

MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 18, 2004
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
7:00 P. M.

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

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

Public: Cindy Pitts (Newberry Observer); Mike Hawkins; Daisy Swittenburg; Debbie Sims; Mark Bowers; Mavis Dominick

Councilman Gallman opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the March 16, 2004 council meeting to Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of March 16, 2004; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

WELCOME NOTE:

Mayor Connelly thanked all for attending and invited everyone to come again. He also thanked Councilman Gallman for filling in and running the Council Meeting in March. And he also thanked the Council and Town staff for working with Councilman Gallman while he was out.

OPEN SESSION - PUBLIC

Mayor Connelly recognized Mike Hawkins from the Newberry County Council. Mr. Hawkins stated that he was present tonight to ask for the Council's help. Newberry County Council hopes to have on the ballot for November a referendum asking the voters to approve a continuation for the one-cent sales tax. These funds will go towards capital projects for the Newberry County areas. A committee of citizens from our County was compiled to review and approve projects that would be funded by the one-cent sales tax funds. One of the capital projects that would pertain to Prosperity is a sidewalk from Miller Street to Pine Street. This is a project that has been discussed and needed for many years now. Citizens walk these streets and this would make it safer. Mr. Hawkins stated that this is one of the projects that he would be requesting from this committee and he would like to see the Prosperity Town Council make this request also. If the

Town Council Meeting
May 18, 2004

referendum is passed again for a seven-year period it will bring in approximately fourteen million dollars during that period. Mayor Connelly and Councilman Dawkins both stated that the estimates for this project in the past were around sixty thousand dollars. These costs have probably gone up. Mayor Connelly stated that the Council is in the process of putting their requests in writing to present to this committee. Mr. Hawkins stated that the requests have to be received by June 30, 2004.

Mayor Connelly asked if anyone else wanted to speak. Daisy Swittenburg asked if there would be any recreational programs for the youth this summer. Councilman Gallman stated that the Town is trying to provide as many programs as possible with the limited facility space that we currently have.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Fire Department, & Parade: Councilman Underwood stated that he had no report for the Electrical Department at this time. He also stated that he would like to thank the Fire Department for inviting Council and their spouses to former Chief Jimmy Counts' retirement party.

Sanitation and Street: Councilman Dawkins stated that they are still working on the street repairs. He questioned how many inmates that Town is getting from the county for the public works program. Mr. Sexton stated that we currently have two working for us. Mayor Connelly questioned if we can get more if needed. Chief Sease stated that two would probably be all we could get at this time. Councilman Dawkins questioned that quality of this help. Mr. Sexton stated that they seem to work and do what is needed.

Building, Recreation and Parks: Councilman Gallman stated that we have two of the older buildings coming down this month. The old Epting building on highway 391 and Mills Clinic are both being demolished this month. It will help clean up both these areas. Mr. Bufkin stated that he had a plot plan for Council to review later of what is proposed for the Mills Clinic area.

Councilman Gallman stated that the recreation season is going well. We need more facilities in order to expand our program.

Police Department: Chief Sease apologized for running late. He stated that he had to speak at the crime prevention meeting at Miller Street apartments.

Chief Sease stated that the Police Department has purchased a truck from the 1033 program in Columbia. Law Enforcement agencies can get vehicles for two percent of the purchase costs. The truck purchased is a 1985 but only has fifty thousand miles on it. The cost of the vehicle to the Police Department was six hundred dollars. It will be useful to the Police Department and the Utilities Department during bad weather.

Chief Sease stated that about a year ago Officer Wilson was sent to instructor school at the Academy in Columbia. Many years ago our Police Department had a reserve

Town Council Meeting
May 18, 2004

program and we felt that this was something we could benefit from again. These reserve officers can ride with the officer on duty and provide backup if needed. They will also be helpful during community events. The reserve program will only cost the department uniforms and workers compensation coverage. Officer Wilson has submitted all the lesson plans to the Academy and they were approved last week.

