

**MINUTES**  
**City of Dillon Budget Workshop**  
**May 30, 2023**

The May 30, 2023 Budget Workshop of the City Council was held at the City-County Complex located at 401 W. Main Street, Dillon, SC. Notices of this Budget Workshop 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 Tally McColl

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember Dr. Phil Wallace

Councilmember Jay David

Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Johnny Eller

Councilmember Douglas Jackson

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor McColl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor McColl gave the invocation.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Budget for 2023-2024**  
Glen began his report saying at the last Budget meeting on Monday, May 22, he proposed \$5,000 in budget for the police department it was asked to take it up to \$7,000. I broke down the cost and how to get to those cost on my letter. He continued saying he sat down over the weekend and again today we can do the same thing with these increases but reducing the millage increase from 6% to 3%. We will be moving the funding from one source to another source but still using those 2 sources as the main funding. Dr Wallace said inflation is at 5% and I don't see a sign that will change and it's a little worrisome it puts us at almost a \$400000 shortfall even with the increase on going up on the sanitation. The cost on a \$90,000 house at 93mils would be 16.20 additional cost on 350,000 it will be a \$38 increase. Councilmember David said but sanitation would be doubled and we will bring in about the same amount of money on mils. Glen said it will be about \$5 a month more for the additional sanitation including the increase. And proposed 3% or 5% increase in water and sewer. Councilmember Eller said the reason he proposed the millage increase is that he is thinking about the older people on a fixed income. The property tax wouldn't hit the older the people but if you put it on the water and sewer it will affect the older people. Councilmember Eller said if you left the sanitation alone and left it at 6% on property tax it is showing the older people that we care about them. Glen said when we bring the final reading back in late June, I need to know do we want to do what I'm suggesting or do something different. If so, we need to schedule another meeting to discuss this. I have to advertise 15 days prior to our public hearing. I want to have it in the paper on June 8. Dr Wallace said he has heard that with our \$7,000 increases in the police from everybody in the city wants to know where is there increase. We are creating this and I want to take care of the police and I want them to come when I call but if we go to \$7,000 increases and raise the trash and everyone else by \$1,200 what are

we saying to them about their job? I am also concerned that our budget doesn't suggest a \$300,000 increase. Glen said we are looking at \$7M budget so I'm concerned that we are going to be doing the same thing at a \$300,000 deficit to offset that. Dr. Wallace said I understand that you have some things that you anticipate, I'm just concerned about a budget that we haven't addressed inflation and we are looking at about a 22% increase in police salary I want to take care of them and I don't want them to leave but this isn't going away and what are we going to do next year when we need to go up. Glen said we need to do this to keep what we have. We are in a time where we worry about next year next year. Everybody is having the same discussion. Dr. Wallace said we can do a \$5,000 increase and if at the middle of the year we are having a good experience with those anticipated revenues maybe then we can look at another type of bonus that we are not locked into. I don't know how to do that I just worry about us obligating this kind of money and creating an environment where other employees are asking who am I. Chief Lane said he has 5 vacancies and we just lost another police officer this week. Glen said we have 5 vacancies and those 5 vacancies are part of this \$240,000 for salary increases I don't see us filling all 5 positions in a years' time. I hope I'm wrong but I just don't see that happening and if that's the case you are looking at it in a savings standpoint. The budget we are in now, year to date we have spent \$950,000 so I'm about \$100,000 off of what we budgeted for this year. Councilmember Jackson said the \$7,000 won't get us new officers but it will help us keep what we have. I would love to see us get \$2,000 for other employees our citizens should look at what they pay taxes on and the services they are getting for it. If my store catches on fire the City is coming not the County, the County will only come if the City can't handle it. I think we need to fund the police and keep the officers that we have. Chief Lane do you feel like the \$7,000 will keep the officers and Dr. Wallace asked what about the \$5000? Chief Lane said the \$7,000 is already out there Dr. Wallace said well it wasn't but it was on the street before I could turn my truck on. Councilmember Eller said it's usually me, Dr Wallace, Jay, and Douglas had some input. I have no problem saying what I would like to see happen I want to understand what everybody has to say. Councilmember Washington said well I would like to do the \$5000 and go up later on. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar said we need protection. I want them to get paid and it is a dangerous job and the streets aren't getting safer. We gave a raise last year at \$3,000 every year we trying to go up. Sooner or later, we are going to have to start giving raises to everybody else because the other employees are going to want more money or you're going to have the same problem because they'll go find another job.

