

**DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**109 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE DILLON SC 29536**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 23, 2023 5:00 PM**

---

The Dillon County Council held a Regular Meeting on March 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the County Council Chambers. Present were Stevie Grice, Kenny Cook Jr, 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, Ken Dubose, County Attorney, Johnny Daniels and Betsey Finklea (Dillon Herald).

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

DillonCountyAdministrator<dcaadministrator@dilloncountysc.org>, MatthewElvington<melvington@dilloncountysc.org>, dccbuzzyfinklea@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>, morrislt13@yahoo.com<morrislt13@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>, scemtgerry@gmail.com<scemtgerry@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>, jcambellmcso@yahoo.com<jcambellmcso@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>, dctaassessor@dilloncountysc.org<dctaassessor@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%>@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**

A motion was made by Detrice Dawkins to approve the February 22, 2023 minutes and was seconded by Dennis Townsend. All were in favor.

### **ORDINANCE READING NO. – 23-01**

**Third Reading** – An Ordinance to change Zoning Map Classification from Commercial to Residential (RS2) for the purpose of residing in a residence on the parcel. The minimum requirement does not apply to an extension of an existing district.

Tax Map No. 070-03-00-046 consisting of 1.53 acres

Property Owner(s): Ntiraybagira Auguste

Purposed Location: 2145 Hwy 9 East, Dillon SC 29536

**A motion was made by Dennis Townsend to approve Ordinance Reading No. 23-01 – Third Reading and was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

### **ORDINANCE NO. – 23-02**

**Third Reading** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK (2016 PARK) OF DILLON AND MARLBORO COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK.

**A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve Ordinance No. – 23-02 – Third Reading and was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.**

### **ORDINANCE READING – NO. 23-03 – SECOND 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.

**A motion was made by Buzzy Finklea to approve Ordinance No. 23-03 – Second Reading and was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.**

### **COUNCIL REQUEST**

Donations were requested by the **Annual Latta Springfest** which would be held on April 15, 2023. Detrice Dawkins, Jamal Campbell and Dennis Townsend each donated 50.00. Buzzy Finklea donated 100.00. Personal donations were given by Robbie Coward and Kenny Cook Jr who gave 50.00 each.

**The Word Church Basketball Tournament** requested a donation for their Building Project and all proceeds would go towards their New Building. Detrice Dawkins stated that she had already given a donation. Buzzy Finklea and Jamal Campbell donated 50.00 each. Robbie Coward gave a personal donation of 50.00.

**Dillon County First Steps** request donations for their Day of Giving on April 25, 2023. Detrice Dawkins and Jamal Campbell donated 100.00 each. Kenny Cook Jr gave a personal donation of 100.00.

**The American Legion's Boys Stata** request donations for their Boy's State Program. Detrice Dawkins, Stevie Grice, Jamal Campbell and Dennis Townsend donated 50.00 each. Buzzy Finklea donated 100.00. Personal donations were given by Robbie Coward and Kenny Cook Jr in the amount of 50.00 each.

**The Latta High School Robotics Club also known as The Steam Punks** requested a donation to help with travel expense for their world competition event to be held on April 19–April 23, 2023 in Houston, TX. Detrice Dawkins and Buzzy Finklea donated 100.00 each. Stevie Grice, Jamal Campbell and Dennis Townsend donated 50.00 each. Personal donations were given by Robbie Coward and Kenny Cook Jr who gave 50.00 each.

**Lake View Recreational 12U and 10U Recreational Basketball Teams** requested donations for help with travel expense to SC State Championships. Dennis Townsend donated 100.00.

**Lake View Revitalization Committee** requested donations for revitalization and renovation work in Lake View's downtown area. Buzzy Finklea donated 50.00 and Dennis Townsend donated 200.00.

**Annual Paul Chapman Memorial Golf Tournament** requested donations and all proceeds are to benefit the Dillon Athletic Department. Stevie Grice donated 100.00.

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

#### **VANESSA JACKSON, CARESOUTH-CAROLINA – Medicaid and Chip Enrollment**

Vanessa Jackson addressed council stated that she is with Caresouth Carolina and she is the Community Health Navigator for Dillon County but she lives in Florence County. She spoke concerning a program called Medicare Unwinding and that during the pandemic a bill came down which enabled people to get on Medicaid due to covid-19. This will end on May 11, 2023 and everyone who has been on Medicaid forever will have to reapply or if they do not, they will not lose their coverage but there will be a gap in coverage. Letters will be sent out letting everyone know that they may lose or there may be a gap in their coverage if this information is not updated. Some may not qualify for Medicaid but will qualify for insurance through healthcare.gov Some may not receive the letters if they have moved or relocated. She stated that she is an Enrollment Specialist for healthcare.gov and can do the Medicaid applications at Caresouth Carolinas to keep them from going to the DSS Office. She concluded by saying that Caresouth Carolinas offer a variety of services and if there are any questions to please feel free to contact her.

