

MINUTES
City of Dillon Budget Workshop
May 15, 2023

The May 15, 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. Dr. Wallace also gave the invocation.

- II. **Approval of Agenda**
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda but add and Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- III. **Budget for 2023-2024**
Glen began his report saying different agencies in the cities, counties, and the state are trying to recruit and maintain police officers. The state with highway patrol, public safety officers, and correctional officers are sliding their pay scale extremely high. We just lost a police officer that has had 14 years of experience and most of it has been here. Allen Turner has left us here making around \$40,000 and going to the highway patrol to make around \$70,000. Officers with no experience with the highway patrol certified are making around \$59,000. Glen continued saying he doesn't expect us to compete with the state. I gave you all a comparison of starting salaries for police for surrounding counties. Glen said Mullins has eliminated two full time positions and increased their starting pay to \$41,000. They haven't hired anyone yet with the new salaries. This is a difficult time to find police officers because of the environment and trying to keep what you have because they have opportunities to go with the state. We probably have three officers that have applied with the State and are looking for other opportunities. We can't match the state but we need to do something to show that we care. I ask for \$4000 per year bump and it will cost us around \$130,000. Glen said he thinks it would be a good investment. The double edge sword is the other employees will want to know where is theirs. We haven't given an across the board raise in years. We gave \$1200 in 2021 because we started charging employees for insurance. If we gave everyone \$1000 that is basically 50 cents per hour and it will cost another \$40,000. Councilmember Eller said we talked about the Charleston County incident this past weekend it puts in perspective of what these police officers go through. He said \$4000 or \$5000 per year isn't going to get it. We got that \$10M infrastructure grant from the state we had \$500,000 for the water meters. We need to get around \$50,000 from that fund to give more to the police. Dr. Wallace said maybe we can get them to sign a contract but Chief Lane said the state put in place

that you can't go into contract with the police. You can put incentives in place where you periodically give officers money. Chief Lane said his only concern is if you do that you are not increasing the salary. Councilmember Eller said that is crucial to try to keep these law enforcement officers and to keep these people with a lot of experience. We have to make sure that we are taking care of the citizens. Councilmember Eller said he doesn't want to hurt the overtime but if you increase the salary will you bring it down. Mayor McColl said if we can afford the \$4000 now then I think that's a great start and we would be better off than we were before. Dr. Wallace asked how much of our budget depends on the millage. Glen said a small amount. The money for the additional employees where would that money come from. Glen said he would work it in the budget. We have to budget to replace that money. Dr. Wallace asked what is our budgeted salaries. Glen said he didn't have it in front of him. Janet said it's over \$1M for the police department but that doesn't include FICA, retirement, or any of that. Dr. Wallace said you are talking about a 17% increase. Councilmember Eller asked do we offer the same thing that Marion and Mullins offer? Glen said yes, we are getting creative. He said he feels certain that we are the only agency in our area that offers holiday pay.

IV. Executive Session

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to go in Executive session. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0. After discussion, and no action taken Dr. Wallace made a motion to go out of Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember David made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Approved: _____

N. Tally McColl, Mayor

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

6/5/03