

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2022

The November 14, 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 October 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and October 24, 2022 Grant Incentive Workshop**
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 said he doesn't have much but he is excited about all of the events happening in Dillon. Lisa is going to report on that. The budget is in pretty good shape. Do we have anything from Gilbert Glen said he will talk about it.

City Manager's Report

Glen began his report giving information on his meeting with Gilbert Construction. He said he and will be meeting with them Wednesday to go over the Police Department plans and the Visitor Center. He said we will bring back the cost at the December meeting. Councilmember David asked if we can reschedule our meeting to December 19? Councilmember Jackson made a motion to meet December 19. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Glen gave the holiday schedule. He went on to say in your packet a public notice for FEMA Hazard Mitigation on the second page of that notice this is where the study was done for our storm water and this grant, we are applying for it from FEMA with AECOM. This grant has been submitted the cost estimate was \$1.5M, there is a 10% match which is \$150,000. The deadline was Friday but I'm not sure when the award date will be. The three that we got back in the spring, the State Office of Resilience is handling those grants. They chose the engineering firms to do this so hopefully in the next 6-9 months they will start on that project.

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

Lisa Moody began her report saying the first Dillon downtown merchant meeting was a huge success. We had 27 people show up and represented 15 businesses. We had two meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We discussed ways to come together in the group. We discussed things that could happen immediately. The first shop small Saturday will be November 26th. We will be doing a lot of advertising for that. We will also do an open house on December 8th. I would like for council members to come. December 1st is our annual Christmas tree lighting and Christmas parade. Lisa said she is trying to get a couple of food trucks for that event. We will also have Eats on the streets on December 14th. Next, Lisa went on to say the murals were approved with the bar and we will be meeting on December 5 with an artist coming back with ideas. Tommy Simpson was front page on the news in Myrtle Beach. He is one of our artists. The first mural will be on Robbie Coward building and hopefully we can get that started next month. We hope to have the murals completed by January.

Citizen's Report

Citizens report County Councilmember Jamal Campbell started by saying he went before the Board or Architectural Review to discuss murals. He went on to say the county will like to partner with the city and make sure we are all inclusive with the town. County Council wants to have community meetings to make sure the citizens are involved. County Councilmember Campbell said Darlene J McClendon has done murals for governments of South Carolina. She is featured in magazines and she travels. She would like to include art students. Dr. Wallace asked was there and opportunity for them to be included. Lisa Moody said this was happening way before she got here. Councilmember Eller asked if the mural that County Councilmember Campbell brought was submitted to the bar. Glen said he believes something was presented a year ago but he's not sure what happened. County Councilmember Campbell responded we presented it but we didn't present a rendering because we wanted the citizens input before we submitted a drawing. Councilmember Eller asked about the cost of the murals. Lisa responded that it was approved last month and read off the cost. Councilmember Eller asked Benny to take County Councilmember Campbell's proposal to the BAR then bring it back to Council.

John Harlow, Commander of Dillon VFM 0691 began by saying he came before Council to express his appreciation for the strong support that the City of Dillon gives to the veterans' program. Each organization work to promote veteran programs and to help veterans and their families in the city of Dillon. City manager Glen Wagner and the City of Dillon have continuously provided strong support for our veterans and helping veterans plan Memorial Day programs, annual Veterans Health Fair, and other veteran programs. The City gives veterans a membership discount at the wellness center. The City of Dillon is very supportive of veterans. Your past and continued support of veterans of Dillon is greatly appreciated. John Harlow continued saying the City of Dillon purchased one of the largest ads in color for the Dillon herald thanking veterans for their service to our country. We veterans thank the city of Dillon, the people of Dillon, it means a lot to our veterans and their families to see this kind of appreciation. We thank them all for the support but

tonight I am here to thank the City of Dillon it is greatly appreciated. Mr. Harlow ended by saying God bless our troops and keep them safe, God bless the people of Dillon, God bless America, and our veterans.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Helmet purchase for Youth Football Glen Wagner said he reached out to the Riddell representative and they sent a quote for 50 helmets. The cost is \$6092. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to purchase the helmets. Councilmember Jackson seconded motion passed 6-0.

