

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 2023

The August 15, 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

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Johnny Eller

Councilmember Jay David

Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Councilmember Dr. Phil Wallace

Janet Paschal, City attorney was in attendance.

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor McColl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Invocation** – Pastor Matt Adams, First Presbyterian Church, Dillon gave the invocation.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
Councilmember Cousar made a motion to approve the agenda with the correction to add Councilmembers Report. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approve minutes of the July 10, 2023 Council Meeting** A motion was made by Dr. Wallace to approve the minutes. Councilmember Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor McColl began his report saying there has been a lot of activity in Dillon. It's been busy and every month it gets busier. These projects are growing and we are having meetings about the possibilities. Mayor McColl went on to say he wants to thank Burt Rogers and the Public Works Department; they have a lot on their plates now. This morning his guys were ankle deep in mud it was hot and they were in between jobs. When I took this position, everyone said you are going to get a lot of phone calls but it seems that I make a lot of phone calls and I request a lot of meetings. Mayor McColl said he wants to thank Benny, Lisa, and Glen because a lot of times I'm looking for opinions and advice from city employees, and council members. Last week we lost someone that was one of those people. Sherriff Douglas Pernell was a friend to this City and Council and I would like to thank Jamie Hamilton for stepping up as Sherriff and I am sure it will continue the same as it did with Sheriff Pernell. I want to thank all of the city employees for participating in the service. The City of Dillon police and fire department worked off duty. You could see the City of Dillon police officers and fire department lined the street I was so proud. Lastly, Mayor McColl said let's remember Lisa Moody, she lost her mother Monday night.

City Manager's Report

Glen began his report saying four (4) or five (5) months ago I came to council to upgrade the playgrounds in the city and we set aside about a half million dollars for that and 2 of the 4 parks have been completed. Hopefully in the next week or so they will start on the last park. I have heard great things on the parks that have been completed. We received a donation about a month ago to do things at the Wellness Center for shade purposes for the splash pad and playground equipment and that was ordered today. People are really enjoying the splash pad. Resurfacing for the golf course parking lot has started. Burt said they have about 95% done. The green renovation is completed if all goes well, we are looking to reopen the last of this month. We have been closed for 3 months. Last week we begun taking out the curbside planters. Starting tomorrow they will finish the paving by Friday. We have been working on that project for several months probably in the next month or so you will see resurfacing on Main Street from Hwy 301 to the railroad tracks, Glen said. We are roughly about 85% completed with the Visitors Center, we were waiting on bathroom fixtures. Next Glen said he had a zoom meeting with the engineering firm about Stormwater grants. We received about \$3.9M for this project we didn't get good news today. Based off of what they are designing we are looking at a \$7.7M project for 3 phases. Glen went on saying he told the SC Department of Resilience to give us more money. They knew this would happen so we will start applying for more funds in the fall and this project will be bid out at the end of the year so we will have a better idea of what that will cost. Glen finished his report saying we are starting the CDBG project on another lift station on 18th and Dargan, we are taking it off of the rite away and putting it on our property.

Finance Report

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

Citizen's Report

Richard Talbert, the owner of Breaking Bread Restaurant said he moved back to Dillon in 2019 with no intentions of opening a restaurant but the dining places were limited. He said it's been a struggle with overhead cost and inflation. Mr. Talbert said 95% of his business is takeout and paper products, my overhead cost, and expense is way greater than lunch time. In the past year there has been a lot of food trucks coming to town but I feel like in the last few months there has been an unlevelled playing field with the food trucks. This is my opinion and I pay property taxes and employee which brings money back to Dillon. He went on saying most of these food trucks are not local and they take their money and revenue to other places. He said he is under the impression that the food truck owners pay a \$300/350 flat fee for the year. I'm not sure if that is just for Eats on the Streets or that they can come whenever they want. I am all for Dillon and I want Dillon to grow but I think we should keep as much money as we can in this town. I want things to prosper and with that I need my business and employees to prosper as much as possible. I think there needs to be a little bit reeled in on these food trucks and to benefit everyone these vendors should have no problem paying a decent fee to come here and sell their food. Benny said we charge \$170 for city business license and \$340 for outside per year. Councilmember Eller asked if we can reach out to other municipalities to see what they are doing. Mayor McColl thanked Mr. Talbert for coming and said nothing is more important than our businesses and I will

get back to you. Councilmember Jackson said he has heard complaints from business owners about Eats on the Street. He said he's thinking that it's like the City is promoting these food trucks on our Facebook pages and they should promote some of these brick-and-mortar restaurants as well. Eats on the streets has really hurt some business said Councilmember David. Glen said we will look into other communities to see what they are doing.

