

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
May 8, 2023

The May 8, 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 Tally McColl

Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Jay David

Councilmember Dr. Phil Wallace

Janet Paschal, City attorney was in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember Johnny Eller

Councilmember Douglas Jackson

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor McColl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Invocation** – Pastor James Smith from East Dillon Baptist Church, Dillon gave the invocation.

III. **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda with an adjustment. Change to put Weston and Sampson Engineering to speak after the Finance report and add a Legal matter to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Approve minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cousar to approve the minutes. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor McColl began his report by saying he has a lot to say but he's going to save some for later. He continued saying it has been a really busy April and that's good because it shows that we have an active city. He said he met with the Department heads and that's good. He said he also met with outside groups such as Dillon Community Alliance, Dillon County Chamber of Commerce, and Dillon Downtown Merchants. Last week Lisa Moody and I met with the SC Employment Group a cabinet level position William Floyd the director of that office for the state was in Dillon all day. We've expressed having a joint event. This crowd is extremely professional and they are in the business of connecting employees with employers. I was happy about that. I would like to thank Glen Wagner, Lisa Moody, the Police Department, and Public Works for Celebrate Main it was incredible. I can't say enough Burt, for your guys. I got there early but they got there at 6am. I left at 10pm and they left at midnight. Chief Lane your guys were there the whole time so please pass that on to them. Mayor McColl went on to say he has to thank our sponsors First Bank. We also appreciate the Methodist Men. We followed up Celebrate Main with the First Friday and it looks like everyone had a great time. Last Thursday I was honored to be a part of the Dillon Pastors Alliance. They had a National Day of Prayer on the courthouse steps and that was really nice. I'm going to meet with them Thursday. Mayor McColl said he just left the Farmers Market. That was

also a good event. Mayor McColl said he'd like to make another thank you to Glen and our elected officials in Columbia. We have received a \$10M water and sewer grant this goes to the upgrades for our water sewer. Thank you to Jackie Hayes and Kent Williams. Lastly, the city of Dillon is not comfortable with the explosive facility coming to Dillon.

### **City Manager's Report**

Glen began his report discussing the \$10M grant. He said Lindsay Privette with the COG put that packet together on our behalf. The grant is for the upgrade of water meters, we have planned for that for the last 2 years. The additional 1 million gallons at the waste water treatment plant will give us a band-aid until we can get our bigger plant built. We are almost at 98% of what we treat so this extra million can help. Matthew Elvington said it will attract some industries to our areas. Originally that was going to cost us \$1m 15 years ago asked Dr. Wallace. Glen responded that was at the spray field, but this will be behind the vocational school at the treatment plant. Glen said he wasn't sure what the cost would be now. He said he has been in contact with the county leadership and Matthew Elvington about our plans on the west side of Hwy 34 to build a larger plant to help with the industrial area. This project has to be completed by December 30, 2026 so it follows the Cares Act. Councilmember Eller said there has been talk about sitting down with the county councilmembers. Glen said he spoke with the Mayor last week and I think it will be best that we do that in the July time frame because May and June will be busy with budgets. Councilmember Eller said we have discussed that and we want to move forward with it because they need us and we need them. Glen said he would think in the next couple of months we should be able to sit down. I have potentially scheduled budget workshops for May 15th, 18th, and the 31st. Glen said he anticipates the final reading will be at the end of the month. Glen said after talking with the Mayor, he will be out of the country June 8-15, so our next schedule meeting will be June 5th if council doesn't mind doing that. Councilmember David made a motion to have the June Council meeting on June 5, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The next Regular Council meeting will be Monday, June 5, 2023.

### **Finance Report**

Finance Director, Janet Bethea gave the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager a copy of the Finance report.

