

**MINUTES**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
**October 23, 2023**

The October 23, 2023 Special Council Meeting of the City Council was held at the new Visitors' Center located at 106 South Railroad Avenue, Dillon, SC. Notices of this Special Council 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 Dr. Phil Wallace

Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember Jay David (Video)

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor McColl called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor McColl gave the invocation.
  
- II. **Approval of Agenda**  
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
  
- III. **Presentation of Main Street Landscaping by Outdoor Spatial Design**  
Stephanie Mitchell, Executive Director for Dillon Community Alliance began by saying last year in June we were awarded \$2.5M for streetscape and I have been working with fantastic people, David Hill and Marie Fryer. Marie is a landscape specialist. Stephanie said write down questions and hold until the end. Marie began by saying she is a landscape architect and for the past 15 years has been public parks and streetscape. David Hill based in Charleston and is an architect and been doing this for over 40 years. I've been doing a lot of preservation with green space. We've done thousands of projects and hundreds of communities. We are present for Visioning Main Street. We walk you through our vision plan for the Main Street project. We will walk you through assessments that we have noticed we will tell you how we will implement it and what it will take to maintain it once it's finished. You all went through a master plan which is the first step and everything goes back through the original vision of the masterplan. In your plan year one priorities are downtown management, streetscape projects, and façade grants you are on track with your masterplan. The vision should be to enhance the quality of life of the residents and visitors. We want to retain business and attract new businesses. Make sure we are saving businesses. Destination downtown Dillon wants to make downtown vibrant with its own unique identity. Plant material gives you a sense of scale and helps slow down traffic it creates a comfortable space for users. Bringing in trees creating shade will bring people out and allow people to be out. You have wide streets wide sidewalks good lighting and really creative details and things already there that needs to be celebrated. Pedestrian safety are opportunities for improvement.

David Hill said he is the preview of coming attractions. You have great bones from a streetscape and architect you have great buildings and buildings that need some extra attention. Look at strategic location and develop downtown as a destination.

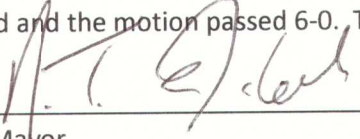
Marie said design objectives looking at multiple methods of transportation, lighting, signage, street widths and curbing alignments. Interested in providing a tree canopy. You currently have 4 lanes of traffic and a lot of curve lines we would have to verify and coordinate with DOT. We have 18 wheelers so we will have to make sure that we have space for that. We know you are undergoing a project with the farmers market and you want people to walk and experience the tents. We would like to propose to you guys to adjust these curve lines. You have an active train station in the heart of your town and it's directly across from that park that's going to lead to another park. We want to bring curb lines out. We will be taking some curb space out that will allow space for pedestrians and they will want to walk. How do we signify that we are coming into a special place? We start to create a space, we'd like to plant trees, and ground cover underneath to give you that umbrella. We want to balance the sides of the street with crosswalk improvements and it's the prime time to do that since you just repaved your streets.

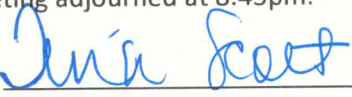
David said we can put new construction in front of KJ's to signify that you have arrived downtown. Marie said put the emphasis on the train station. We can put a row of canopy trees so this feels like one space. We can open this space up and create a shaded lawn space and put a wind sculpture in the middle of the fountain.

Dr. Wallace asked for an estimate on the cost for the entire project. Stephanie responded around \$800,000 and we know we may not be able to complete this project so we will have to choose our priorities. First, as we get more money; we can do more things. Dr. Wallace asked for a cost for everything. Marie said \$3M to \$4M. Dr. Wallace said he's not opposed to it he just doesn't want to do a little bit and if we are looking at money; 10 or 20 years plan the first thing we need to do is get the trees in the ground and develop around those. Marie said it will be a lot of back and forth on how we phase these projects. Dr. Wallace asked are you all equipped to have people to help you go after grant money? Marie said Stephanie has been looking at additional grant so we can help with that. Glen asked how long does it take to get permits and construction documents? Marie said around 6 months. She will bring this package to the DOT and get a time line from them. We are at the mercy of DOT schedules. Glen said go ahead and plan for everything that you are presenting and then figure out the phasing. Stephanie said what she presented tonight, once you all approve or deny would you want her to complete the entire package regardless if we have the money or not? Glen said yes, he thinks so because you need to plan for everything and then decide what we will do. Dr. Wallace said we talked about something on the Southside of Main Street accessing the Farmers Market. Marie said the more pedestrian friendly that you can get will be fantastic that ties everything together. Councilmember Eller asked will the curb lines effect the planters? Marie responded yes. Councilmember Eller asked can we get around not putting up the canopy trees in front of the businesses? Marie said you will have a situation for a few years where the trees will be blocking but as they grow the canopy goes up. The existing crape myrtles trees will be replaced. Lisa Moody asked if we could consider evergreens for decorating for the holidays. Marie said sure. Lisa said if we could, focus around the train station but on every corner later.

IV. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Approved:   
N. Tally McColl, Mayor

  
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: 11/13/23