

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 9, 2023

The October 9, 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

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 Joe Grice, Dillon Church of God, Dillon gave the invocation.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
Dr. Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition to New Business. He wanted to add Resolution #12-23, Encroachment with CSX Railroad pertaining to the Sewer Main for Dillon School on Bunker Hill Road. Councilmember seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approve minutes of the September 11, 2023 Council Meeting** A motion was made by Dr. Wallace to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor McColl began his report welcoming everyone and said it's good to see everyone come in smiling. He continued saying September was a busy month in the City of Dillon and it's good to see the roads being paved on Main Street. Mayor McColl said fall sports have started and the recreation field looks great. This past weekend a golf tournament was hosted at the Municipal Golf Course and everyone kept saying how good the golf course looked. Mayor McColl thanked Burt Rogers and his department. Next, Mayor McColl thanked the entire crew of Pee Dee works. He said we had a Job Fair and over 100 people came through looking for jobs. It was so nice and to be able to show off our new Visitor Center. Mayor said he was invited to Harbor Freight family day and they have a desire to get closer to the City and be more involved. Mayor McColl thanked the Care South group they had an event at the Wellness center and had a great turn out. He also congratulated Lisa Moody on her Hedge grant that she received last week. Lastly, the Mayor said October is extremely busy we have the Trunk or Treat with the Police Department, Junior Charity League, Jack-O-lantern Jubilee, Taste of Dillon, and trick or treating please come out and support these events and the city of Dillon.

City Manager's Report

Glen began his report discussing the landscaping on Main Street. He said in his letter to Council he addressed having a presentation on Main Street landscaping on October 30 so that we wouldn't have to rush during a regular Council meeting but they asked that we come out on October 23 instead. Mayor McColl said he thinks they are going to do a video conference. We won't vote on anything it will be more of an educational discussion. Stephanie Mitchell wanted to come tonight but I didn't want it to be rushed. Next, Glen said the 4th playground work has begun and it will be another couple of weeks before it's completed. The other 3 parks have been completed. The splash pad is closed as of today. The awnings are in we are waiting on the guys to finish the playgrounds. Glen continued saying the demolition on the 18 properties will begin next week starting with abatement of the properties. They are turning in permits on a daily basis. The Visitors' Center is probably 95% complete. We have a certificate of occupancy so we can use it. We are waiting on the front doors and the rest rooms are open for use. Gilbert Construction should begin pulling permits and starting work on the Police Department building and Lisa Moody will be out by the end of this week. Councilmember Eller asked if we put in for the second-floor renovations. Glen responded we have funds for the second floor, we are just waiting on the contracts. Glen said we talked about doing it in phases but we have funding to do the whole building.

Finance Report

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

Thurmond Porter – Dillon New School Project Manager

Thurmond Porter began by saying we are currently at 51% completed with the new Dillon Elementary School for grades k4-3. We average about 40 workers out there every day. We have started block fills, mechanical and electrical systems are going great. I will invite any of you to do a tour it is a beautiful facility. The school is going great. It sits on 39.3 acres. We have 3/8 of a mile road so there will not be traffic backed up. The plan is to add 20 additional classrooms so it's just a matter of getting the funding to add 4th and 5th grade. Completion date right now is May 10. I will put students in there next August. Dr Wallace asked what is the construction cost? Mr. Porter said this school \$350 per square foot. Mr. Porter said Mr. Wagner has my phone number and email if anyone wants to contact me to tour the school. Councilmember Eller asked Glen, "since they have a completion date have, we reached out to see what will be done with the other schools. Glen said South will be a storage school we aren't sure what they will do with the other schools. Mr. Porter said the Department of Education decides what we can do with those buildings. Councilmember Eller asked if they had any idea of what they will do with Maple School. Glen responded no.

Downtown Coordinator

Lisa Moody began her report discussing murals. She said Tommy Simpson will be here tomorrow to put up the mural on Steve Johnson's wall. She said he will be in Florence meeting with Narzhio on the letter N for the Dillon mural and we should have that up at the end of October. Next, she said the train mural should be started around November. Councilmember Eller asked about the

murals on the bank. Lisa said they will come down and will be given to Lake view, Latta, and Chamber of Commerce. The murals will go to the community that they represent. Lisa went on to say the \$25,000 Hometown Economic grant for a market analysis will help us to invite investors to Dillon to see what we can support. It will focus on the Historic Downtown area and possible investors on what we can bring downtown this analysis will take about 4 months. It will be the next step in what we need to know and what we will be doing downtown and on Radford Boulevard. In the past this market analysis was done with zip codes but we will be using geofencing so we can track traffic into Dillon and where people are coming from. The Visitors' Center looks great with the color scheme. We are going to put up flags and awnings. We are just waiting on the final details but the bathrooms are being used now. Lisa said she has planned the grand opening for the Visitors' Center in November. We will become an official visitors center. We will have a brochure that will be distributed in the Visitors' Center so if you were to go to the Welcome center on the interstate, they will have information on the City of Dillon. Lisa continued saying Halloween will actually be celebrated on October 31. The JackOLantern Jubilee will be a fun filled event and we have Level 10 band performing. The flyers are created and the commercials are created. Lastly, Lisa said our uniformed sign programs will start going up on Wednesday.