### **Weston and Sampson Engineering**

Paige Lux introduced herself and Meghan Moody. She said they are here to talk about stormwater. Paige said we hear that you have a flooding problem and we hope to help you. She said, you got 9 inches of rain in one day during Hurricane Matthew. HUD has determined that Dillon is the most impacted and has led to grant opportunities. We have designed stormwater improvements. We hope to help mitigate flooding in the future. The products that we have now have determined the most important to address. I have given you a few exhibits to look at please stop me with questions if you have any. We have completed the projected kick out now we are going through survey process and then we will move on to designing and then go to construction. We will also have a public meeting that we are looking at scheduling by the end of June. We are working on three projects in the City of Dillon. We hope to have construction completion by April 2025. We hope to have design completion by the end of the year or early next year.



### **Downtown Coordinator**

Lisa Moody began her report saying the Mayor has said it all. We had the Celebrate Main event until after 10pm and there wasn't a single incident. She said she can't thank Public Works, the Police Department, or the Chamber enough. We had about 50 vendors. It was nice to see people hanging out, eating food, and listening to music. Lisa said she has worked for a lot of governments and we truly have a great public works and police department. It was nice to see everything cleaned all day long. Next, Lisa said the First Friday at the fountain was a great event. Everyone did what we hoped they would do...had a great time. She looks forward to the next one in June. She said Eats on the streets kicks off Wednesday. She's interviewing new food trucks. Screen on the green will start next month. She is looking forward to all of that. Lisa continued saying she wants to congratulate Alexis Pittman and Alicia Lewis; they have purchased buildings and will be moving their businesses into bigger spaces. In February of 2022, I gave a count of the building inventory. Lisa said we have 51 occupied businesses and we have five building actively being remodeled. We had five businesses to close but seven new businesses opened. Lisa went on to say we demolished that Madison building we now have 16 vacant buildings and seven buildings that are available for lease. Next Lisa talked about the Mural projects. We are on track with the murals. Lisa said all business owners have been given applications for the Uniform Sign Project so hopefully we will get at least 10 of those back. We are moving forward with that. I would like to introduce Ashley Phillips, my assistant. Her list is long and the list continues she will be working on events for me but she will be doing a lot of the clerical work that I needed some help with. Ashley introduced herself and said the directory is almost complete. I will stop by and introduce myself to the departments. Ashley said she has also worked on the calendar for this year. She said she graduated Saturday with a bachelors in social work. She's a former intern at the Pee Dee Coalition. Ashley said she never knew the effort that goes into putting together events and I thank you all for the collaboration. Lisa said she will be working on the main street approach and other duties as assigned such as the creation of a newsletter that Glen wants. Lisa said Ashley will be very busy. Lastly, Lisa said the Dillon historic preservation grant application that we are seeking approval from Council has a 50% match. I have all of the information in your packet. We are asking Council to approve the roofing and the sprinkler system. Councilmember Eller said I see this on the summary but I don't see this on the agenda to make a motion and vote. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to approve the Dillon historic preservation grant. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Edwards stood up to talk about his purchase of Edna's Kitchen. He discussed the empty building is downtown Dillon. He wanted to know why they were empty. He said the sad part is no money is being spent in Dillon because there are no businesses downtown. He said there is a big problem in Dillon. As he worked at night at the Kitchen people would tell him not to work at night by himself. He said there is a drug problem in this town. He voiced his opinions on his dissatisfaction with Dillon to the Council. He said there is no money to fix these buildings. He said the buildings are so neglected because they aren't inspected.

### **County Economic Director**

Matthew Elvington began his report saying he appreciates Council having him at the meeting tonight. Mr. Elvington said he texts Glen to congratulate him on receiving the \$10M grant and he responded do you have the \$1M match. Matthew said he will keep his report brief. He said the

