

DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
109 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE DILLON SC 29536
JULY 22, 2026 5:00 P M

The Dillon County Council held a Regular Meeting on July 22, 2026 at 5:00 pm in the County Council Chambers. Present were Detrice Dawkins, Robbie Coward, Dennis Townsend, James Washington, Brad Coward, Stevie Grice and Kenny Cook Jr. Also present was Sydney Douglas, Attorney, Tim Harper, County Administrator, Druscilla Blakely, Clerk to Council and Betsy Finklea, Dillon County News LLC.

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

TimHarper<tharper@dilloncountysc.org>,DillonCountyAdministrator<dcadministrator@dilloncountysc.org>,MatthewElvington<melvington@dilloncountysc.org>,dccbuzzyfinklea@gmail.com,KenDuBose<ken@smithrobinsonlaw.com>,JonRobinson<jon@smithrobinsonlaw.com>,CountyCouncil<countycouncil@dilloncountysc.org>,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,"charliebailey@aol.com"<charliebailey@aol.com>,<bludwig@southerncurrentllc.com>,<mastercurry@bellsouth.net>,<richard.d.gaddy@gmail.com>,<news@wmbfnews.com>,sccones@aol.com,<dillonherald@yahoo.com>,<dtholder@gmail.com>,<cljackson@dillonsheriff.org>,<john.jackson1995@yahoo.com>,<jacoriem@ymail.com>,<steve@arsmarketing.com>,<code17@bellsouth.net>,<jward929@gmail.com>,<karend.francis@mcleodhealth.org>,<kjordan@marlboro.coop>,<tlane1018@aim.com>,<martinfireman9@aol.com>,<snapceo@aol.com>,<smcrae911@yahoo.com>,<dillonriskmgr@aol.com>,<mlee@mhisc.com>,<morrislt13@yahoo.com>,"news@wbwt.com"<news@wbwt.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>,"scemtgergy@gmail.com"<scemtgergy@gmail.com>,"kls1@rocketmail.com"<kls1@rocketmail.com>,"ssuber@mhisc.com"<ssuber@mhisc.com>,"ttaylor383@aol.com"<ttaylor383@aol.com>,<tbrown@wpde.com>,<vanns4@bellsouth.net>,<code17@gmail.com>,<agendas@voterheads.com>,<tim@ammonshayes.com>,<wmiller@dilloncountysc.org>,<dillon1447@aol.com>,"<jcampbellmcso@yahoo.com>,<jtthomas@netc.edu>,<anthony.moore29536@gmail.com>,<margaretmarstin@parkerpoe.com>,<kevin.drawhorn@yahoo.com>,<aowens297957@gmail.com>,<tonigraves01@gmail.com>,<cedricgp.cp@gmail.com>,<mkoch@mhisc.com>,<crawfordronald00@gmail.com>,<maggiedunham53@gmail.com>,<gtauction@gmail.com>,<dctaxassessor@dilloncountysc.org>,<jameslighty85@gmail.com>,<amazinggrace11520@yahoo.com>,<nancyhargrove@att.net>,<JoySnipes<joyrsnipes@yahoo.com>,<RobbieCoward<robbiecoward@aol.com>,<josephinegilchrist@aol.com>,<herbert.jacobs@mail.com>,<dmoody9588@gmail.com>,<dcriskmanager@dilloncountysc.org>,<cneelytrainer@gmail.com>,<charles@currybyrdlaw.net>,<lavern.sellers@yahoo.com>,<calishaccu@gmail.com>,<staylor@postandcourier.com>,<jcpwl@yahoo.com>,<jhamilton@dillonsheriff.org>"Director,HR"<hrdirector@dilloncountysc.org>,DillonCountyBenefits<dilloncountybenefits@dilloncountysc.org>jackiehayes@schouse.gov,DianeLewis<dlewis@dilloncountysc.org>,"betsyfinklea5@gmail.com"<betsyfinklea5@gmail.com>,jordan@thedillonherald.com,vrogers@thedillonherald.com,"Director,DCE911"<dce911director@dilloncountysc.org>,marquitabritton<marquita_britton@yahoo.com>,jwashingtonwfc@gmail.com,cowardstowing@aol.com,Don Strickland <Dstrickland@pdrta.org>,llinda54@hotmail.com,Brad Coward<bcoward@dilloncountysc.org>,James Washington jwashington@dilloncountysc.org, dccoc@dilloncountysc.org Christy Overstreet <coverstreet@dilloncountysc.org> Calvin Pompey <preventionspecialist@dilloncountysc.org>,Jody Barr Jody.Barr@qcnews.com

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Dennis Townsend called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Dennis Townsend led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Councilman Dennis Townsend gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Detrice Dawkins made a motion to approve the agenda. She was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.

Robbie Coward requested that a moment of silence for Mrs. Nancy Finklea be added to the agenda. Council Chair Dennis Townsend suggested placing this right before the Executive Session.

Tim Harper, Administrator introduced Sydney Douglas, Attorney to Council Members and said that she was replacing Ken Dubose and John Dubose at that meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2026 & JULY 15, 2026

A motion was made by Kenny Cook Jr. to approve the Minutes for June 24, 2026 and July 15, 2026. He was seconded by Stevie Grice. All were in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to open the Public Hearing. He was seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-06

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING \$2,100,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2026 OF DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND; THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BOND; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

No one signed up to speak at the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to close the Public Hearing. He was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-06 - THIRD READING

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING \$2,100,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2026 OF DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND; THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BOND; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to amend Ordinance 26-06 which was \$2,100,000.00 and pay off the balance of loans from 2020 which is \$240,000.00 and the 2022

loan \$610,000.00 which are the two oldest bonds and that would be a total of \$850,000.00 before borrowing any more money to keep them under the debit limit and the money could come out of the fund balance. Stevie Grice asked Tim Harper if he would suggest that they do what was in the ordinance. Tim replied yes for the 2.1 million. Dennis Townsend asked did he see a problem paying off the other two loans. Tim stated that he didn't know anything about it and would have to talk to the Treasurer first. After much discussion Robbie Coward withdrew his amendment, it was decided that they would move it to the next meeting after Tim speaks with the Treasurer.

