

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 9, 2023

The January 9, 2023 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

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 David made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Approve minutes of the December 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting**
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 Lisa Moody puts together these Chit, Chat, and Chews and Council should make an attempt to go to these. I spoke with a County Councilmember and she wanted to know if the City Council would sit down and have discussions. I told her yes as long as we have a mutual goal. As long as we sit as servants we can sit down and make things happen. These meeting that Lisa has are informal and you can meet the business owners. We have had meetings with Dillon Community Alliance (DCA) and Downtown Development. I just resolved that it is probably better if we leave the planters alone. I want to keep them but everyone else seems to want to take them out. Dr. Wallace continued saying he rides the City a lot. He said he rode the City Sunday morning and noticed the parking lot behind a building were 3 vehicles and they hadn't moved. Rhett Thompkins said they were the soup kitchen vehicles. Songia Wynn said those are her vehicles and they are used to deliver meals to people. Dr Wallace said if they are moving then they are fine. We have a lot of projects going on like flood, renovations, building a football field, putting lights on the football field. We are talking about a splash pad and finishing up paying for the Wellness Center. We have a budget of about \$10M and we have about 70% of that budget in the bank. We could operate 263 days without touching that money. The state wanted to go from 3 to 5% as a buffer. The city is in a good space and we are moving. Lastly, Dr. Wallace said we have a crime issue that we are trying to address. Crime is everywhere but it's mostly humans that don't care about other humans or children that don't have male figures in

their lives to help them become proper human beings. I am really upbeat about where we are as a city.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report saying we were notified that we were awarded \$4M Stormwater Grant for Lucius Road outfall, behind the land fill, Hwy 301 and East Dargan that goes to 6th Ave and Washington Street the other is the Railroad by the shop area. They interviewed 3 or 4 Engineering firms. I have spoken with Western and Sampson twice in the past 6 months we have a meeting with them Thursday morning to begin the process. They have the task of designing these new outfalls. We are probably talking a year before it is bid out. The time line to finish is probably 2025. Next, Glen said for Water and sewer projects, we have a bid opening tomorrow on 2 lift stations on Dargan Street and 5th Avenue and an old one on Lucius Road. We also have the Hillside project lift station going on now. Chief Lane and I spoke with Gilbert Construction so they can begin working and hopefully the Visitors Center renovations can begin and Lisa Moody can move. After that they will start on the first floor of the Police Department. Glen went on to say we have a meeting tomorrow for lighting at the sports complex. Glen continued his report saying our main street resurfacing deal with SCDOT has been bid out and selected. Resurfacing could start as early as March or as late as October we don't know when yet. Lastly, Glen said if we are going to remove those planters, we need to do that at least 30 days prior to the resurfacing. The goal will be to do that first of February. Dr Wallace said we talked about taking the myrtles out also, is there money in the state money for the planters? Stephanie said yes, it's all for landscaping and it is a slow process.

Finance Report

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

Downtown Coordinator

Lisa Moody thanked everyone for the 2022 year. Our mural project is well on the way. She said she is looking forward to 2023 for the Visitors Center and the Farmers' Market. Lisa went on to say the Movie series, Chit, Chat and Chews are bringing a lot of people to downtown Dillon. She is looking forward to the street sweet progress and the 2023 year.

Dillon Historic School Foundation

Gerald Berry read a letter to Dillon City Council from Frank X. Hursey. The letter is attached to the minutes.

Citizen's Report

Sonja Wynn said the lights on Radford Boulevard are dark. Glen said to get him the info to get the lights fixed. Ms. Wynn responded thank you Glen for getting the leaves up.

Gerald berry said when you turn at Food Lion there are no lights and the ditches are deep and there is nothing to prevent cars from going in the ditch. Dr Wallace said we will look into that.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Bids on Shop Building at Golf Course – Glen said staff has received bids for a new maintenance shop at the Golf Course. Two bids were received with a low bid of \$61,000 and high bid of \$62,498.90. The building is a metal building that is 30X50. Copies of the bids are included in your packet. Funding for this is the State Funds the City received in the Appropriation Act of the State Budget. The low bidder is K&G Storage of Dillon, the high bid is TOL Buildings (Martin Buildings). The money received from the appropriated funds is \$550,000. Glen said we will come back later and put in the electric and plumbing. The bids are not just for the buildings. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept the low bid. Councilmember Washington seconded. Councilmember Eller asked do we have to have a minimum of 3 bids per the procurement policy. Glen said we couldn't get 3 bids. Councilmember Eller said the minimum is 3 bids and I don't want to do something that we aren't supposed to do without abiding by the ordinance. Janet Paschal said she would have to read the ordinance before she can speak on the legality of it. Janet said it's going to depend on the wording. Dr Wallace asked have we accepted the low bid of 2 bids in the past Glen said yes. Is that established precedence? Janet said she would still like to read the ordinance. Burt said we can only get two bids because there are only two businesses that does it. Councilmember Eller said if that is the case then we need to change the ordinance. Janet suggested that we table it until next meeting. Dr Wallace said if legal says defer it then we will. Councilmember Eller made a motion to table all new business based on legal advice from the city attorney. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bids on New Greens at Golf Course –

Based on legal advice this is tabled until the next meeting.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying now that we have finished the roof at the Fire Department, Chief Bailey is there anything else that we can get done? Glen said we will have to change what we have already allocated with the ARP funds. Next, Councilmember Eller asked how much money was spent on the overtime for the police department this year for Walmart. Chief Lane said we haven't invoiced it yet. They are not assigned to Walmart. We have 2 officers allocated for that area. Walmart called and asked if we can do security on Christmas day and we are going to charge them the holiday rate. Dr Wallace asked if the officers were complaining. Chief Lane said no. Dr Wallace asked what is the maximum overtime they are working. Chief Lane responded 25 hours a week of OT. Councilmember Eller asked Glen to look at first responders to see if we are still compatible with other municipalities.