Port celebrated 5 years last month. They are expecting huge things and we are hoping that happens. They are pushing for logistic warehouses; we are promoting manufacturing. Envision was announced in Florence we are hoping to get some spend off from that. Matthew said he has been doing industry visits in the last few weeks. He said Harbor Freight has 1800 employees, Perdue has 1100 employees, and I am sure they'll be happy to hear about this expansion. Next, Matthew said Wyman & Gordon is looking to make Dillon the site for the parent company. We have to get our kids trained to make this technology the high light. We have 3 potential Spec buildings currently. Dillon county doesn't have a spec building we did have Wix come back on line. He said he is expecting them to be under contract in 6 months. Dillon county is busy, we are seeing big jobs with federal money coming through. Councilmember Eller asked how much longer is the tri county agreement? Matthew responded at least 10/15 years. One of the big things we are missing in Dillon is it's hard to sell green space that's why we are looking at spec buildings. Dr. Wallace asked are there any plans for an airport. Matthew responded we have talked about it a couple of times. Dr. Wallace said the left side of Harllees bridge road was where they were looking at in the beginning. Councilmember Eller asked did we find out if the Vesuvius building was in the city? Glen responded, yes. Councilmember Eller asked if we could annex the wix building into the city? Glen said no. Councilmember Eller said we are missing out on all this tax money. The neighboring counties are getting money but the city is getting nothing.

#### Citizen's Report

None

#### **VI. Old Business**

**Ordinance #23-07 Authorizing and directing the City of Dillon to enter into an Intergovernmental agreement relating to South Carolina Local Revenue services; to participate in one or more local revenue service programs; to execute and deliver one of more participant program supplements; and other matters relating thereto – 2nd Reading** Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to authorize this ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

**Ordinance #23-08 Annex Top Lock Storage of Dillon, LLC within the 1600 Block of Highway 30 North, Dillon – 2nd Reading** Councilmember Jackson made a motion to annex this business into the City of Dillon. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

**Ordinance #23-09 Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 4 of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinances to allow Hotels as a use permitted within the (B-1) Central Business District inside the Corporate City limits of Dillon – 2nd Reading** Dr. Wallace made a motion to amend the ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

#### **VII. New Business**

**Ordinance #23-10 Adopting a Budget for 2023-2024 – 1st Reading** Dr. Wallace made a motion to adopt this ordinance. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution #04-23 A Resolution authorizing a Retiree Health Insurance Plan** Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept this resolution. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution #05-23 A Resolution authorizing the purchase of fitness equipment using Cooperative Purchasing** Dr. Wallace made a motion to authorize the resolution. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 7-0.



**Resolution #06-23 A Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Ford Super Duty F-250** Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to authorize this resolution. Councilmember Washington seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

**VIII. Councilmember's Reports**

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar said he's going to start off by saying I want to relinquish his position on the Downtown Committee. He said he will back away from that and would like for the Mayor to take his place. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar went on thinking Benny Genwright, David Lane, and Burt Rogers for all that you do. We had a concerned citizen of a little boy walking down the road on Hwy 9 but Chief Lane got to the child and he took care of it. Keith, you help out with the county and Hardy, thank you.

Councilmember Eller asked when will the splash pad be open? Glen responded hopefully within the week. Mayor McColl and I have talked and we are thinking about getting a shelter out there. Glen said we are looking at a sunshade to go over the splash pad. We have to have shade and benches. Councilmember asked can we get pickle ball. Glen said we have talked to the High School and we can use their tennis courts since it has lights on it. Next, Councilmember Eller asked about demolition? Glen responded we have to have asbestos surveys before we can bid out these properties. Councilman Eller continued his report saying we have a crime problem we are losing kids. He said in the last few weeks people have reached out to me and I am requesting that the Mayor, our Sheriff, and Chief of Police have a town hall meeting. A shooting happened one block from my house. Immediately after it happened my phone was ringing off of the hook and I couldn't tell these people what was going on. I think we need to find some way of getting information out to let people know if a suspect has been caught or in custody so we can let the citizens know when they call. Lastly, Councilmember Eller said we are losing police officers. Chief Lane said he is down three officers. We need to let the citizens know what we are trying to do to get this crime down and just answer questions for the citizens.

**IX. Closing Prayer**

Mayor McColl asked if anyone would like to do a closing prayer. Benny Genwright said a prayer.

**X. Executive Session – Legal Matter**

Councilmember Douglas made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Wallace made a motion to go back into open session. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Glen said we will meet May 18, 2023 for an appeal at 7pm on Royal Regency Business License denial.

**XI. Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Approved:   
Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest:   
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: 6/5/23