

**DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**109 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE DILLON SC 29536**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 26, 2023 5:00 PM**

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The Dillon County Council held a Regular Meeting on April 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the County Council Chambers. Present were Stevie Grice, Jamal Campbell, Buzzy Finklea, Dennis Townsend and Robbie Coward and Detrice Dawkins. Also present were Tim Harper, County Administrator, Druscilla Blakely, Interim Clerk To Council, Jon Robinson, County Attorney and Betsey Finklea (Dillon Herald). Kenny Cook Jr was not present for the meeting.

**The following were notified of the meeting and provided an agenda by email:**

DillonCountyAdministrator<dcadministrator@dilloncountysc.org>,MatthewElvington<melvington@dilloncountysc.org>,dccbbuzzyfinklea@gmail.com, KenDuBose<ken@smithrobinsonlaw.com>, JonRobinson<jon@smithrobinsonlaw.com>, CountyCouncil<countycouncil@dilloncountysc.org>, betsyfinklea<bfinklea@thedillonherald.com>, JamalCampbell<jamal\_campbell24@yahoo.com>, dennistownsend@bellsouth.net, DetriceDawkins<tricedawkins@yahoo.com>, HaroldMoody<Harmick@aol.com>, gmcleod<ironman3744@gmail.com>, StevieGrice<gricecube@hotmail.com>, gricecube@icloud.com, Buzzy Finklea <tfinklea@dilloncountysc.org>, Jamal Campbell <jcampbell@dilloncountysc.org>, "dillonlawyer@aol.com" <dillonlawyer@aol.com>, "charliecbailey@aol.com" <charliecbailey@aol.com>, "bludwig@southerncurrentllc.com" <bludwig@southerncurrentllc.com>, "mastercurry@bellsouth.net" <mastercurry@bellsouth.net>, "Elvington@aol.com" <elvington@aol.com>, "Richard.d.gaddy@gmail.com" <richard.d.gaddy@gmail.com>, "news@wmbfnews.com" <news@wmbfnews.com>, "sccones@aol.com" <sccones@aol.com>, "dillonherald@yahoo.com" <dillonherald@yahoo.com>, "dtholder@gmail.com" <dtholder@gmail.com>, "ljackson@dillonsheriff.org" <ljackson@dillonsheriff.org>, "john.jackson1995@yahoo.com" <john.jackson1995@yahoo.com>, "jacoriem@ymail.com" <jacoriem@ymail.com>, "steve@arsmarketing.com" <steve@arsmarketing.com>, "code17@bellsouth.net" <code17@bellsouth.net>, "jward929@gmail.com" <jward929@gmail.com>, "karend.francis@mcleodhealth.org" <karend.francis@mcleodhealth.org>, "kjordan@marlboro.coop" <kjordan@marlboro.coop>, "tlane1018@aim.com" <tlane1018@aim.com>, "martinfireman9@aol.com" <martinfireman9@aol.com>, "snapceo@aol.com" <snapceo@aol.com>, "smcrae911@yahoo.com" <smcrae911@yahoo.com>, "dillonriskmgr@aol.com" <dillonriskmgr@aol.com>, "mlee@mhisc.com" <mlee@mhisc.com>, "morrisl13@yahoo.com" <morrisl13@yahoo.com>, "news@wbtw.com" <news@wbtw.com>, "Susan.Norton@perdue.com" <susan.norton@perdue.com>, "patel1223@gmail.com" <patel1223@gmail.com>, "cpelfrey@netc.edu" <cpelfrey@netc.edu>, "Proctorhaywood@gmail.com" <proctorhaywood@gmail.com>, "rjfodera@wpde.com" <rjfodera@wpde.com>, "roscoxen@aol.com" <roscoxen@aol.com>, "randyrouse@bellsouth.net" <randyrouse@bellsouth.net>, "news@scnow.com" <news@scnow.com>, "tigger\_2g@msn.com" <tigger\_2g@msn.com>, "scentgerry@gmail.com" <scentgerry@gmail.com>, "kls1@rocketmail.com" <kls1@rocketmail.com>, "ssuber@mhisc.com" <ssuber@mhisc.com>, "ttaylor383@aol.com" <ttaylor383@aol.com>, "tbrown@wpde.com" <tbrown@wpde.com>, "vanns4@bellsouth.net" <vanns4@bellsouth.net>, "code17@gmail.com" <code17@gmail.com>, "agendas@voterheads.com" <agendas@voterheads.com>, "tim@ammonshayes.com" <tim@ammonshayes.com>, "wmiller@dilloncountysc.org" <wmiller@dilloncountysc.org>, "dillon1447@aol.com" <dillon1447@aol.com>, "jcampbellmcso@yahoo.com" <jcampbellmcso@yahoo.com>, "jtthomas@netc.edu" <jtthomas@netc.edu>, "Anthony.Moore29536@gmail.com" <anthony.moore29536@gmail.com>, "margaretmarstin@parkerpoe.com" <margaretmarstin@parkerpoe.com>, "dpernell@61aol.com" <dpernell@61aol.com>, "kevin.drawhorn@yahoo.com" <kevin.drawhorn@yahoo.com>, "aowens297957@gmail.com" <aowens297957@gmail.com>, "tonigraves01@gmail.com" <tonigraves01@gmail.com>, "cedricgp.cp@gmail.com" <cedricgp.cp@gmail.com>, "mkoch@mhisc.com" <mkoch@mhisc.com>, "crawfordronald00@gmail.com" <crawfordronald00@gmail.com>, "maggiedunham53@gmail.com" <maggiedunham53@gmail.com>, "gtauction@gmail.com" <gtauction@gmail.com>, "dctaxassessor@dilloncountysc.org" <dctaxassessor@dilloncountysc.org>, "jameslighty85@gmail.com" <jameslighty85@gmail.com>, "amazinggrace11520@yahoo.com" <amazinggrace11520@yahoo.com>, "nancyhargrove@att.net" <nancyhargrove@att.net>, JoySnipes<joyrsnipes@yahoo.com>, RobbieCoward<robbiecoward@aol.com>, JosephineGilchrist<josephinegilchrist@aol.com>, "HerbertA.Jacobs" <herbert.jacobs@mail.com>, Daniel Moody<dmoody9588@gmail.com>, "damono@gmail.com" <damono@gmail.com>, DillonCountyRiskManager<dcriskmanager@dilloncountysc.org>, osoupomo1@aol.com, ChrisNeely<cneelytrainer@gmail.com>, charles@currybyrdlaw.net, damol%&#92;gmail.com, "lavern.sellers" <lavern.sellers@yahoo.com