#### **LAVERN SELLERS & REV. ALLEN ROBINSON – Community Grievances pertaining to Germantown Place**

Lavern Sellers stated that he had spoken to his councilman a while back concerning concerns about the services that they receive on Germantown Place because he stated that their community get minimum or least amount of the services that the county can do. He addressed three items, the first on his list was they requested that a ditch be cleared that was causing water to backup into the neighborhood and due to this the neighbor has to clear a trench on rainy days for the water to go back into a ditch that is pushing the water out. He stated that when someone from the county came out to clear the ditch and a pathway and remove the debris, they damaged the roots of the trees and he said that eventually these trees will die and end up back in the ditch. He said that he didn't understand the logic of bringing the resources out at that time not utilizing them to

do the job properly the first time. The second thing was the entrance way, a private owner who has an agreement with the state hauls dirt out of Germantown Place and the trucks are damaging the entranceway and the vehicles and school buses lose traction trying leave the exit, so he stated that either they need to find a new entrance or be responsible fixing the entrance because the residents or county should not be responsible for the repairs. The third thing was that lights east of highway 9 because its dark and although he realizes that Highway 9 is a state highway, trucks are constantly leaving Perdue and said that lights need be put up along East of Highway 9. He concluded by saying that he would appreciate the same level of service as other areas get. Councilman Robbie Coward asked the administrator to check into the situation a little further. Councilman Kenny Cook stated that he questioned Jerry as to why only a small portion of the ditch was cleared and was told that with a swamp being in that area if he went too much deeper, he feared that it may go over to the neighboring property which they don't own and may make more of a mess but he agreed that something needed to be done.

### **WAYNE W. GREENE SR– Improvements to Recreation Parks**

Wayne W. Greene Sr addressed the county council to say that the parks need to be updated and some of the equipment is a hazard and wanted to know if there was anything that the citizens can do to make it better for the kids. He stated that some parks had been abandoned and wanted to know with the approval of county council, if the citizens were to formed a committee to try to curve some of the cost would council stand behind them. He stated that he knows that crime is rising but there is a safe haven for kids to go to the park with their families and then law enforcement would not be as busy. Councilwoman Detrice Dawkins said that she has been working with council and has taken steps to get the parks worked on. There is a Par Grant and the equipment is now in the process of being ordered and also plan to make the necessary repairs to the parks. Councilman Kenny Cook Jr said that he rode around to the parks and didn't see any kids, only cars at the parks but they need to address the issue of the keeping cars out of the parks. Chairman Councilwoman Detrice Dawkins addressed the issue of once the parks have been worked on and making the parks safer for the children because she said that it is going to take the whole community to make the parks a safe haven for the children and she also discussed her visions for updating the parks and stated that she is willing to sit down with Mr. Greene to come up with some other ideas and try to work together with him and the community on this project.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Councilwoman Detrice Dawkins, District 3** appointed Sarah Samuels to the Grievance Committee, Tim Faulk to the Public Private Economic Development Board and Sonny McRae to the Planning Commission.

**Councilman Kenny Cook Jr, District 5** appointed Jordan Grimsley to the Tax Appeal Board, Ms. Jackie Thomas to the Library Board and Timmy Townsend to the Board of Zoning Appeals. **A motion was made by Jamal Campbell to approve the above Committee Appointments and seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.**

**Councilman Robbie Coward, District 6** made a recommendation to appoint Charles Taylor and also reappoint Glenn Green III to the Airport Board in Florence. The County Administrator, Tim Harper stated that he wanted to make them aware that they are recommended by council and their names will have to be submitted in to the governor who has to do back ground checks before they are actually appointed to the board.

**A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve Charles Taylor and Glenn Green III to the Airport Committee and was seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.**

**PEE DEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY UPDATE – Mr. Don Strickland, PDRTA, Executive Director**

Mr. Don Strickland gave an update on the Public Transit System. He went over a quite a few things such as they cover over thirty-five hundred square miles and they also have a mobile app that shows where the transit bus is located. They also provide over 500 trips to Harbor Freights and they're also taking some of the second shift employees home. They are starting permanent bus stops this year between May and June and looking to partner with the schools in areas where there are lots of kids and put down bus shelters so that the kids won't have to be wet all day long. They will be hiring more drivers. They have a good variety of partners and hoping to bring in many more local partners. Councilman Dennis Townsend had some questions including a few related to his district in Lake View. Mr. Strickland stated that Lake view is all demand response and the least used area at this time but they can call a day ahead for rides.

