

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2024

The January 8, 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

Mayor Pro Tem Timothy Cousar

Councilmember James Washington

Councilmember Johnny Eller

Councilmember Jay David

Councilmember Douglas Jackson

Councilmember Dr. Phil Wallace

Janet Paschal, City attorney was in attendance.

- I. **Call to Order** - Mayor McColl called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Invocation** – Pastor Tommy Lee Pittman, Marshill Bibleway 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 7-0.
- IV. **Approve minutes of the December 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Councilmember Jackson. Dr. Wallace seconded. The motion passed 7-0.
- V. **Mayor's Report**
Mayors began his report wishing everyone a Happy New Year and welcome to the first Council meeting of 2024. I'm excited about this year and I hope we can finish projects and start new projects. Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette is coming to the City of Dillon on Thursday. He continued saying we are hosting at drop in from 1pm-2pm at the Visitors Center. Next, Mayor McColl said the City of Dillon has obtained a Violent Crime Prevention Grant and I'd like to thank Stephanie Mitchell and Chief David Lane. This grant is to help deter violent crimes in the city. He said he would also like to thank the Dillon Pastor Christian Alliance; they started off the new year with their prayer event. Lastly, he said Monday on Martin Luther King, Jr. day, there will be a short march from JV Martin to Manning Baptist church. Rev Rodney McCorkle will host the event.

City Manager's Report

Glen began his report discussing the enhanced weather alert for tomorrow and as of now the City of Dillon will be operating as normal. We will try to have our sanitation department finished as early as possible. I don't know what will be doing after lunch tomorrow if it gets to be too bad, we will consider closing early but as of now it's a normal work day. Next, Glen said we have 10 of 19 properties demolished. He went on to say the old cotton warehouse is completed now and

they have started working on the smaller houses. He said they should be finished before the month is over. Glen continued by saying we are now about to invoice the property owners on what we have paid the contractors. Lastly, Glen said the stormwater grant that we received from the state, Weston and Sampson and SC Office of Resilience are still on schedule as far as doing design work, at the end of December they were at 80% in March they hope to be 100% done with design and then start bidding it out. We won't know until around mid-summer after the bidding on what the total cost is going to be.

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 we are slowing down now so we are planning a lot of upcoming things. March will be here before you know it. We will be planning the St Patty's Day event. Screen on the Green will start in March and then every 3 months. Lisa said she might start using the theater for Screen on the Green. Eats on the streets will also start in March. I'm trying to bring new different food trucks to Dillon. Lisa went on to say the Visitors Center is starting to meet with the SC Arts to show new art. Next, Lisa said we will have a total of 36 uniformed signs downtown. Tommy Simpson will hopefully start the mural on Allen Watts building in two weeks and he will paint that on site. Councilmember Eller said he's had a lot of people ask about having a barbeque or rib contest can we work that out? Lisa answered we included the chili cook off for the St. Patty's day event but I would think once the pavilion is finished, we can do it there. There is a lot of expense with that, it just depends on which way you want to go with it.

Citizens' Report

Mr. Buck Graham began his report saying we appreciate the opportunity to speak with you. My name is Buck Graham and this is my wife, Wanda. We have little beagle and he's like our child we walk him around our neighborhood. We have run into issues of folks not controlling their dogs. We have had about 6 attacks from pit bulls to small dogs every case but one the owner has been there. In every case they have been outside we are on public property and they have attacked my little beagle but I always carry a night stick. We have beat them off but the owners act like it's my fault. We just feel like they need to be under direct physical restraint. We were on Hunters Ridge Road and a pit bull came across the embankment, he charged at me and pepper spray did no good. The girl is screaming for us not to walk on this road but we have to walk by people house. We walk to the cemetery because they don't bother us there. Mr. Graham continued saying luckily, I was able to hit the pit bull and the owner got him back but it traumatized my wife. We just wanted to briefly speak on that and I appreciate you amending the ordinance. I appreciate Mr. Genwright speaking with me and the point was to thank you. We just want to safely walk our dog.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. New Business

USDA – Approval of Special Conditions – Quiana McCullough is not here. Chief David Lane said we can go ahead and execute those documents so she can have what she needs and I can get the documents to her.

Resolution # 01-24 – Community Facility Grant Resolution Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilmember Jackson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #24-01 – Amending Title 6, Chapter 4, Article B, Section 6-4-14(B) Leash Law of the City of Dillon Code of Ordinance – 1st Reading Glen said we already have a leash law but it allows for you not to have your dog on a leash while on your own property as long as someone is there. So, if the dog isn't on a leash that dog is not under control Glen said. Councilmember Eller said back during Thanksgiving I called police because of 4 dogs, what if I shoot the dog while they are running after me. Councilmember Eller asked if he is walking the dog and a pit bull charges me can I shoot the dog? He said I need to know because this is happening all over town. I am not looking for permission I just need to know if I'm within my rights. I need to know what can I do if that dog charges at me. Chief David Lane said you have right to defend yourself. Janet Paschal said you have the right to defend yourself but you have to make that decision. Councilmember David made a motion to pass this ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

VIII. Councilmember's Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Cousar began his report saying he called Benny Genwright earlier this week asking about the dogs they are tough in the neighborhood. Benny said they have nowhere to take them so hopefully this leash law will help with that. Benny said the animal shelter has nowhere to put the dog but when my animal control officer has the dog on the back of the truck in a cage people complain. Glen said they will take dangerous dogs and he was reading that animal shelters are at capacity. People aren't adopting animals and I think this is a no kill shelter but they use to send a good bit up north but I'm not sure if that's still the case.

Councilmember Wallace began his report saying he was looking at the golf course and wanted to know if we own the lakes and the pier? Glen said it's coming down and we will replace it if we can find the money but it's in bad shape and we have it blocked off. Dr. Wallace said a lady said she broke down coming from Fairmont and Dustin Hinson stopped and stayed with her until her son got there and I just want to thank him.

IX. Closing Prayer

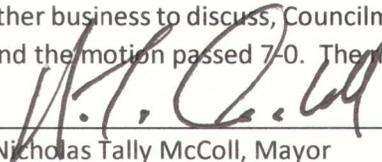
Benny Genwright said a prayer.

X. Executive Session – Economic Development Dr. Wallace made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. No action was taken during Executive Session. Dr. Wallace made a motion to go back into open session. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar seconded and the motion passed 7-0. Mayor Pro Tem Cousar made a motion to give incentives to Project Sunbright. The incentives are to be tax free for 5 years and at 6 years the taxes go to 100% for the property known as the old Wix building. Dr. Wallace seconded. Councilmember Eller asked are we equipped to handle if something was to happen there? Glen said yes. Councilmember Eller asked are we going to implement the insurance? Glen responded

that will be hard at a City standpoint to know what their insurance should be. The motion passed 7-0.

XI. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember David made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wallace seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Approved: 
Nicholas Tally McColl, Mayor

Attest: 
Tina Scott, Council Clerk

Date Approved: 2/12/2024