

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 2024

The March 11, 2024 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 Haywood Proctor, Kemper Baptist Church, Dillon gave the invocation.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda to exclude Don Strickland, he's not able to attend. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The motion passed 6-0.
- IV. **Approve minutes of the February 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Councilmember David. Dr. Wallace seconded. The motion passed 7-0.
- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor McColl welcomed everyone to the March Council meeting. He continued saying Spring is in the air and pollen is falling. He said the shades and the benches at the Wellness Center are beautiful. We have installed them at the splashpad and the park. We want to thank the Schaffer foundation that helped us supply them. Next, Mayor McColl said the Recreation department looks to be geared up for another great year. The City of Dillon will kick off with St. Patty's Day festival and World-famous chili cook off. He said it is a lot of family fun and games and I hope to see everyone there. Lastly, the Mayor said the is a very business place and he gets a lot of calls and he does appreciate the calls some things we can affect and some things we can't. I know we like to concentrate on things that we disagree with, but we have great employees that make Dillon a great place to call home.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report discussing the streetscape project. He, Benny Genwright, and Burt Rogers talked with the architect on what we would like to see them do and we asked for a timeline so we went through the process on what we need them to do. Benny and I sat down again with them to go over this timeline and I suggested that they come up with their plan and be as specific

as possible so Council can look at it. Glen said he has that meeting scheduled for April 22, if that goes well, we will send it to Board of Architectural Review and then Planning and Zoning for their approval and then come back to you on May 20 for you to accept and pass it. It will probably be some time next year before you see any work done. Dr. Wallace asked if we wanted to change out the planters, could we, do it? Glen responded SCDOT would have to approve it. Glen said whatever we do we have to make sure that we have our ducks in a row. I wanted to give you an update. Councilmember Eller said when Representative Hayes got that money and Dillon Community Alliance said they were going to get benches and dumpsters. Glen said that's not in the plan. Councilmember Eller said he thought we had that preordered. Glen responded, no that was part of the budget and that money has to be spent some time in 2025. Glen said it depends on what they are going to do with the landscape. Mayor McColl asked will this be during the time of our budget workshops. Glen said they will be held in last week of May but I'll get more dates.

Finance Report

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

Downtown Coordinator

Lisa Moody said she is looking forward to the St. Patty's Day festival on Saturday. The Main Event band will be there. The Chili cookoff wristbands are \$5 and you can taste all of the participants chili. The fountain will be green and the rides are all free for the children. The event will be from 11am -3pm on March 16. Lisa said she wanted to thank Palmetto Dentistry and First Bank for sponsoring.

Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA)

Mayor McColl said Mr. Don Strickland wasn't able to make the meeting so he read the following update from Mr. Strickland: Ridership continues to grow. We're on target to exceed 30,000 trips this fiscal year ending June 30th.

The Dillon Express in the City makes up roughly 17,000 of those trips.

The Dillon Connect is doing 500-700 trips per month and connects Latta, Little Rock and Hamer to Dillon.

Harbor Freight Workforce= 6,500 trips with majority living in Dillon. 110 unique Harbor Freight employees used the service since October 2023.

Demand Response is made up of mostly Seniors, ADA and several Dialysis passengers and we're doing about 200 of these trips each month for an annual average of 2,400.

Bus stops should be completed by end of March. Strong interest in installing shelters that are funded at 80% federal funds.

I'd like request an increase in the budget that has been set at 10k for the last 3 years. Any increase would be utilized to better serve Dillon. Other municipalities similar in population are providing 14k-40k annually.

Citizens' Report

Pastor Heywood Proctor began by saying I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight. He said I pay taxes in Dillon and we have a group here from Kemper Baptist church. We wanted to express

our thanks to everyone who tried to help us with the drag queen contest it bothered us with that coming into our community but thank God that was cancelled. Pastor Proctor continued saying we want Dillon County to be a great place to raise kids and live. We opposed the Drag Queen show. He said it's not that we don't like anybody but that goes against God. We pray that God will help you I know it's a tough job to govern. We appreciate you allowing us to speak, we aren't silent and we will speak when we need to.

VI. **Old Business**

Ordinance #24-02 - Rezone Arthur Tompkins property at 506 Hwy 301 S., Dillon from a B-2 to B-1 – 2nd Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #24-03 - Rezone Jose Garcia Junior Property at 406 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Dillon from I-2 to R-5 – 2nd Reading Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. **New Business**

Ordinance #24-04 - Annex Smith Rogers Oil Company, Inc the owner of a tract of land located at the North of the 100 Block of Radford Boulevard, Dillon into the City limits and be zoned B-2 – 1st Reading Councilmember David made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance #24-05 - Annex East Empire Holdings, LLC the owner of tracts of land located at 1422 Wix Road, Dillon into the City limits of Dillon and be zoned I-2 – 1st Reading Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance #24-06 - To Exempt Property Taxes for Project Sun Bright for Five years – 1st Reading Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution #03-24 - Calling for the adoption of the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this Resolution. Councilmember Jackson seconded 7-0.

VIII. **Councilmember's Report**

Councilmember Eller asked if the Wellness center was a part the silver slipper program. Glen responded; we reached out to them but they didn't get back to us. He said we reached out before but we didn't qualify because there is one already in the area. Next, Councilmember Eller said the Heart of Dillon hotel is having illegals. Glen said we didn't we don't know if they are illegals. There haven't been any issues there. Councilmember Eller also said the motel across from Burger King has homeless living there. Chief Lane said he checked today and there was nobody there. Councilmember Eller asked about Police staffing. Chief Lane said he had one fail academy last week and now we have 4 openings. Lastly, Councilmember Eller asked will the Concession stand be open when the Predators play. Glen answered any time there is a scheduled event they can open.

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar asked when will the Farmers market open? Glen said it should be bid out late summer or early spring.

IX. Closing Prayer

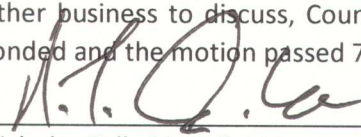
Benny Genwright said a prayer.

X. Executive Session

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to go into Executive Session. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0. No action was taken in Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to go into Open Session. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Approved: 
Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: April 8, 2024