Burt Rogers said if we increase 7% or 9% sanitation is already very expensive. If you add 10% to them you are talking about \$75, we give a good service but millage rate has hardly ever increased and now is your time to do it. Inflation has gone up 14% in two years. Councilmember Eller said come July 1, we are going to be down 3 more police officers and I want the council to realize that because there is a possibility. We have one that has already told me he is leaving July 1. If we are down 3 more, what are we going to do then. I just want to have a discussion about it. I just feel like we can do this and we can retain these police officers. It won't affect me much it will affect the people that own rental property. Mayor McColl said we need to figure out if we are doing the \$5000 or \$7000. I don't like how it's transpired from the 5000 to 7000 but it's out now. I understand it's terrible to interview people. We have to have police; we can't keep losing officers. I do understand and I think they deserve it but I think we need to come to an agreement we need to figure out what we are going to do and then figure out where the money is going to come from.



Dr. Wallace said we are going to be in a bad place if we don't control our budget. Go to 6mills but still do the sanitation increase to compensate for inflation. Dr. Wallace said we might have another option if we do that and are having a good experience at the end of the year, we can bonus other people \$1,000 that didn't get the raise. Everyone except the police. We can do 6mills and 9% sanitation increase. Mayor McColl said when we come out of here, we need to all be together. Glen said tax increases are tough but we don't hear people complain about that we hear people when they come to the window to pay their sanitation bills. Sanitation funds a lot for us it has kept the millage rate down. Glen said he just want to be sure that he doesn't get a phone call or text tonight from someone wanting to do something different. Councilmember Eller said I just want to make sure of what we are proposing, 6-mil property tax and 9% increase on sanitation. The basic sanitation and sewer now are \$56.22 with no consumption but if she uses 5000 gallons so now you are talking about \$92 per month depending on usage. Councilmember Washington said whenever a police officer put that badge, they shouldn't be looking to get a lot of money they should expect a fair living. People at Harbor Freight making \$16 or \$20 an hour it's not about how much money it's about if they like the job or not. The \$7,000 raise is not going to make them stay on that job. Glen said a non-certified police officer starting pay is \$31,000 and if this goes up, July 1st that same person will be paid \$38,000 and I think that will recruit some people. Councilmember Jackson said other areas are paying more than we are. He then asked does Chief Lane do exit interviews. Glen said over the past few years people have left for more money and some have left the profession all together. Councilmember Jackson said the \$5 daily usage fee should go to \$10 at the Wellness Center. They may not act up if they have to pay \$10. That's the only thing that we haven't increased in 10 years.

#### **Water & Sewer**

In the budget I had a 3% increase but after talking with engineers today after the rate study they are suggesting a 5% increase to offset the loan that we got for Hillside Drive they didn't qualify for a grant. I'll provide that study for you later. I have spoken with Hardy and we are looking at a tool body truck for \$60,000 and an all-terrain vehicle of \$20,000. We are looking at \$80,000 for capital purchases and this includes the \$1200 raise for everybody. Dr. Wallace said I have no problem with 5% so that we can keep up with inflation so we don't start losing money. Glen said Monday at our regular council meeting there will be an ordinance for sanitation fee and water and waste water. We will do the millage at the end of June because that will be a part of the budget. Councilmember Eller asked the new trucks that we are buying will someone take them home. Burt said yes if I give it to an on-call person.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

N. Tally McColl, Mayor

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Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

6/5/23