Sport Complex lighting bids Glen began by saying If we are going to continue doing what we have been doing we need to update the lights. We have received 5 bids. The low bid was \$439,020 and the high bid was \$512,278. Councilmember Cousar made a motion to accept low bid. Councilmember David seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Incentive Grant Program Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the Incentive Grant Program Guidelines presented by Lisa Moody. Councilmember Cousar seconded motion passed unanimously.

Demolition of Madison Estate Glen began by saying we have received quotes to demolish this building that Council has discussed over the past year. Low bid is \$35,650 and high bid is \$38,446. Wofford Demolition is the low bidder and this company has done work for the City in the past. Once this is done, we will put a lien on the property for \$35,650. We allocated funds in ARP for demolishing. Councilmember Eller said he knows it has always been the standard for council to accept the lowest bid, but Copperhead is local and they do good work. He would like to see us keep it local. They have done great work where I work at. Councilmember Eller asked Benny can you reach back out to Copperhead and see if they have time. Wafford said he is ready to get started now. Copperhead won't be ready within the next 6 months said Benny. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept lowest bid. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember David said he would like to local but we need a time frame going forward.

City Council pay increase Glen said Council asked him to research what other City's pay their councilmembers and compare to the City's pay scale. I have shown that scale in my letter. This gives you some idea. I don't remember the last time you got an increase. Councilmember Wallace said we get a raise every time our health insurance goes up. Councilmember Jackson said he's content with what he gets now. He said he can use it but we have city employees that can use it.

VII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying we passed an ordinance about the buildings being registered and fees paid, where are we with that? Benny said it is happening. Glen said we have a fund and we've collected \$4,024. Councilmember Eller asked how many buildings are for sale downtown. Benny answered, "6 buildings." Councilmember Eller went on to say we have a homeless problem in the City of Dillon. The occupant of the building that Dr. Wallace partners with said when she gets in people are asleep behind the building. I think we will have an epidemic before it's over with. They are laying in the Lockemy courtyard and I think City Council and the

Police need to come up with a plan. Glen said he has spoken Chief Lane about it and if they aren't breaking any laws there is not really anything that we can do. Councilmember Eller said he doesn't know how to clean it up but wanted to share the business owner's concern. Chief Lane said he is contacting local pastors to try and help facilitate some discussion on what we can do for these homeless people. I have gotten some good feedback but if they aren't willing to get help then we can't help them. Chief Lane said he is familiar with the lady that is there and she has a terrible drug problem and I have told her that she can't stay there but she doesn't have anywhere to go. I would just hope people wouldn't put on blinders, they are still people and somebody has to deal with them. My officers deal with them on a daily basis they know what their problems are. Chief Lane said Lisa has invited me to the next Merchant Building meeting so hopefully they will have some ideas to help these homeless people. Councilmember Eller asked how is the staffing situation in the city. Glen responded we have people applying for jobs but when we set up interviews they don't show up. It's just people not wanting to work. Councilmember Eller asked is it a competitive wage problem. Glen answered we lost one for more money but we couldn't match what he was going for. I don't think it's a wage thing most of the time. Glen said the most turnover is the police. Glen asked should we give increases in wages sure but what we can pay today but can we pay in 3 years without going up on our revenue.

Councilmember David asked if make repairs on Radford boulevard a project that we are working on. Glen said eventually but it's not a top priority. Councilmember David asked County Councilmember Jamal Campbell is the county council considering funding murals for downtown? County Councilmember Jamal Campbell said no we don't receive a food tax but we have pushed for a joint meeting with the city.

Councilmember Cousar began by saying he wants to give props to Chief Lane, Chief Bailey, and Glen because the Halloween event was a great event. The kids really enjoyed the event. I just wanted to give you all congratulations.

VIII. Executive Session

Councilmember David made a motion to go into Executive session. Councilmember Jackson 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 David made a motion to accept the contract agreement with Safebilt Carolinas to address the vacancy we have for a Building Inspector. Councilmember Cousar 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 8:59pm.

Approved: _____

Dr. Phil Wallace, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

December 19, 2022