

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 13, 2023

The November 13, 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 - absent

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 Johnny Corbett, Dothan 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 October 9, 2023 Regular Council Meeting** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Councilmember Jackson and Dr. Wallace seconded. The motion passed 6-0.
Approve minutes of the October 23, 2023 Special Council Meeting Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Washington seconded. The minutes passed 6-0.

- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor McColl began by saying he is glad to see everyone. He said he is pleased to see the new pavement and he hopes the construction wasn't too much of an inconvenience. Streetscape is moving and we will discuss that later. The Visitor's center is finished stop by to see it. Next, Mayor McColl said the construction started at the new Police Department last week. They said they will be finished by May 2024. Mayor McColl continued saying he would like to thank Rep Hayes for his help with that and the street scape. He said to Lisa Moody, the new murals look great. Mayor McColl said please remember our veterans. Veterans day was great. Chris Zeller did the remarks and he did a great job it was very nice. Commander Harlow, we appreciate everything that you do for the veterans. I would like to congratulate Detective Jason Turner on his retirement he has honorably served the City for over 20 years. Lastly, Mayor McColl said as the holidays approach we have a lot of activities and I would like to encourage everyone to show up and support it looks good when we have a big crowd.
Councilmember Eller asked to verify the completion of the Police Department, he wanted to make sure it is May of 2024. Glen responded, yes that's what they said.

City Manager's Report

Glen Wagner began his report saying he wanted to follow up from last month. He said we talked about a public defender and I called two local attorneys one wasn't interested. He said he hired Mark Dessler and he started about a week ago. If someone request a public defender in Municipal Court they will have to qualify and he will defend them in court. The cost is from \$500 to \$1000 based on the charge. Glen said he has signed an agreement with him that goes through the budget year and we will go through another after that if that's is something that he would like to do. Next, Glen said the playgrounds we have been working on for about 4 or 5 months the last one is being completed on 8th avenue. A lot of people have been using it. It's 99% complete. Everything is in place and working. There were two pieces that we are refurbishing we are waiting on a border to come in. it's been a big hit. Councilmember Eller said people are calling asking what we are going to do with the tennis court. Glen said we are not sure what we are going to do with that as of yet. We might do pickle ball instead of the old tennis courts there. Councilmember Eller said do you think we will have money left over to do something over there. Glen said we might be able to do something it wouldn't be as large as a tennis court but we might can do something. Councilmember Eller asked do you think we can build it up where they have dug it out. Glen said we will have put mulch there. The playgrounds are complete. The money came from the City ARP funds, Hospitality, and state appropriations from Coach Hayes. We bid out the demolition of 18 properties starting next week, 6 properties will begin the demolition process. Once they finish those 6, they will move to the next 6 and if all goes well, they should be finished by the end of the year. Councilmember Eller asked if we would upgrade the Wellness Center equipment. Glen said we did that two months ago.

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 began her report saying the Holiday season started tonight with the Farmer's Market. I spent the entire day working on Christmas activities. We have small shop downtown soon, with people coming downtown with their passports. Elf on a shelf is December 2 thru December 21 and we will give out Dillon dollars from about 18 different business. We have 17 businesses working on the giving tree. They will be giving to non-profits that they are supporting. Christmas parade and tree lighting is on Thursday, November 30 and we will do the grand opening at the Visitors' Center on the same day at 11am. It's a lovely building. Next, Lisa said our mural from Narzhio will be up about two days before the grand opening. That will be the 4th mural of the 5. I invite the community to follow the City of Dillon facebook page. I will be sending out the flyers to Dillon schools only. We did the dedication for the wood ducks on Steve Johnson wall. Tommy and I are meeting next week to look at Allen Watts wall, this mural will be done on site and will start in December.

Citizens' Report

Alicia Harrison Grice, President of a nonprofit known H2G Empire, have a presentation for Change SC. She said we want to introduce the Pick 42 Foundation. We are based in Mullins and we focus

