

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 19, 2022

The December 19, 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 Jay David

Councilmember Timothy Cousar
Councilmember Johnny Eller
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. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the November 14, 2022 Regular Council Meeting**
A motion was made by Councilmember Cousar to approve minutes. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Mayor Pro Tem's Report**
Dr. Wallace began his report saying he can't remember when the parade has been that big and he's not sure how many people were there. At the Christmas Tree Lighting there may have been 300 people. Lisa Moody does a good job of promoting Dillon. A lot of good things are happening in this community. He went on saying the Methodist Church gave away 225 food baskets to 75 families and probably \$10,000 dollars from the generosity of people. The Church of God also hosted a breakfast and gave out coats. There are so many wonderful things going on in our community. The media focus on the bad but we have some good things. Next, Dr. Wallace said we went to lower state championship and we lost to a good team but we didn't win but a great turn out and experience. Lastly, Dr. Wallace said the budget is going well.

City Manager's Report

Glen said he will follow up with the good things. He began by saying Johnny Daniels has done a toy drive. The City did our portion the following Saturday. Glen said 171 kids benefited from the toy drive from locals. We also did something for a lot of veterans. There is a lot of good things that people don't really see or think about. Speaking of goodness, we have our annual employee luncheon Wednesday at 11:30am and we would love to have Council there. All City offices will be closed December 22nd thru the 26th. The Sanitation Department will operate as normal. Glen went to say he received a letter from Department of Commerce, the City has been awarded

\$250,000 CDBG grant for the Farmers Market. Lastly, Glen said County Council has finally passed the final reading of Leasing the County Park to the City for 20 years he will meet with Chairman Buzzy Finklea tomorrow to sign the contract for \$1 per year.

Finance Report

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

Citizen's Report

None

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Police Department renovations – Glen said you should have in your packets Gilbert Construction cost estimate for renovating the first and second floor of the Police Department. The new quote came up to \$600,000 plus so we asked them to break it down. For us to start renovations we would need to do the first-floor renovations along with the elevator shaft. We can use the rest to start renovations on the second floor. The only exterior renovations would be to replace the windows upstairs. Councilmember Eller asked if we had any ARP money for the Farmers Market? Glen responded no. Councilmember Eller asked if there was any money that we could move to renovate the second floor? Glen said he asked for money from Representative Hayes to renovate the second floor. Glen said we won't have a response until around June after the budget. Glen said if Council agree with these plans, we can start on the Visitors Center first so that Lisa Moody can move and then start on the police department. Dr. Wallace said they are probably going to take around three months to renovate the Visitors Center. That would give us the time to find out whether we will receive additional funds. I just think it would be a much better situation if we get money for all of it. I'm suggesting that we do the windows and then if we knew we had the money coming we could do it more in sync so you are not tearing up stuff that has already been done on the second floor. Glen said we will talk to Gilbert Construction some more. Councilmember David said he thought we had some money from the ARP to do some other things. Glen said Dillon Community Alliance has budgeted \$120,000 for the Visitors Center. We budgeted \$55,000 and that would free up money to use for the Police Department. Councilmember David said he would really like to see the Police Department completed. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the first-floor renovations of \$247, 930. Councilmember Cousar seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Visitor center renovations –Glen said he budgeted \$175,000 for renovations. He said we will use \$125,000 of the ARP funds and DCA has received funds from the State of \$120,000 to help with renovations. That would leave us \$70,000 to buy furniture for the visitors center, ice machine, paying for engineering or architecture or it could be a match for CDBG grant. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the Visitor Center renovations. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Golf Course parking lot Resurface bids – Glen began by saying we received three bids. Evans Paving was the lowest at \$180,000. The remaining bids are Industrial Paving at \$232,472 and Chipley Company at \$242,185. Evans Paving has done work for us before. They paved the walking

track at the Wellness Center. This project is funded by appropriations provided in the State budget that was secured by Representative Hayes. Councilmember David made a motion to accept Evans Paving. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Eller asked can we come back to look at fixing the parks with cost estimates. Glen said he will come back in January with information.

Accommodation Tax Committee Recommendations – I have attached a list of the Committee Recommendations for the State Accommodation tax disbursements. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept recommendations. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Landscaping Historic Downtown – Councilmember David said the roads from Harrison to Calhoun Street, from Pope's furniture to Kj's Grocery store. He said any place that we have a planter or tree, he wants to replace the tree and the plants. Councilmember David said DCA has the funding, we would have to do the plans but they need to have something from us that we are willing to do that. Glen said he is waiting on the States landscape architect to give us a list of things that can be planted on their right of way. Councilmember Eller said didn't we vote a couple of months ago to take the center planters out? Glen responded yes that is on our list to do because that is what Council voted on. Dr. Wallace said maybe we will bring the pictures back next time but we won't take those planters out we were going to take the out to have more parking but we actually won't have more parking. Everyone hate the trees but if we kept the planters and take the trees out it would be much cleaner and a lot easier to maintain and not as harsh as making it all concrete. Stephanie Mitchell said the money is there to remove the planters and do all of the landscaping. I do have a landscaper that does have an architect available. I have to get additional bids I can get a landscape architect if that's what you like. We do have funds available. Councilmember Eller asked how much money is allotted. Stephanie responded \$190,000 and I have an additional \$70,000 if needed. Councilmember David said why didn't we continue the pavers; I would like to see them all the way to railroad track in front of Kj's Grocery. Glen said you can do that. Councilmember Eller asked Stephanie about having money to get rid of the planters, Dr. Wallace wants to salvage the planters if we decided not to go with your plan can we still use your money? Stephanie said we would have to go back to the state to redirect those funds.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying overtime with the Police Department has depleted our overtime funds and I just want to ask to watch that because we don't want to burn the officers out. Next, Councilmember Eller asked has DCA received the money. Stephanie responded DCA has. Councilmember asked does DCA have an outline when you will start your projects. Stephanie said as soon as we get an approval from Council we can start. Glen said we need to hire landscape architect to give us a plan. Stephanie said if you tell her what she is doing she can start. Councilmember Eller said he just wants to see us get uptown thriving. Glen said funds have to follow procurement process and that takes time. Councilmember Eller ended by wishing Happy holidays to the staff.

Councilmember Washington asked, "are the roads getting paved for c-funds, do they make final decision?" Glen responded yes; we don't have a say we just give suggestions.

Councilmember Jackson began his report saying we have a city council member that passed away last year, Kenneth Head Stephens. He was one of the founding people for recreation, he had a tremendous impact and I would like to see us do a road in honor Kenneth Stephens. I think it

would mean a lot to the kids. I would like to see us come back with something. He ended by wishing all employees Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Cousar asked what's the status of the splash pad? Glen said they will probably be back after Christmas.

Councilmember Eller asked if we could get the padded flooring on the walking track inside of the wellness center. Glen said we are waiting on quotes.

Dr. Wallace said we will probably have opportunity for housing growth out there near the wellness center. He continued by saying you all should go look at the new school they have already started. People can't move to Dillon now because there isn't any housing. Glen said there is no development within the city.

VIII. Executive Session

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to go into Executive session. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session. Councilmember David made a motion to go back into open session. The motion passed unanimously. Once in open session, Councilmember Jackson a motion to accept the proposal from Pee Dee Electric to give the City funds to offset the cost of future sewer projects. Pee Dee Electric is providing \$163,000. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the proposal from Marlboro Electric providing \$28,000. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to give all fulltime employees a \$500 Christmas bonus and part time employees a \$250 Christmas bonus. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Cousar made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

1/9/2023