this work. Glen said he didn't know yet we are just getting prices right now could possible by contracted out. Dr Wallace continued by saying we were talking about possibly changing form a

3 lane to a 4-lane road through downtown and if we change South Carolina Department of Transportation is probably going to make us go to parallel parking. Glen said Burt and he met with DOT Tuesday morning to get an idea on what we can and cannot do. The way we are parking today we don't meet DOT standards. If we determine that main street is resurfaced if we ask them to bring the outside lanes in then we would have to do parallel parking but we will get further into that as we go alone. DOT has yet to bid or receive bids for resurfacing it will probably be early November. It will be next year before any resurfacing will be done. We won't know until they get the bids in. Dr Wallace went on to say he was in a meeting a couple of weeks ago in Sumter doing some strategic planning and they talked about the different McLeod facilities and the growth and they had Dillon at no growth kind of like Hartsville saying overrated at the game Friday night. I think we are looking at a real bright future and I think financially we are ready for it and in a good place. Dr. Wallace went on to discuss Dillon football, he said we don't have a contract yet with the county on the recreation field. So far, we have 76 kids signed up for flag football hopefully next year we will be in full swing. Next, Dr. Wallace said if you didn't make the high school game in Hartsville Friday night you probably missed one of the best games ever. Dillon scored 51 points in the second half. It was just good to see kids not give up. It was very impressive. Councilmember Eller asked will we have tackle football next year? Dr. Wallace said we didn't have the equipment this year. Glen said we could possibly do tackle next year. Glen said we will probably look at 50 to 60 sets of equipment. Councilmember Eller asked if we don't get the contract from the county are we prepared to take this on. Glen said yes. Councilmember Eller asked are we moving forward. Glen said yes, we are looking at the cost of building a football field but right now just doing flag football we can use the soccer field. He said to do tackle we will have to build a field. Glen said the biggest cost would be the lights.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner said he had nothing to report. Dr. Wallace said everything he was going to talk about. Councilmember David asked can we use the lighting that's already out there at the recreation field. Glen said the contractors will have to look at it and tell us.

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

Downtown Coordinator, Lisa Moody gave reports on new business that have opened and are coming to Downtown Dillon. She gave information on the Sponsorship Recruitment for special events. She gave a list of upcoming events such as the farmers market, Eats on the Streets, Rural Area Leadership Initiative, Paws for the Arts, and the Annual Dillon Tailgate Event. Lisa said she is currently working on two grants for the mural project. She introduced two Dillon business owners, Corey Jackson Petals and Stems and Kristy from Hall of Queens.

Citizen's Report

Citizen asked for a status on the JV Martin School Project. Glen responded it's not a city project but there is a funding issue with the State. We have done our part to be a go between for the funding but it didn't happen.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Election Commission Appointment None of the Councilmembers had a submission. Valerie Graves serves on the Election Commission and she presented the name of Natasha Bethea. Glen asked if she lived within the city limits. Valerie responded, she does. Dr. Wallace said to find out what district she is in and have her Councilmember submit her name.

Ordinance #22-08 – Redrawing Council Districts – 1st Reading Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the redistricting map presented by SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office. Councilman Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #22-09 Annex Highway 301 Dillon School District #4 – 1st Reading Councilmember Washington made a motion to annex Highway 301 Dillon School District #4 into the city limits of Dillon. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #11-22 Historic Downtown Mural Arts Project Councilmember Cousar made a motion to provide a local cash/in-kind match of funds for the Historic Downtown Mural Arts Project. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #12-22 – CDBG – Farmers Market Councilmember Cousar made a motion to submit an application for CDBG for the Farmers Market project. Councilmember Eller seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Main Street Removal of Center Curb Planters After some discussion, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to remove the center curb planters. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Main Street Corner Planters Landscaping After some discussion, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to replace the trees with trees that can exist in that environment. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller asked Lisa Moody to give him information on a building that a young lady came to us in July about and was planning on putting a business in the building. Lisa responded she set up with the realtor for Ashlyn to look at the building. Councilmember Eller asked was there a contract on the building when Ashlyn came to look at the building. Stephanie Mitchell said she doesn't know she only knows about the contract that she wrote. Councilmember Eller did Ms. Rogers ever tell you that Ashlyn walked through the building. Stephanie said she didn't think she could answer these questions in council that he can come to their board meeting and they will entertain him for 10 minutes. Brian Mason was asked was the building under contract when Ashlyn was looking at the building. Brian Mason said no it wasn't under contract. Councilmember Eller wanted to know where DCA came in. Mr. Mason said that Ashlyn called and spoke to me about the building and she was interested and said she was going to due diligence then a couple of a days later I get a call from DCA and they wanted to write a contract on the building. I wrote up the contract and I made no money on the building. DCA got the contract in before Ashlyn. Councilmember Eller said DCA is supposed to help business owners get buildings and I didn't realize that DCA was in the business of buying buildings. Stephanie said you are

making assumptions and if you would like our documents, they are available to you from the secretary of state and again this is not something that should be discussed in this council meeting. Ashlyn said she never got answers she said she didn't get answers but she will do something great. She said she just hopes other people wanting to bring businesses to Dillon doesn't get stopped. Dr. Wallace said DCA was formed on their own and our only relationship is what we do on that committee in the meetings. DCA has asked for money and we have given them money through accommodation tax for special events said Glen. Dr. Wallace asked Councilmember Eller would he like to be on the committee to go forward and discuss what our relationship is with DCA. Councilmember Eller said he hopes DCA doesn't do this going further and they be a liaison between business owners. Ashlyn said she's not asking for anything she only wanted support. She was trying to make something for her friends to come to she just wishes she was moving on now. After a discussion between Councilmember Eller and Steve Johnson, Dr. Wallace said we have to move on.

Councilmember David began his report saying he mentioned last month about the clothes bins being an eye sore. Glen responded that when it's on private property we can't do anything about them. Councilmember David said he wants them cleaned. Janet Paschall responded with she would want us to get permission from the property owner to remove the bins. Councilmember David asked if we can come up with signage coming in and out of Dillon? Glen said we have three that are not brick and are on private property. Councilmember David said he thinks the brick signage would be good for our community.

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. The motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the contract to help with the new school for \$422,000. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

IX. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Approved: Dr. Phil Wallace
Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: Tina Scott
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: Oct. 10, 2022