

MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
April 12, 2005
6:30 PM

Council Members Attendance: Councilmen Allen Gallman Larry Spotts, Derek Underwood, and G.W. Dawkins

General Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator; Attorney Henry Bufkin; Janet Chastain, Clerk/Treasurer; Fred Sexton, Public Works Director; Jesse Baker, W.E. Baker & Son; Ron Weathers, Weathers Contracting; and Rick Ruczko, Weathers Contracting.

Councilman Allen Gallman opened with prayer.

Councilman Gallman welcomed everyone to the meeting tonight. He stated that this special called meeting is to review the proposals and bids received for renovations on the Town Center and construction of the Public Works facility.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mr. Bufkin suggested that at this time they ask everyone to leave and then invite back in the representative from W.E. Baker when Council is ready.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mr. Bufkin explained that certain items regarding the bids will not be discussed in open session. Councilman Underwood questioned if the bids would now be open to the public. Mr. Bufkin stated if someone were to ask for information regarding the bids then we would present them with the general information regarding what the bids were. The substance of the bids would not be given out. He also stated that means by which each contractor came up with the cost breakdown would not be public information. Councilman Underwood stated that he was concerned that something might be stated in open session that might offend the two contractors present, Weathers and W.E. Baker. Mr. Bufkin stated that Council could go back into Executive Session to discuss matters of contract.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to go into Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

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A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Gallman stated that Weathers and W.E. Baker had both made good proposals tonight. He stated that he favored the Weathers proposal. Mr. Bufkin suggested that Councilman Gallman, as acting Chairman tonight, should present this to Council to make a motion on and then proceed with a vote. Councilman Gallman presented it to Council for a motion. Councilman Underwood stated that he wanted to make sure that all of Council had been given enough time to review the proposals. He stated that tabling this for one more week would not jeopardize this project. He also stated that certain Council members had received parts of the information just last night. Discussion followed regarding how long each Council member had to review the information prior to tonight's meeting. Councilman Gallman questioned if Council would like to make any motions regarding this information. Mr. Bufkin stated that the two options would be either to table it or bring it to a vote. Councilman Spotts stated that if no motion is made then the issue will be tabled for right now.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to move forward with awarding the contract to either Weathers or W.E. Baker.

No second was given. Mr. Bufkin stated that the motion is tabled and the award of the contract is tabled until the next regular scheduled meeting, which will be next Tuesday night. Councilman Underwood stated that this would allow everyone to think over the presentations made tonight and the proposals in hand. Mr. Bufkin reminded Council that the information that they have in the proposals is private business information and it should not be discussed among the other contractors. Councilman Gallman stated that awarding the contract on the construction of the Public Works facility would also be tabled.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Janet Chastain
Clerk/Treasurer