

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
December 11, 2023

The December 11, 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 (absent)

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 Jamie Arnette, First Baptist Church, Dillon gave the invocation.
  
- III. **Approval of Agenda**  
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The motion passed 6-0.
  
- IV. **Approve minutes of the November 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Dr. Wallace. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded. The motion passed 6-0.
  
- V. **Mayor's Report**  
Mayor McColl began by saying he is glad to see everyone. I'm proud of the events that the city has held, I want to thank Burt and his crowd. The tree is beautiful downtown please go see it. The businesses downtown have window dressings and it looks good. I want to thank the businesses for participating in the Elf on the shelf. Mayor McColl continued saying we had a great parade followed up by the tree lighting and I think this past one was the biggest one that we've seen. It was absolutely outstanding there was hot chocolate, storytelling, and Santa Claus. It makes me happy to see our city come together, it's so special and I'm thankful that we can do that. Lastly, Mayor McColl said let's try to remember the true meaning of Christmas and think back on our many blessings. I'm thankful for the City of Dillon, the employees, our city manager, department heads and this council. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

**City Manager's Report**

Glen began his report saying there was supposed to be a representative here from USDA so I would request that you table that because she hasn't got here yet. The city offices are closed Friday through Tuesday. Our sanitation schedule will not change except for Christmas day that day will be picked up on Tuesday and on New Year Day that trash will be picked up on Tuesdays

route. Our city employee luncheon is Thursday, December 21st beginning at 11am we try to have a good time and it's very informal. Lastly, Glen said we have begun the demolition project. Of those 18 as of today 9 has been completed. They are on schedule as of right now.

### **Finance Report**

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

### **Downtown Coordinator**

Lisa began her report saying the tree is brand new so it is amazing and all of the decorations on Main Street look amazing. The tree lighting event was a success because Burt and his crew came out and worked very hard. It looks beautiful and we couldn't have done it without Burt and his crew. Lisa continued saying we had a lot more people involved for the event and the actual tree lighting was a success because I had an amazing group of ladies to come out and help with that. It's refreshing that our employees can enjoy the event when we have others volunteering, we had girls with knowledge that helped and I want to thank them for their help. I have Teara Madison and their group Girls with knowledge that will be helping out with the snowfall and movie event on Saturday. I can't handle it all and it's amazing to have a great group of people. The Elf on the Shelf has been a great success and we have a lot of participation on the window decorating we have 19 shops on the holiday giving trees and I'm proud of being a part of that. Last, Lisa said Latosha Sellers organization is called Bringing Knowledge, it's a multiple sclerosis group and they will have meetings at the library to discuss multiple sclerosis starting in January.

### **Citizens' Report**

Angie Reid began by saying kudos to Glen and his administration Burt, David, Hardy, Keith and the council because it has been an amazing year for me to get what I need resolved. My major concern is Breaking Bread Restaurant just closed. How are you guys going to help people stay in business? There has to be a plan to bring businesses in that's going to stay. I'm looking for you guys to come up with something to help these businesses be profitable. Dr. Wallace said he thinks it's just inflation and I think it's hard to get people to pay more. The only thing that's beautiful about downtown is the Christmas tree, in 2024 you guys will have to have a collective effort and do better. There has to be assistance somewhere to help people maintain their business.

Sonja Wynn began her report thanking Lisa because my sign looks amazing. Glen and your crew that had something to get the houses torn down I'm so happy. Is the one beside the jail on the list? Glen said no. She continued saying thank you to Chief David Lane it's gotten a little quieter over there but at one house, Police over there every week. Piggy backing on what Angie said it's sad to see all of the businesses close because of what's going on. The Breaking Bread owner gave me the reasons that he had to close and it's sad. I supported his business because he had good food but he just couldn't keep up with the overhead. Majors' cleaners closed and their grief was you guys wouldn't take care of the sewer problem and he couldn't do it anymore. She said you have so many other businesses that are closing. I can only talk about what I know and what I've seen. I needed to come because there are things that need to be said it seems like everything around me is falling. I would love to stay in my town and eat instead of going to Lumberton and



Florence but we have to support one another but there aren't any decent restaurants in Dillon. We have to find a way to support our people here so we can grow. People use to come to Dillon to get married and they would go around to restaurants but now people are scared to come here.

**VI. Old Business**

**Ordinance #23-21 – Amending Title 6, Chapter 4, Article B, Section 6-4-48 of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinance for Biting Dog within the Jurisdiction of the City limits of Dillon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to amend this ordinance. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**VII. New Business**

**USDA – Approval of Special Conditions** – Tabled

**Resolution #15-23 – Accept the low bid for the Sewer Force Main Relocation at the Little Pee Dee River Bridge on Hwy 9** – Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept this resolution. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**Resolution #16-23 – To Provide a one-time Cost of living adjustment for City employees** – Dr. Wallace made a motion to provide this one-time Cost of living adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

**Resolution #17-23 – To provide a succession plan for the City Manager** – Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this resolution. Councilmember David seconded. Councilmember Eller said he understands what we are doing but right now the City has a cloud over it. He said he has talked to Glen and this is not in the budget but I would like to ask the Council that we do it the right way and when Glen decided to retire, we advertise the job. Councilmember Eller said he wants to be on the record saying we will be transparent and advertise for the City Manager position once Glen retires. The motion passed 6-0.

**VIII. Councilmember's Reports**

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar said he is glad the houses are being torn down. He asked Benny Genwright did we find out anything about the new house on the quarters? Glen responded they had a meeting and they have the approval to move it but I don't think it's been done yet.

Councilmember Jackson asked have you heard anything about the lights on Main Street? Glen responded, yes.

Dr. Wallace began his report saying our church is giving out 75 food baskets on Saturday at 8am and it's gotten bigger than our church. He said it's probably \$15,000 worth of food and we need help distributing it. It's Main Street Methodist Church if anyone would like to come out and help us distribute this food, it's a good experience.

Councilmember David asked can you check with Duke about the lighting on Marting Luther King and Radford Boulevard? Glen responded he's meeting with them to upgrade all of our lights to LED. Glen said the poles on MLK and Radford Blvd by Roses don't belong to Duke and they only put lights on their poles. Councilmember David said he's had people call me about being attacked by dogs and I was wondering if we could get a leash law? He said people are walking their dogs without a leash. Glen said we will be working on that in the first of the year.

Councilmember Eller began his report asking how will the assistant city manager position work? Glen responded no guidance has been giving to me. This will be an addition to this person job now. In our own ordinance and if I'm out of pocket I can ask someone to take my place. As far as how much will be put in this person lap, I'm not sure if I can give you straight answer we have a lot going on so I will just be bringing them up to date on what I'm doing. I rely a lot on Janet Bethea right now. During the budget she starts and I fine tune it before I bring it to you. Councilmember Eller asked is that work at JV Martin the \$20,000,000 project for the older people apartments. Glen said yes, they are checking for asbestos now. Lastly, Councilmember Eller said we had a great event and we had an incident 2 blocks away. I want to direct a question to Chief David Lane, are we working on getting an investigator? Chief Lane responded yes; we are working on it.

**IX. Closing Prayer**

Benny Genwright said a prayer.

**X. Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

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

Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

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

1/8/2024