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stevie Grice called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Stevie Grice led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Councilman Dennis Townsend gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Detrice Dawkins to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Dennis Townsend. All were in favor

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

Councilman Buzzy Finklea said that before the minutes are approved that he wanted to discuss the airport commission vote last month. His statement read as follows:

*Before we approve the minutes, I want to discuss the airport Commission vote last month. I called the chairman after the meeting last month and asked that my vote be withdrawn because I thought I had also nominated Tommy Parham and that we were voting on adding him to the nominations and that is not what we were voting on. This was supposed to be noted in the minutes and it is not.*

*I feel the vote on the Airport Commission was improperly handled. It was not included in our packets, as other appointments were and it was not listed separately in the agenda to indicate that it would be voted on.*

*There were two openings and each candidate should have been voted on separately. By lumping them together, I am being deprived of my vote. One candidate is my nephew so I would need to abstain from that vote. The other candidate proposed by Councilman Coward is not someone who I would ever vote for and I would have voted no. All councilmembers did not have the same opportunity to propose candidates because they didn't know it was going to be on the agenda which is unfair.*

*I feel that this vote should be redone proposing one candidate at a time and calling for the vote not only on this matter, but all future matters.*

*Additionally, I feel that if someone is replaced on a board that the county should send a letter thanking them for their service and advising them they have been replaced before that boards next meeting to avoid embarrassing and difficult situations.*

*If the council decides not to re-do the vote, I want to withdraw my vote and I will have to vote to abstain since they are lumped together in one vote, and it would be improper for me to vote on my nephew's appointment.*

*I would like last months minutes to reflect this, and I would like this statement that I have made today, which I will provide to Druscilla, to be included in this month's minutes.*

The county attorney, Jon Robinson addressed the council in reference to the statements made by Councilman Buzzy Finklea by saying that he wasn't at the last meeting but it appears that all of the council members voted in favor and the options would be that Mr. Finklea could put into the records his statement and council could vote to have that included in the minutes and have Mr. Finklea change his vote based on learning that he had a potential conflict of interest and either abstain or change his vote to no and they would have to look at whether having voted on the prevailing side, he could move to reconsider these appointments, which he did on the prevailing side and he has indicated that he would have to abstain on at least one vote so he thought that the options would be to allow him to include his statement in the minutes and note that he is rescinding his vote based on the conflict of interest as to it relates to the vote that has already been taken and he was not sure whether there would be any recourse for that could be taken at this point and to go back but he would be happy to look into this and report back but presently if he wants his statement to be included in the minutes and note that in the minutes he has rescinded his vote, council would be able do at that time.