Stephanie Mitchell said she gave Glen a check for payment on the Visitors Center. The Dillon Community Alliance has been paying Gilbert Construction. She said she is here as the DCA Executive Director. I have some excellent news, DCA in January wrote a grant in society called Paul Brunn, he left a lot of money and we were rewarded this grant of \$750,000. This is a pass-through grant from DCA to the business and business owners downtown. It is businesses in the historic district. Stephanie continued saying of course there will be rules and regulations and I will know more about all of those in October. The minimum amount to be requested is \$25,000 and the max amount is \$100,000 there is a match but the match is minimum in your choice of cash payment or you work for a nonprofit as your gift back. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar asked will some of that go towards the JV Martin project? Stephanie replied no. Councilmember Washington said if they have a business on Main Street but rent from someone else how will that work? Stephanie replied she thinks it will be granted to the business owners. I will be putting together a committee to do that; part of the committee will be my board and also Lisa Moody and Benny Genwright will be on that board. It is a process we have 3 years to complete this grant but I hope to hit the ground running on this. Councilmember Eller asked when do they start working on their business in town? Stephanie said we have cleaned it out and we will have to tear the back of it down and put the cement in and I'm waiting on a quote now. Mayor McColl said he really thanks DCA for doing this. This is the reason we have a non-profit and DCA is a non-profit. We really appreciate it because you are doing this out of your goodness. I have met a lot with Benny, Lisa and Stephanie we have talked a lot on those businesses downtown. Benny is stuck because if he goes out and enforces what we have on the books we will have to shut down 3 businesses downtown and this grant saves those businesses that have been there for 20 years. This is incredible because these 3 that I'm thinking about if we shut them down for a week they will not be back.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

Resolution #03-23 Adoption of the City of Dillon Personnel Handbook

Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #10-23 Accept low bid for Commercial and Residential Demolition Project

Councilmember Washington made a motion to accept the low bid. Councilmember Jackson seconded. Councilmember Eller said the cover letter gave us over \$100,000 in the bid, what's going to be taken out. Glen said he didn't know if anything would be taken out. He said he is working on the County to see if we can work on landfill cost. Glen said he thinks he found money to make up the \$100,000, if he takes out the old basket factory and the warehouse beside Public Works, we will be close. Glen said he will come back and inform Council of where he gets the

money from after getting with the County. He said he thinks we have money in our general funds for this match money. The resolution passed 7-0.

Resolution #11-23 Resolution to provide a local match for Retail Market Analysis

Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this resolution. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance #23-15 Amend Procurement Policy – 1st Reading

Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance #23-16 Amend the City's Business License Rate Schedule

Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Jackson began his report saying for a couple of years I've had complaints about the lighting on East Main Street so I rode down there and there are at least 2 crossovers that doesn't have a light that run off of 20th avenue. There is no light on to the intersection. Is there anything that we can do with that being a major entry point. Glen said we can look and see because most of the poles are off of the road and they can only go so far with their lighting. Glen said it may not be duke power on those poles but I can look them.

Councilmember David said we talked about seeing what we can do on our entry areas coming into Dillon on signage. Lisa Moody was working on it and yes, we do need that, said Glen. Next, Councilmember David said that appreciates all that Hardy Jackson and Burt do. He continued saying I know I bother you a lot but I appreciate you. Councilmember David said Stephanie we appreciate all that you do for the City of Dillon. I hope we can expand our grant writing in this town I hope that is something that we can work on.

Councilmember Eller asked can we have general contractors and representatives from the school to tell us how that is going. Where are we on JV Martin project? Glen said they have started work and are applying for other funds from the state. I don't know how much they have done. Next, Councilmember Eller asked Stephanie Mitchell about the study on landscape. Stephanie said that has been completed and sent to the landscape architect they are working on a package and will present it in October. We had a group come in about Harman Park and she wanted to know if we talked about it and I told her no. Councilmember Eller asked, what facilities will we have for bathrooms. Glen said we haven't and as I have spoken with Mrs. Smith a month ago or so and things, they wanted to do we talked briefly about restroom facilities I just don't know how we will manage it. Councilmember Eller said he just want to know what we are going to be doing I just hope we can think forward. Glen said that is left up to council. Councilmember Eller said we need let them know if we are going to do something or not. Councilmember Eller said the water fountain is lukewarm or hot water. Glen said to get cold water it would have to be electric.

IX. Closing Prayer

Benny Genwright said a prayer.

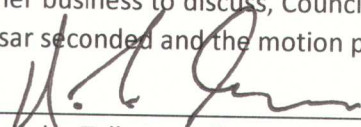
X. Executive Session

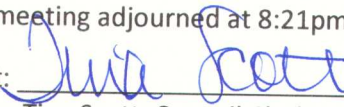
Dr. Wallace made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Wallace made a

motion to go back into open session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. **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 8:21pm.

Approved: 
Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: September 11, 2023