Councilmember David said he gets calls on the lighting in the alleyways and was curious about the alleyway behind Ace Hardware because there is one light in that alleyway. He said also, behind Rippey's (alley on the 200 block between N. 1st Ave and N. Railroad) there is one and I think we need to look at adding an extra light. I have had a couple of people call saying the visibility is terrible. Councilmember David went on to say he has talked with Benny Genwright about Dollar General, Walmart, and IGA buggies all over Dillon. He said people are storing stuff in them and I think it's getting out of control. He said he doesn't think they should be used for personal use. He said he thinks something should be put in place where these businesses will be required to get their buggies off of the street. Glen said if they are on the right of way, we can pick them up but if they are on private property, we can't touch them. Councilmember David said we need to bring attention to it because it is getting out of hand.

Councilmember Eller asked for an update from the committee as far as DCA, do you have a sheet on renovations for downtown? Stephanie Mitchell said we talked about that at our last meeting and things are going to take longer than anticipated and bids are hard to get. We have the signs that we just approved but there is legal paperwork before we can put the signs up. I am waiting on one more quote on the trashcan. I may have a presentation by the next meeting. Councilmember Eller asked have you done anything on Elizabeth Lane Park. Glen responded we need an all-inclusive playground, meaning all kids can participate no matter their physical ability including wheelchair assessable. That is an expensive endeavor but I have someone coming to give me some idea on what we can do.

VIII. **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 7:58pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

2/13/23

To: The Dillon City Council Members and Fellow Dillonites

From: Frank X. Hursey

Today, the Dillon Historic School Foundation's "DHS 1936 Auditorium Project" received a check from me to restore the old auditorium to its original grand look. My contribution was \$308,000 dollars.

[Note: This generous gift was donated to cover the costs of items and installations necessary to upgrade the 1936 Auditorium by equipping it with Light & Sound Systems, a Video System, Interior and Exterior Lighting, Custom-Made Fencing, and Restorations of Two Pianos.]

I have been asked to write a bit about my life experiences.

I always thought my education at East Elementary, Middle School, and Dillon High School (Class of '62) gave me the foundation to attend higher learning schools and meet life's challenges. I occasionally see some of my high school classmates and connect with others through email. Unfortunately, some of my close school friends have passed on, but they are still fondly remembered.

I was born at St. Eugene Hospital in 1944. My three sisters, Jane, Judy, Joan, and I grew up on Washington St. and then Roosevelt St.. The fifties had to be the best time ever to experience childhood: unlocked bicycles and freedom to safely roam anywhere. It was days of climbing trees, digging tunnels, fishing, and later hunting. A Saturday movie was ten cents admission and the same for coke and popcorn. My first job at age seven was selling boiled peanuts and snowballs on Main Street. Later, I had a paper route (The Charlotte Observer) and enjoyed reading the news before others got up to face the day. The Russian Sputnik was an eye opener for all of us.

My father, Frank, worked for the Dillon Herald for many years. The paper in those days was printed using lead linotype plates. His machine was by a window, and kids enjoyed watching the many movements of the machine parts as type was formed.

In 1963, my father passed. My mother, Judy, Joan, and I moved to Connecticut as there was work available for Judy and me. I was lucky to work on the Apollo ("Man to the Moon") Program as an engineer aide at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. After this experience, I decided to study engineering. I earned a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Hartford. Later, I earned a Master's degree in business management at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Hartford).

I married my wife Nancy thirty-five years ago and have three children: Kristin, Heidi, and Jon, and nine grandchildren. They all have a love for education.

What I really wanted to do over the years was own my own business. In 1987, I started OnSite Gas Systems to manufacture oxygen and nitrogen generators. This endeavor is still going strong after 36 years. It's ironic that a product I use in the gas company, zeolite, turns out to be a hemostatic agent. I tested it and miraculously it stopped the bleeding. I got a patent for it, and, with the help of a marketing genius, sold the packaged product to the U.S. Marines. It is called QuikClot, and some are calling it historical. It is used now by all branches of the military, as well as commercially, and has saved thousands of lives. A book about QuikClot, In The Blood, author Charlie Barber, is being published May 30th of this year. A potential movie is to follow.

Recently the University of Hartford named a campus building in Nancy's and my name. It is called the Francis X. and Nancy Hursey Center for Advanced Engineering and Health Sciences. It will produce world class engineers and nurses. Nancy is a retired RN.

We also built Camp St. Mary's in Uganda, based on a camp I attended in Richland, South Carolina as a child. Here children are learning life skills, ecology, fish farming, gardening, and religion.

I have always enjoyed home ownership, and Nancy and I have been fortunate to own several. One of my favorites is on the ocean in Garden City. I still love beach days, boiled peanuts, field peas and butterbeans.

So my life has been interesting, and I owe so much to Dillon. It was, and probably still is, a great place to grow up and live—a place where a small town boy can make a difference in the world, and I thank all who have helped me along the way.

Frank X. Hursey
January 8, 2023