**A motion was made by Jamal Campbell to approve the revised minutes from February 22, 2023, March 23, 2023 minutes and Councilman Finklea's statement rescinding his vote on the Airport Board. He was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.**

**Ordinance Reading - No. 23-03 – Third Reading**

**Dillon County Dirt Road Acceptance and Maintenance Ordinance Reading -**

**A proposed ordinance that provides for and allows a process for the county to accept dirt roads that meet certain criteria and that meet the criteria of first reading of the ordinance**

The administrator made a request that the vote be delayed until the next meeting until Ken Dubose, County Attorney gets back in and they can sit down with him to review the ordinance and make the necessary insertions. **A motion to delay and table Ordinance Reading No. 23-03-Third Reading was made by Dennis Townsend and seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

**FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

The administrator stated that this is a Resolution that the county does with the COG every year that make the county eligible for CBD Grants and other different grants and asked council to approve the Fair Housing Resolution. **A motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution was made by Jamal Campbell and seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.**

**FOIA POLICY RESOLUTION – No. 23-04**

**WHEREAS, the Dillon County Council determines that it is both necessary and appropriate to set forth guidelines and policies for County officials and employees to use in responding to requests for information under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-10, et seq**

The administrator stated that this is a resolution that the attorney has drawn up to make the county in compliant with any FOIA request that the county may receive and have an orderly process in handling the FOIA Request. **A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve the FOIA Policy Resolution and after a brief discission it was seconded by Dennis Townsend. All were in favor.**

**COUNCIL REQUEST**

The Manning Family and friends request donations for their **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Harnethea B. Manning Scholarship Fund Musical**. Jamal Campbell donated 100.00 and Detrice Dawkins donated 50.00.

Mayor Sterling Lee and the **Town Of Lake View requested donations for their Jazz In The Park Concert Series**. Jamal Campbell donated 50.00, Detrice Dawkins donated 50.00 and Dennis Townsend donated 100.00. The check was to be written to the Town Of Lake View. Donations were made to the **Pee Dee Shrine Club**. Stevie Grice donated 100.00, Detrice Dawkins donated 25.00 and Dennis Townsend donated 100.00. Robbie Coward gave a 50.00 personal donation.

**World Vision Global 6K For Water** was given a donation of 100.00 by Jamal Campbell, 50.00 by Detrice Dawkins and a personal donation of 50.00 was given by Robbie Coward.

**Glory Thorne Academy** requested donations for their GTA Pageant Workshop. Jamal Campbell donated 150.00 and Detrice Dawkins donated 50.00.

Stevie Grice made a donation of 100.00 was made to **Lake View High School** for an upcoming event that they will be having.

**A motion to approve the Council Request was made by Robbie Coward and seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.**

### **SPECTRUM CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS – JOE PRATER**

Matt Wilson, State Government Director for Charter Communications/Spectrum stated to council that he wanted to report that as of the end of last month they are ninety nine percent complete with all projects in the county on their expansion efforts but this does not include some of the additional addresses that have been provided. They have built nearly two hundred thirty miles of fiber over the county and connecting over twenty-one hundred locations accelerating what they missed last year due to them having to give back their contract that they won thru the FCC, that have now been finished and their service has been activated. He asked that any specific questions be emailed to the administrator or sent directly to him in order to get answers. He answered various questions that council members had. Councilman Robbie Coward asked that Ms. Faye Grice, who is in his district be allowed ask some questions that she had. Ms. Grice stated that in her community in Bingham, that they stopped less than a mile out of Bingham and left both sides and they left a whole community out and she had a list of twenty-eight names of people that are waiting for Spectrum. He stated that they could rectify that miss and would take a look at it to find a solution.

### **PEE DEE COALITION – GLENDA SCHLEICH**

Ms. Glenda Schleich stated that Pee Dee Coalition is a nonprofit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. She gave pamphlets to the council members that included two letters and the resources of the services that they provide. She said that they appreciated the county for everything that has been done and she also brought along with her, Mr. Steve Johnson who was one of the board members and the contact person if there is any questions concerning funding.

### **BRING THE NOISE MISSION – LATASHA A. SELLERS**

Latasha A. Sellers with Bring The Noise Mission, was skipped due to her being unable to attend the meeting.

### **FAYE GRICE- WATER DRAINAGE & INTERNET ACCESS**

Faye Grice thanked council for listing to her earlier concerning the Internet Access issue. Water Drainage – Ms. Grice stated that in the Bingham area there is water standing in yards and ditches and she said that there is no place for the water to flow and the ditches are never cleaned out which due to the summer coming in causes mosquito infestation and mold in the homes but the community is in need of some drainage. She suggested that county council take a look at her area so that the community would look better and more appealing. Chairman Stevie addressed Ms.

Grice by saying that some of the ditches that she was talking about are roads and they are handled by DOT with the state.