Pee Dee Coalition

Representative didn't show up.

Citizens' Report

Sonja wynn began by saying she is disturbed because there is so much mess going on in Dillon County and she is just tired. She said, "I put out 4,000 to 5,000 meals a day and that's a lot of work and I'm tired. When I leave there, I have to go home and handle the finance stuff of my business but I can't get home because those thugs are blocking the roads. I'm tired of coming home and the store is bombarded with kids buying drugs, or guns, and it's not good and I am absolutely fed up with it. You are bringing all of this stuff downtown but if I had to come in here to see all of this stuff going on and this is the second or third time that I've said this. I'm tired of this. It doesn't make sense. I was in bed the other night around 11pm and I hear gun fire and it's too close. A little girl got shot and we tried our best to help her because she's a little challenged. People are flagging people down to try to sell their drugs and I'm tired of it please think about it we are losing too many people. Folks are afraid to come out of their homes and it shouldn't be. It's going to get so bad one day we are going to wish we had done something. I have been talking with Benny Genwright to get quotes to work on these buildings to get them up to code. It's hard getting someone to come and get the buildings up to code but what can I do? This is unheard of that you don't have anyone to come out and do work because you can't find anybody to come out. They say they will come look at it but they don't show up. Benny said all you can do is keep trying because that's the only way we can issue permits but I will talk to you after the meeting to get some advice. Why would you want to charge me \$30,000 to get a piece of paper to get something done and the building is not worth \$30,000." That's a state mandate and it's out of our control said Glen. Mayor McColl said Benny and I will come down and look at you're building and see what we can do for you. Benny explained the state mandated building codes to Ms. Wynn. Mayor Pro tem Cousar said he sees the same thing with people hanging out on the streets at 3am and police officers are sitting at speedway instead of patrolling. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar

said," in the 15 minutes that I go to get coffee and get in my big truck I see these police officers sitting at the store instead of sitting in the residences. I see the guys standing out in the road but they know who to approach. The police could be more visible. I don't like the tinted windows because I can't see the officers inside the car. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar said to Chief Lane you might want to have the officers go and sit in the residents. Chief Lane said when people see people hanging out in places that they shouldn't be just call 911 and they will send an officer and they can remove those people. If he gets a phone call he can go directly there. Councilmember Eller asked can we get some more visibility there?

VI. Old Business

Ordinance #23-17 Annex Robert D. Miller property at 911 Highway 301 into the City limits of Dillon – 2nd Reading Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept this annexation. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance #23-18 RJTS Properties, LLC petition the City of Dillon Planning Commission for a change in the official Zoning Map 2nd Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

VII. New Business

Ordinance #23-19 To Amend Title 9, Chapter 6 (unlawful loitering), Section 9-6-1 of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinance – 1st Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept the ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

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 1st Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this ordinance. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #12-23 Facility Encroachment with CSX Railroad Pertaining to the Sewer Main for Dillon School on Bunker Hill Road Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept this resolution. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar began his report saying on 3rd avenue it's dark and what do we do to get lights? He said we have a lot of elderly people complaining. Sonja Wynn brought up what I was going to bring up about the police officers. He continued saying we stepped up and gave them a raise and it's like the whole shift is just sitting there when they could be riding through these areas checking. Next, Mayor Pro Tem Cousar said we tore down the house on 6th avenue and they hang around in that lot. It looks like the landfill there. How do we do something with that? Councilmember Jackson said we can find out who owns it and clear it out so they won't hang out there.

Councilmember David said Mr. Harlow came and spoke at the last meeting so I drove around my District and I did see 3 or 4 dogs unattended. I think we need to put some eyes over there. I don't know who dogs they are. There is a pack of five or six dogs off of Hillside Drive and they look like they have mange. I don't know how we get them. Glen said we can put out traps. Next, Councilmember said he has had complaints about no lights on MLK and Radford Blvd. He said he has also gotten complaints there are no light at the end of the road by Roses. At the Dollar Tree it is so black there we need to have lights. Glen said we will get with Duke Energy to see what we can do there.

Dr Wallace asked are we looking at anything with storm drainage so we don't chop that road up. Glen said they will have to pave it back and the Office of Resilience is sending in someone to look at that area but it will probably be 4 or 5 years down the road.

Councilmember Eller said Radford Blvd. it's atrocious to drive on. Can we reach out to see they can do something about that road. Glen said the state and local DOT knows about it. I have addressed it to them. Next, Councilmember Eller said we paid Benchmark planning \$25000, is DCA using any of that master plan? Glen responded they are probably looking at it.

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 unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session. Councilmember made a motion to go back into open session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to give Glen Wagner permission to interview Municipal Public Defenders. Mayor Pro Tem seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Janet Paschal suggested Mark Desser.

Councilmember Eller asked Janet Paschall about the case docket. She responded that Angie Freitas would be the best person to answer that question but it looked really good the last time that she checked.

Dr. Wallace made a motion to continue the agreement with the County to use Judge Hayes and extend to a 2-year contract. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Eller asked if Janet Paschall was still going to be on a 2-year contract? Councilmember Jackson made a motion to extend Janet Paschall contract to be the City Attorney for two years. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Approved: _____

Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: November 13, 2023