on food, fitness, and fun. We are here to talk about Change SC, we are doing this because in SC we are dying earlier and after looking at the reason we found out it was food. The state of SC has received funding from USDA for fresh food. We have received \$1,000,000 to buy food from local farmers and give it to the community for free. They are looking at why we have lack of access to fresh local food because we all know that food is medicine. We have received funding from DHEC as well. They are willing to provide more support if you expand so we said yes and we are doing this work. Every week we distribute food to Dillon, Williamsburg, Marlboro, and Marion at 11am and we distribute the best food on the planet. Terry Davis said the church is the distribution site but anyone is welcome. We have great team leaders but the key to keeping this program a success is our volunteers. It's important to stay in contact with the leaders for each county and that's why we are here tonight to let you know how much we appreciate you letting us to do this program. If we can provide the services and the community is satisfied, we can continue this program at least for a year. We have to keep a count so when we go back, we will be able to say we could have served more if we had more food. We want to make sure that you receive fresh vegetables. We give the farmers resources so they can continue providing fresh foods. We also provide recipe cards. We share the importance of having fresh vegetable and fruits. I had a young lady say when you don't give us fresh fruits, we have to eat can vegetable. We share resources to help you stay healthy. It's focusing on our community and making sure they are aware of the food that we need to help with the health problems. At the end of January 31, 2024 there will be recommendations made to council. I want to clarify that we are providing fresh local food. It doesn't matter your economic status. It's about access. It's the best food so it's expensive. We will come back after January 31, 2024 to share numbers and impacts of the numbers. We advertise on Facebook and website, www.Pick42foundation.org. we also have a text database. We have 3,500 signed up for out text messages. The location in Dillon is Greater Expectation Church on Hwy 301. Mayor McColl thanked them for coming.

John Harlow began saying when someone does something nice say thank you. I come tonight to express thanks for the support the City gave to help with the Veterans' Day program on Saturday. Memorial Day and Patriot Day programs are held in front of the courthouse on 9/11. Veterans' day held on 11/11 at 11am at Veterans square but due to bad weather this year it was held in the courthouse. This year we recognized Mr. Johnny Daniels for the work they do for veterans. Thank you to Mayor McColl for attending the Saturday Veteran's Day program and speaking about the importance of our veterans and placing the wreath. Since 1993 there have been 32 veterans of the year. 15 of them have since died. I am here to say thank you to Council, City manager, and his workers for the past and continued support of the veterans. I want to acknowledge businesses that promoted or veterans and support. The city of Dillon had the biggest advertisement in the Dillon Herald and we appreciate it very much.

Stephanie Mitchell said the elf on the shelf is sponsored by Dillon Community Alliance but only because Dr. Wallace and Dillon Internal Medicine made a generous donation.

VI. **Old Business**

Ordinance #23-19 To Amend Title 9, Chapter 6 (unlawful loitering), Section 9-6-1 of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinance – 2nd Reading Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept the ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance #23-20 Annex Daniel and Jon Bozard property located within the 800 Block of Blue Heron Cove, Dillon into the City limits of Dillon 2nd Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this ordinance. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. New 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 – 1st Reading
Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to amend this ordinance. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution #13-23 – Accept ownership of Certain Property provided by HUD and SCOR

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

Resolution #14-23 – Accept Bid for Sports Field Lighting

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

Streetscape

Mayor McColl began by saying all we are doing now is looking for a yes vote to proceed on this project. It's pretty big so we want to just get started it's going to cost more than what we have planned. Councilmember Eller asked if the committee talked about anything different. Mayor McColl said the whole scope of the project went from replacing trees to bump the curbs out. It's beautifying the entire downtown area but unfortunately it cost more money than we have. We just decided to start with the money we have and work our way out and as we come up with more money; we will do more. Mayor McColl said they only will tear up what they can immediately fix. Councilmember Eller asked if DOT had to approve anything. Dr. Wallace said yes. Stephanie said Marie the architect will start requesting the permits as soon as we get a yes and should have it ready to bid out in the spring. Dr. Wallace made a motion to go forward with the streetscape starting at the South Plaza. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded. Councilmember Eller asked the big stamp or emblem to put in the road do you have to have that approved by dot? Stephanie responded yes. The motion passed 6-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Councilmember Eller began his report saying, Lisa you did an outstanding job on the JackoLantern Jubilee. I think that was the most people I have ever seen at a City of Dillon event. The Veterans Day program was outstanding. I would like for this Council and Lisa to do a Veterans Day parade to recognize our veterans.

Councilmember Washington asked Chief Lane, "do you have anyone to replace Jason Turner?" Chief Lane responded yes. We are discussing with Monroe Herring and Josh Kasson right now our plan is to put in a third investigator and just hold tight for a while. Councilmember Washington asked can you get someone of color in that position. Chief Lane responded yes, but that can't be the only qualification. Councilmember Washington asked, do you have anyone in your department that can be promoted? Chief Lane said yes but we have officers that don't want to take the position. Councilmember Eller said it is a lot of work on two investigators with all of the crime that we have here, we might need to put another individual there and I hope we would do it in the right way.

IX. Closing Prayer

Pastor Corbett said a prayer.

X. Executive Session

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to go into Executive Session. Dr. Wallace 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, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Approved: 
Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: December 11, 2023