### **RICHARD CALHOUN – LITTER PROBLEMS**

Richard Calhoun appeared before council to address the litter problems in the county who stated that he was a resident of Hamer, SC. He said that this is the worse that he has ever seen and it is getting much worse every year but he has noticed that steps have been taken to clean up and it has not gone unnoticed. He stated that due to having a new county administrator and a few new council members, they have an opportunity to make a difference where it really matters. He passed out an article that had been in the Dillon Herald over two years ago concerning the enforcement issue within the county that stated the county would put up cameras and start writing tickets and he said that he didn't think that any of that ever happened. Councilwoman Dawkins said that cameras were put up but no tickets were ever written. He stated that according to his research shows that enforcement efforts do work while picking up the litter only contributes to additional litter and if you don't stop a bad behavior, you'll get more of it and our legislators have passed recent laws allowing fines to be levied as well as community service requiring that the offenders pick up litter for up to forty hours per week. He urge the new administrator and new council to commit the resources and put a code officer in place instead of paying people out of our tax dollars to pick it up. Chairman Stevie Grice said the new administrator is in the process of getting someone certified but he also wanted to urge the citizens to quit throwing trash out because it is our citizens and taxpayers that keep doing this and they need to respect their area and other peoples areas more than they do.

### **APPROVAL BY COUNCIL FOR USE OF COURTHOUSE GROUNDS – (DETRICE DAWKINS – MAY 6, 2023)**

**A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve the use of the Courthouse Grounds for Detrice Dawkins on May 6, 2023 and Chairman Stevie Grice asked that the Courthouse grounds also be approved for the National Day Of Prayer on May 4, 2023. He was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Stevie Grice stated that Councilman Kenny Cook Jr wanted to appoint Vernon Grimsley to the Grievance Committee. **A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve Vernon Grimsley for the Grievance Committee and was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

### **PEE DEE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD - REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMES ROBERTS**

**A motion was made by Robbie Coward to reappoint Mr. James Roberts to the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board. He was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

**Tire Recycling Contract Approval**

The administrator said that a contract has to be approved for the pickup and disposal of the tires that come in to the Landfill. Mr. Grimsley had gotten three bids so he had three proposals and one is from Central Carolina Tires at 185.00 per ton and with the trip fee and environment fee, proposal number two is from Kimmel Direct at 350.00 per ton and proposal number three is from Allen Scrap Metal at 375.00 per ton. He asked council approval to contract with Central Carolina Tire to pick up of the used tires at the Landfill. **A motion was made by Detrice Dawkins to approve Central Carolina Tire to pick up the used tires at the Landfill. She was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

### **Dargan Street Park Proposal**

The administrator asked council's approval to table the matter for that day and that they have the bids together and also have the funds of \$300,000.00 that came in a year or so ago from Senator Williams and legislator. He also said stated that the bids came in at the amount of \$420,444.00, but he wanted to ask that council permission to table this and to get the committee back together. **A motion was made by Jamal Campbell to table the Dargan Street Park Proposal and seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

### **Maintenance Building and Fence Proposal**

The administrator stated that back during the storm, the building flooded and it has a lot of issues and a demolition will have to be done to take care of that. They have two bids to build a new metal building behind the old Health Dept building, which is through K&G Storage for \$199,857.89 and the second one with is for the fencing which was for \$85,500.00. He stated that he along with Mr. Tony Caulder, met and went over everything and was also present at the meeting, recommended that they go with K&G Storage. He also said that this was money from the insurance company and asked for council's approval. **A motion was made by Jamal Campbell to approve K&G Storage to build the building and install the fencing. He was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

The administrator also stated that it was brought to his attention by Councilwoman Dawkins about a proposed project that is about to be built in North Carolina above the Oakland area near the state line that would involve some detonation of bombs and explosives and she attended a public hearing on a Monday night and he contacted a few farmers that he knew who attended the hearing also and that project was tabled but will be brought back up again in the next week. The administration asked councils approval for Michael Reaves from Rowland NC to speak on this on this issue. Mr. Reaves addressed council concerning a company out of Florida that bought around 600 acres to create a bomb testing facility and the effects will be felt for miles into the Rowland NC, Robinson NC and Dillon County communities. He along with the landowners have environmental issues concerning this project because there are two active creeks that run through that property that directly feed the Little Pee Dee. He said that other land owners along with his family have signed petitions against this and also thanked Councilwoman Dawkins for speaking at the council meeting in on behalf of her district. Jon Robinson, Attorney stated that they could send the information to DHEC to open up a case on it if they hadn't already done so and pass a resolution in opposition of this project and also get the Attorney to write it up and submit it to the Robinson County Board of Commissioners. **A motion was made by Jamal to do a Resolution**

**in opposition to Alottabang, LLC bomb testing facility and seconded by Dennis Townsend.  
All were in favor.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**No action was taken in Executive Session**

**ADJOURN**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Jamal Campbell and was seconded by Detrice Dawkiins**

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**Stevie Grice, Chairman**

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**Druscilla Blakely, Interim Clerk to Council**

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**Date Approved**