

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 13, 2025

The January 13, 2025 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 Johnny Eller – absent

Councilmember Jay David

Janet Paschal, City attorney was in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember Dr. Phil Wallace

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** – Bishop Willie Frank McKeller, New Birth Church of Christ, Dillon, SC gave the invocation.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
Dr. Wallace made a motion to add an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and approve the agenda. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The motion passed 5-0.
- IV. **Approve minutes of the December 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mayor Pro Tem Cousar. Dr. Wallace seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor McColl welcomed everyone and expressed excitement about ongoing projects, including wastewater treatment and the Festival Market Pavilion, while acknowledging past accomplishments, particularly the new Police Department. He emphasized the continuous effort required for water and sewer projects, highlighting the City's success in securing grants, with \$10 million received last year. Mayor McColl praised Glen for his contributions and reassured residents that the City is keeping up with necessary improvements.

Looking back on 2024, Mayor McColl highlighted community initiatives such as murals, Celebrate Main Festival, the visitors center, litter pickup, National Night Out, and local parades. He expressed hope for continued progress into 2025. He mentioned Government officials came to visit the new Elementary School. The Mayor also remembered Sgt. Ronald Graham and invited the community to the grand opening of the Dillon Police Department on January 27 at 11 AM, we are expecting local and state leaders to attend.

City Manager's Report

Glen provided updates on several projects, including the Market Festival Pavilion, which will be located beside the Visitors Center. The bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday at 2 PM, and while grants and city funds are available, the total cost will be determined after the bidding process. A market plan study was conducted for the land behind the Wellness Center to explore potential uses.

The stormwater project, has been in development for three years, is not yet ready for bidding. A meeting with property owners is set for Monday, January 27, to discuss easements—some temporary and others permanent—allowing for cleaning and widening those areas.

Additionally, a major EDA-funded project was recently completed, relocating water lines under the river. The system has been operational since December, and the next step is closing out the grant. The city contributed \$300,000, with the remainder covered by EDA funds. That was submitted through COG on our behalf.

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

Lisa shared updates on community initiatives and business openings. She introduced the Corbett family, through Project Jesus Ministry, is launching Red Cardinal Coffee and Shakes shop, with a grand opening expected this week, pending final details. They will also operate Hightower Thrift Store, aimed at supporting the homeless in Dillon. Johnny Corbett, who pastors Dothan Baptist Church, emphasized their mission to assist families in need.

Lisa also highlighted upcoming city events, including the grand opening of the police department, where food will be available upstairs for attendees. The city's newsletter, with 400 subscribers and a 48% open rate, continues to grow, and a new text alert system has been introduced for event updates. Dillon residents are encouraged to submit flyers for inclusion.

Upcoming events include the Father/Daughter Dance, Eats on the Streets (March–July), a St. Patrick's Celebration in March featuring Jim Quick & Coastline, First Fridays (starting in May), Celebrate Main & Trash Bash in April, and a potential Youth Arts Festival for local talent. Sponsorship recruitment is going well, with \$21,025 secured, including interest from sponsors outside Dillon.

Mayor McColl encouraged community participation and thanked Lisa for her efforts.

Citizens' Report

No report.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. New Business

Ordinance #25-01 – Amending Title 1 (Government & Administration) Chapter 4 (Administration), Article B (City Manager), Section 23 (Residence During Term) of the City of

Dillon Code of Ordinances – 1st Reading Dr. Wallace made a motion to accept this Ordinance. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Report

Councilmember David inquired about the lighting on Radford Blvd., and Glen provided an update, stating that information was submitted in December. In the next few days, 15 street lamps will be replaced, converting them from sodium to LED lights. The second phase of the project will focus on lighting improvements along MLK down to Roses, but this requires engineering work, so there is no exact timeline for completion yet.

Dr. Wallace acknowledged the city's strong financial position, highlighting that few municipalities have the reserves Dillon does. He praised the hard work of the council and city staff, which has allowed them to spend \$1.4 million upfront while waiting for grant reimbursements. He emphasized that the city has a lot to be thankful for financially.

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar inquired about the lights in the park, and Glen responded that they will resubmit the request. Regarding the fencing, Glen confirmed that a barrier will be installed before March 3. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar also thanked Burt for assistance with a sewer project and asked Glen to check on a dark area near a recently completed sewer line to see if a light can be installed. Glen advised him to provide Tina with the address, and he can inspect the area tomorrow.

IX. Closing Prayer

Benny Genwright said a prayer.

X. Executive Session

Dr. Wallace made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken in Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember David seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Open Session

Councilmember Jackson made a motion to sell the City Manager Glen Wagner his vehicle upon retirement. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Dr. Wallace made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Approved: _____

Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: _____

Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: _____

2/10/2025