

## Dillsboro Town Council

### Special Meeting

August 4, 2025

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The special meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on August 4, 2025 by Council President, Tim Benning, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Tim Benning, Becky Fryman, Charlie Caldwell and Dustin Kitchell. Council member absent: Jerri Jackson. Town Manager present: Derek Walker. Clerk-Treasurer present: Rita Stevens.

Corey Pressler, attending virtually, of HWC Engineering provided an overview of the Stellar Pathways Public Open House held on July 28, 2025, which focused on gathering public feedback for the Stellar Pathways Sidewalk Improvement Project.

A visual board was used at the open house where attendees placed red dots to indicate first-priority sidewalk segments and blue dots for second-priority selections. A total of 13 sidewalk segments were considered.

Pressler presented the estimated costs for each segment. Notably, Front Street (Segment 5) was excluded from cost estimates as the sidewalk already exists. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.63 million, while the budgeted amount is \$1.15 million, leaving a funding gap of approximately \$473,000. All proposed sidewalks are to be 5 feet wide and constructed of concrete.

To stay within budget, Council discussed the need to eliminate certain segments, with rankings based on public feedback: 1. Spangler Street (Segment 4), 2. Central Avenue (Segment 8), 3. Miller/Lenover Streets (Segment 9), 4. Main Street (Segment 6), 5. East Adams Street (Segment 7), 6. Rullman Drive (Segment 10), 7. Maple Glen (Segment 2), 8. State Road 62 (Segment 12), 9. Holland Drive (Segment 11), 10. Western Row (Segment 3), 11. Bank Street (Segment 1), and 12. State Road 262 (Segment 13).

Cost Highlights (Selected Segments): SR 62 - \$303,000 (includes intersection work with SR 262), SR 262 - \$30,000, Western Row: \$102,000 (due to tree removal and multiple driveway tie-ins), Main Street - \$114,000, East Adams Street - \$91,000 (includes retaining wall and utility pole relocation), Bank Street - \$44,000, Holland Drive - \$54,000, and Spangler Street: Includes a retaining wall at the Masonic Lodge.

Council agreed that unpaved sidewalk sections should include concrete from the back of the sidewalk to the edge of the road. Pressler noted that existing paved surfaces (asphalt or concrete) are easy to tie into.

To reduce the project cost, Council agreed to eliminate the following segments: East Adams Street (Segment 7), Bank Street (Segment 1), SR 262 (Segment 13), and SR 62 (Segment 12)

Additionally, Council agreed to add intersection improvements at Main Street and Rullman Drive, using an estimated \$180,000 surplus made available through the eliminations. Pressler stated that this direction will help HWC identify which areas require survey work. A revised contract reflecting these changes will be prepared.

#### Other Business

Town Manager Derek Walker outlined preliminary agenda items for the next regular Town Council meeting scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025, including: Consideration of a salary ordinance related to the open labor position; Continued discussion on the proposed Emergency Services Garage; a personnel policy update in response to Dino Schmaltz's retirement; resignations of Tom Wafford from both the Park Board and Redevelopment Commission, noting that these vacancies must be filled by town residents; and a proposed resolution concerning the Shoe Shop building.

The Council also expressed concern regarding property maintenance issues at a residence on Bank Street, specifically tall grass and accumulated junk and also some properties on North Street.

Council Member Kitchell suggested the Town consider establishing a timeline or phased plan for next steps related to the Shoe Shop building.

With no further business, CM Kitchell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m., seconded by CM Caldwell. The motion carried unanimously.



Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer

