

MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 2004
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
7:00 P. M.

Council Attendance: Mayor Bruce Connelly, Councilmen Larry Spotts;
Derek Underwood; G.W. Dawkins

General Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator; Fred Sexton,
Public Works Director; Chief Benji Sease; Hank
Bufkin, Town Attorney; and Janet Chastin,
Clerk/Treasurer

Public: Cindy Pitts (Newberry Observer); Tammy Skelton
and Tom McGee (Buck-A-Cup Easter Seals)

Mayor Connelly opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the February 17, 2004 council meeting to Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of February 17, 2004; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the Special Called Meeting March 1, 2004 to Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve the minutes of March 1, 2004; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TOWN INVOICES:

Mayor Connelly stated that the invoices had been put out for approval weekly and also a total of bills were presented at the end of the month. Everyone has had the opportunity to review these invoices either weekly or at the end of the month.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve the monthly invoices; Seconded by Councilman Underwood; the motion carried four to one with Councilman Spotts opposing.

Councilman Spotts stated that he not would approve the bills that had already been paid. Mr. Bufkin stated that he would like to clarify that Council is ratifying bills that have already been paid not approving them in advance.

WELCOME NOTE:

Mayor Connelly thanked all for attending.

OPEN SESSION – PUBLIC

Mayor Connelly recognized Tammy Skelton, Director of Development of Fundraising for the Easter Seals in South Carolina. Ms. Skelton introduced herself and recognized the CEO and President Tom McGee. Mr. McGee stated that Officer Wilson and Chief Sease had designated him as coordinator of the 2004 Buck-A-Cup program. He asked that Ms. Skelton give an overview of the program. Ms. Skelton stated that Easter Seals has been providing services since 1934. They provide an array of services in the community with disabilities. She also stated that they individuals get back involved with the community and be a productive part of society. She reviewed some of the programs that they offer. Some of these programs included early intervention, providing medical equipment, physical/occupational/speech therapy, specific assistance and in-school programs. These are the programs that are benefited by the Buck-A-Cup fundraiser. The fundraiser started March 17th and runs through April 9th. Officer started the campaign with a twenty-dollar donation from his family and challenged everyone to give to this program. Officer Wilson asked that Mayor Connelly declare March 17th as coffee day for the Buck-A-Cup campaign.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Fire Department, & Parade: Councilman Underwood stated that he had spoke with Fred regarding some standard operating procedures for restoring electrical power to individuals with critical needs. He stated that the Mayor had expressed some concern over the importance of this issue. Mr. Sexton had told Councilman Underwood that this is in the works. He just has a few areas to work through before finalizing it. Councilman Underwood had no report for the fire department.

Sanitation and Street: Councilman Dawkins had no report for the Street Department. He stated that in the Sanitation department Fred has his crews working four days a week at ten-hour days to make there forty hours. They will be starting on Fridays and Saturdays working overtime to pick up the debris from the ice and snowstorm. A portion of this will be paid for by FEMA funds.

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Fred stated working through the pick ups now but people are still adding to the debris piles.

Building, Recreation and Parks: Mayor Connelly stated that Councilman Gallman is not present tonight and did not forward any reports for this department.

Police Department: Chief Sease stated that he had not report at this time.

Water and Sewer Department: Councilman Spotts stated that on March 7th there was a water leak on Washington Street. The galvanized line was rusted out and was replaced with 2-inch PVC pipe. All the lift stations have been cleaned and degreased.

Town Administrator: Ms. Cantrell stated that she had no report as this time. Councilman Spotts questioned if they received financial reports this month. Ms. Chastain stated that we were experiencing some computer problems that had to be resolved before these reports could be issued. Councilman Underwood asked what time frame we where looking at. Ms. Chastain stated the Ms. Cantrell's computer crashed and our computer software company, Nicholson, can not work on the system until her computer is back running.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that the Town was involved in some litigation and this was resolved last week.

Old School Renovations: Mayor Connelly stated that the Auditorium Benefit Committee has been meeting regularly and we should be seeing some results of this shortly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of the Amended Governing Administration Generally Purchasing Ordinance: Mayor Connelly stated that we had the first reading took place last month with an addition. Mr. Bufkin restated the changes of adding a paragraph "E" which discussed the larger monthly reoccurring bills (wholesale electric, water and sewer bills) that will be omitted from the normal procedure of approval. Mr. Bufkin stated that one reoccurring that was not mentioned was the monthly health insurance bill. He suggested that this be added to this paragraph. Councilman Underwood clarified that this would have to be added because it exceeds the \$5,000.00 cap. Mr. Bufkin stated that these bill in paragraph "E" are bills that have always been paid but we have changed the purchasing ordinance and we need it to properly reflect the authority to pay these reoccurring monthly bills. Councilman Underwood questioned if we made

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this addition tonight would another reading be required. Mr. Bufkin stated that he thought this second reading would cover it.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the second reading of the Amended Governing Administration Generally Purchasing Ordinance with the addition of the health insurance bill to paragraph "E"; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins; and so approved unanimously.

Walking Trail Repairs:

Mayor Connelly stated that the walking trail equipment is getting in bad condition. This needs to be reviewed by Council. The Mayor stated that he would like for Councilman Gallman to review this and report back to Council. He also stated that there have also been a lot of bicycles and skateboards reported on the walking trail lately. He asked that the Police Department be more aware of this so that we might control it better. Councilman Underwood stated that Pioneer Foods had mentioned funding the renovations for a certain area of the Town. The walking trail had been discussed. He stated that Jason Blake was the contact at Pioneer Foods. This would be a good way to fund these repairs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Connelly read the proclamation to declare March 17th as Buck-A-Cup Day (proclamation attached).

Councilman Underwood stated that some other businesses in Town might want to contribute to the walking trail renovations.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the council meeting at 7:25 p.m.; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Janet Chastain
Clerk/Treasurer