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve Ordinance No. 26-06. He was seconded by Stevie Grice. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-09 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE BY DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL POSTPONING FOR ONE YEAR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES.

A motion was made by Stevie Grice to approve Ordinance No. 26-09. He was seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. Stevie Grice, Kenny Cook Jr., James Washington and Dennis Townsend were all in favor. Robbie Coward and Detrice Dawkins were opposed. Brad Coward abstained.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-10 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE BY DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A UNIFORM ORDINANCE SUMMONS AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF AN ORDINANCE SUMMONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF COUNTY ORDINANCES.

A motion was made by James Washington to approve Ordinance No. 26-10 Second Reading. He was seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-11 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A ONE PERCENT CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX, SUBJECT TO A REFERENDUM, WITHIN DILLON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX ACT, AS CODIFIED IN §4-10-300, ET SEQ., OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS, 1976, AS AMENDED (THE "ACT"); TO SPECIFY THE PURPOSES, PROJECTS AND FACILITIES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX MAY BE USED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM TIME FOR WHICH SUCH TAX MAY BE IMPOSED; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE ISSUED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY COSTS OF THE PROJECTS AND FACILITIES AND TO PLEDGE SUCH TAX TO THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM COST OF THE PROJECTS OR FACILITIES TO BE FUNDED FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX OR BONDS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF NET PROCEEDS OF THE TAX EXPECTED TO BE USED TO PAY THE COST OF THE PROJECTS OR DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS; TO ESTABLISH THE PRIORITY IN WHICH THE NET PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAX ARE TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE PROJECTS AND PURPOSES STATED; TO ORDER A

REFERENDUM PRESCRIBED BY THE ACT TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE DILLON COUNTY REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH TAX; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

A motion was made by Stevie Grice to table Ordinance No.26-11 until the next meeting. He was seconded by Kenny Cook Jr. All were in favor.

COUNCIL RECREATION REQUEST

James Washington, Kenny Cook Jr., Stevie Grice donated \$150.00 to the Sports Report. Dennis Townsend, Robbie Coward and Brad Coward gave \$150.00 as personal donations.

Y.A.N.A. Special Needs Support were given donations. Detrice Dawkins, Kenny Cook Jr., James Washington and Dennis Townsend gave donations of \$50.00 each, Stevie Grice donated \$100.00. Robbie Coward and Brad Coward gave \$100.00 personal donations.

James Washington donated \$575.00 from his previous recreation fund to the City of Dillon Recreation Department.

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to approve the Recreation Request. He was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.

BRENDA CLEMENTS – YOUTH WORK STUDY ACADEMY SUMMER PROGRAM

Ms. Clements shared information with council about the program. She said that she started a Work Study Program for the kids and went out to various businesses and solicited jobs and her job shadowing program has been a success. They had about twenty-five business owners to agree to allow the children to job shadow them. The children are paid \$100.00 for working anywhere from fifteen to twenty hours per week. She stated that they would be having a celebration to honor the students and business owners that participated. She said that the students, ages 14 through 17 are being trained for success. She asked for any support that county council could give to help her with the program. Councilman Dennis Townsend thanked her for the work that she has been doing and Councilman Robbie Coward gave her his phone number to reach out to him.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY VEHICLE BIDS

Tim Harper, Administrator said that they had been working to get prices from all of the county vehicles off of state contract and compiling a list and also getting the same figure from Enterprise so that they use it as a comparison and hope to have it back by the next monthly meeting. He wanted to bring to their attention that the sheriff is short two vehicles that were under the Enterprise lease that the insurance was settled out. He stated that they are looking at vehicles in the coming year, to get bids for lease payments from local banks but for Sheriff's Department vehicles, will not be able to get upfits on those leases. Tim asked that since the sheriff is short two vehicles, that they purchase two Ford police interceptors through Enterprise. The price off state contract from Dick Smith Ford

was \$49,417.00 and if they purchased from Enterprise the price would be \$49,047.72. Councilman Robbie Coward questioned the interest rate on those vehicles.

After much discussion Dennis Townsend called for a motion. Kenny Cook Jr. made a motion to approve the lease of two vehicles thru Enterprise. He was seconded by James Washington. After more discussion Stevie Grice made a motion to wait until the next week to decide. James Washington was in favor of approving the bids as is. Those opposed were Robbie Coward, Detrice Dawkins and Brad Coward. The motion failed and would be brought up at the next meeting.

A moment of silence was done for Mrs. Nancy Finklea as requested by Councilman Robbie Coward.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There were no Committee Appointments.

A motion was made by Robbie Coward to go into Executive Session. He was seconded by Detrice Dawkins. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal Briefing

A motion was made by Detrice Dawkins to come out of Executive Session. She was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.

THERE WAS NO ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Detrice Dawkins made a motion to adjourn. She was seconded by Robbie Coward. All were in favor.

Dennis Townsend, Chairman

Druscilla Blakely, Clerk to Council

Date Approved