**APPROVAL OF GORDON PARK SHELTER PLAN**

The administrator stated that a meeting took place with Bliss Products in reference to the Gordon Park Shelter Plan and was told that they would have bids ready for this meeting but did not have them after all. He suggested that this item be tabled and hopefully the bids will be available by the next meeting. **A motion to table the Gordon Park Shelter Plan was made by Detrice Dawkins and seconded by Councilman Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

**APPROVAL OF FLORENCE REGIONAL AIRPORT PER DIEM INCREASE**

The administrator stated that the county is a part of the Florence Regional Airport as well as Marion and Florence Counties and with any changes to the policy, each county has to approve and he also said that this will not cost the county anything because these funds are already included in their money. **A motion was by Dennis Townsend for Council to increase the Florence Regional Airport Diem from 150.00 per quarter to 500.00 per quarter. He was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

**TRANSFER STATION ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SMITH GARDNER**

The administrator stated that they have been working on the Transfer Station at the Landfill with Smith Gardner is the engineer but the county does not have an agreement in place and asked for council to approve the agreement with Smith Gardner. Councilman Dennis Townsend requested that the county get competitive bids the next time. **A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Smith Gardner on the Transfer Station and seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

**LANDFILL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SMITH GARDNER**

The administrator stated that this is a proposal for monitoring of the wells at the Landfill and this is something that has to be done semi-annual every year. This is also something that they have already been doing but there was not a contract in place so he asked council to approve a contract with Smith Gardner. Councilman Dennis Townsend requested that the county get competitive

bids the next time **A motion was made to approve the Landfill Environmental Monitoring Services agreement with Smith Gardner by Detrice Dawkins and seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.**

### **SECURITY SYSTEM REPAIRS AT THE JUDICIAL CENTER**

The administrator stated that the electronic system that controls the doors and the cameras at the jail has failed. This system has been there since the Judicial Center was finished and to fix it would cost the county \$32,523.97 through L&S Electronics and this has to be done in order to provide security there. He suggested that the cost be split between the Sheriff's Office and the Magistrates Office. He also said that this is not a budgeted item but an emergency situation and so it could be taken out of contingency.

**A motion was made by Buzzy Finklea to approve the Security System Repairs at the Judicial Center. It was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

### **RADIO TOWER REPAIR (REPEATER)**

The county administrator said the repeater system on the fire tower for the fire tower went down. This system was put in twenty years ago and only a certain group will be allowed to work on it because it is a tv tower. To climb the tower and put in the new wiring and put on the repeater is \$22,500.00. To fix the repeater, climb the tower and do the work will cost right at \$82,058.00. The administrator suggested to council that they take this under advisement that council check on using the funds the out of the GO Bond. **Robbie Coward made a motion to approve Tim Harper, Administrator and Daniel to start the process of getting bids and was seconded by Dennis Townsend. All were in favor.**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

#### **Healthy Living Program with NACO**

This is a free program that allows the citizens of the county to have a drug prescription discount card. He is waiting to get the materials back that it can be advertised in the Dillon Herald. With this card the citizens will be able to get dental and health discounts at a cost of 5.95 per person or family coverage would be 7.95. The prescription card can be used at most of the pharmacies in this area.

#### **Landfill Truck Update**

Council approved the purchase of a Mack truck for the landfill and had been quoted a price of 222,000.00 but knew that there was a potential for an increase, and when they did come back the price had increased to 241, 000.00. They were able to purchase a new Peterbilt that was larger at a cost of 234.00.00 and should be in within the next week.

#### **County Nuisance Ordinance and Lot Cleanup Issues**

The administrator said that he has spoken with Councilwoman Dawkins and several others concerning the litter situation and has also spoken to James Campbell and he is about to start doing some charging for littering and he'll also be going to the academy to get his certification. He has found that we do have a Litter Control Ordinance that he has this passed on to the attorney and now some of the tickets can be written now he stated that he told Mr. Campbell that if people are caught littering, they need to be written a ticket and if it gets to the Magistrates and they are not charging then it will be on the court system. Dillon County does not have a Nuisance Ordinance but this is being worked on through the Association of Counties. He has also spoke to

Councilwoman Dawkins concerning a couple of sites that are not just trash but dumps. He said that he spoke to Jason Lambert with DHEC and he is investigating these areas because if they're piling stuff on property without a permit and they may be in violation of DHEC laws.

**EOC and NESAs Grant**

The administrator stated that the county has applied for two grants for the new Emergency Operations Center and one is the NESAs Grant and NESAs is willing to pay \$20,000.00 toward the planning of the facility and they have also put in an Earmark Request through Senator Graham's office for \$2,000,000.00.

**Spectrum Update at Next Meeting**

Spectrum should be at the next meeting to give an update and a presentation and will also answer questions. They are expecting to have everything completed in June except for the outline items where they will have to run to. If anyone has any locations or addresses that need to be checked on for service just send them to him and he will forward the information to Spectrum.

The administrator also reminded the council members that just in case they haven't did their **Ethics Report** to please get it completed.

**The SCAT Conference** will be coming up and Druscilla is working on the reservations.

That if everything goes as planned, the audit will be completed next week and submitted ready to go over next month.

**Kenny Cook Jr made a motion was made to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Jamal Campbell. All were in favor.**

**Executive Session – Contractual Matter for Legal Advice**

**No action was taken in Executive Session**

**Adjourn**

**Jamal Campbell made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.**

---

**Stevie Grice, Chairman**

---

**Druscilla Blakely, Interim Clerk to Council**

---

**Date Approved**