Mr. Bufkin questioned if the truck purchased could accommodate a snowplow. Councilman Gallman stated that he felt like it could. Mr. Bufkin stated that if a snowplow could be purchased at a minimal costs that it would be beneficial and the Town would not have to rely on other agencies during bad weather to clear our streets. Mr. Sexton stated that we have a tractor that has a plow that can be used to remove snow. Mr. Bufkin stated that one could be purchased through surplus for minimal costs. Mayor Connelly asked that Mr. Sexton be aware of this and if anything became available present it to Council.

Water and Sewer Department: Councilman Spotts stated that he had no report at this time.

Town Administrator: Ms. Cantrell stated that she had been working on the budget with Ms. Chastain. She stated that they would have copies of proposed 2004/2005 budget figures to present to Council after the meeting tonight. Mayor Connelly stated that there would be a budget workshop tomorrow night. Councilman Underwood stated that he would not be able to make this meeting and would like a few days to review the budget before a workshop is scheduled. Mayor Connelly suggested rescheduling the workshop until next Tuesday night. Everyone was in agreement.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that he no report at this time.

Old School Renovations: Mayor Connelly stated that the letters requesting contributions for renovations have been mailed. Some contributions have already been received. Councilman Gallman stated that he had a carpenter coming in next Wednesday to look at the building and make a proposal of what is needed to complete the renovations. Anyone that would like to be present to ask him questions is welcome to come.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Connelly stated that there is a dinner on May 19, 2004 for the Newberry County Council on Aging's retired senior citizens volunteer program. Everyone is invited to attend. This will be held at Dave Waldrop's farm beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Connelly stated that on May 24, 2004 Prosperity will be hosting the Governmental Association Meeting. It will be held at Hawg Heaven at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this meeting.

Town Council Meeting
May 18, 2004

Mayor Connelly stated that on May 26, 2004 that Council has been invited to Dr. Joe Smith's fish fry. Further details will be coming but Council needs to be aware of these upcoming events.

Mayor Connelly stated that recently we had to make a decision very quickly on a representative for the committee regarding the one-cent sales tax funds. This representative could not be on any other committees for the Town of Prosperity or represent Prosperity in any other manner. We chose citizen Renee Joiner for this committee and County Council has approved it and we are now presenting it to this Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to appoint Renee Joiner as the representative from Prosperity to appear on the committee to review the project for the one-cent sales tax funds; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Mr. Bufkin questioned how many people were on this committee. Mayor Connelly stated that the committee consisted of eight or nine people. Our representative would also be representing Whitmire, Little Mountain, Pomaria and Peak. The City of Newberry has two representatives because of their population. This is a small committee and it is very important that we have the right people on this committee to review these proposed projects and serve the best interest of all these areas involved.

Mayor Connelly stated that everyone had received a letter from Mr. Daniel Quattlebaum requesting that the Town sale him the property on Wheeler Street. Mayor Connelly stated that a verbal agreement was made by the Town when the property was acquired that it not be resold. It was agreed that if the property were not used as a park that it could be leased for a purpose that would benefit the property and the surrounding area. Mayor Connelly stated that he was presenting this to Council for their review. Mr. Bufkin stated that when the Town pursued this property it was in disrepair. The Town's interest in acquiring this property was to tear down the building, which was a danger to the community, and clean up the whole lot. It was discussed that this could possibly be a potential park if more land could be acquired. Mr. Bufkin also stated that some of the members of the Quattlebaum family are regretting the decision to let the Town have the property. Mayor Connelly stated that when the property was acquired the Town did have plans for the land. The Town still has plans in mind but can not move forward at this time. Mayor Connelly recommended that the Town keep the lot at this time for future projects. Discussion followed regarding the Town's involvement with the lot in question. Mr. Bufkin stated that he would pull the deed for Ms. Cantrell and Council to review. This was taken as information at this time.

Town Council Meeting
May 18, 2004

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the council meeting at 7:32 p.m.;
Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Janet Chastain
Clerk/Treasurer