

**Minutes**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**April 18, 2006**  
**PROSPERITY, SC 29127**  
**7:00 PM**

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

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Clerk Treasurer; Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney; Benji Sease, Chief of Police; Sgt. Scott Wilson, Prosperity Officer; Fred Sexton, Utility Director; Sabrina Manning, Recreation Director

Mayor Spotts called the meeting to order. Mayor Spotts welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming. Councilman Gallman opened the meeting with prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes that need to be approved. He presented the minutes from the March 21, 2006 meeting for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2006 meeting; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMAN HAWKINS:** Mr. Hank Bufkin held the bible while Councilman Hawkins recited his Oath of Office. (Attached)

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Spotts asked if anyone was signed up to speak. Karen Livingston presented the sign in sheet to Mayor Spotts. Mayor Spotts stated that there was one person, Daniel Hare, signed up to speak and would have a three-minute time limit.

Daniel Hare stated that he was here tonight to defend himself against comments made in a previous Council meeting. He stated, "When I first addressed the council I did not come here to ask if I could open a bar or a club or something I addressed the council with issues facing our children and our communities. At last council meeting Mr. Blake Connelly viciously attacked me with the deadbeat dad comments. That is the point I am trying to make, we should not be in here talking about who is a deadbeat dad or who is a rat, we should be talking about our children, what is best for our youth, our communities, our senior citizens and of course our town itself. Mr. Blake Connelly attacked me with me being a deadbeat dad because I pay child support. You know you got politicians, doctors, lawyers, and even women pay child support. That does not mean they are dead beat parents and I just wanted to defend myself."

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

**Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad:** Councilman Underwood recognized new officers for the rescue squad Chief – Robert Dennis, Assistant Chief – Lisa Burch, EMS Operations Captain – Pam DeHart, EMS Operation Lieutenant – Kim Bowers, Rescue Operations Captain – Glenn Hamm II, Rescue Operations Lieutenant – Greg Harmon, Secretary – Johnette Harmon, Treasurer – Travis Slice, Assistant Treasurer – Casey McCarty, Training Officer – Captain Jason Joiner. Mr. Underwood stated that he would like to see the Council fund the rescue squad utility bill when they move into the old fire department building. The utility bills for the rescue squad for the past twelve months totaled just over \$1100 and the utility bills for the fire department totaled just over \$1600. Mr. Underwood noted the possibility of getting a little more utility allotment from the county for the fire department - up to 30% to 40 % more than we got last year due to the size of the building or maybe less due to the efficiency of the building. Councilman Underwood asked council to consider adding the *rescue squad utilities* as a line item to the budget. Councilman Underwood asked if he should make a motion at this time to add the Rescue Squad utilities a line item in the budget. Mayor Spotts stated that after the first reading of the budget this could be added as a line item. No change would be made to the bottom line. Mayor Spotts requested the rescue squad utilities as a separate line item for the budget is added to the Meeting Agenda for May. Councilman Underwood agreed.

Fire Department demolition update will be addressed later in the meeting.

Councilman Underwood stated that a transformer had been purchased for the new Piggly Wiggly. A higher bid was accepted due to the fact that the lower bid could not get the transformer to us in a timely manner and the company with the higher bid could meet our timeline.

Councilman Underwood stated that there was no report from the parade committee.

Councilman Hawkins asked if we could look into putting a warning system on Main Street where the sign used to be. Discussion from Councilmen ended with Mr. Hawkins was going to get Mr. Underwood a contact name with the SCDOT to call about the process to get a light similar to the one in front of the fire department on Hwy 76 in Newberry.

**Sanitation, Streets, Buildings & Parks Departments:** Councilman Dawkins stated that one of our trucks had a transmission to tear up in it. Bids were taken and the lowest was accepted. Mr. Dawkins stated that the sidewalks would be repaired using two utility department men. Tile has been ordered. After it rains mosquito spray will be put out at a cost of \$525 - \$550 per treatment. Both Epting and Caldwell were contacted regarding the ditch on Anderson Drive. Epting quoted 20-25 thousand based on going 30- 50 feet beyond the sewage. Caldwell needed additional information on the size of the pipe to be

used before he would give us a price. In the meantime Mr. Dawkins recommended we clean up bushes to help get a slope on the water to help with the mosquito problem. Mr. Sexton asked if we could put rip-wrap down to help with the drainage. Mr. Dawkins and Mayor Spotts asked Mr. Sexton to check with the county to see what rip-wrap would cost and if the county would haul it for us.

Mr. Bufkin interjected that this was a long- term project that may best be solved over a two or three year period. We may need to consider figuring out the problem first and as we come up with a little bit of money we can do a little of the work along to completion. Councilman Underwood stated that at present our Town run-off water is eroding private property and causing mosquito issues. As Mr. Bufkin stated we may want to do this project a little along and show that we are committed to correcting the problem and will ease tension with her. Mayor Spotts and Council agreed.

Councilman Underwood asked Councilman Dawkins if the mosquito treatments were a budget line item and if the same service provider was being considered. Mr. Dawkins stated that this was the same service provider as last year, he was not sure if it was a separate line item and his price is a little higher this year.

**Water and Sewer:** Councilman Gallman stated that lift stations were cleaned and greased-completely serviced. There was a sewage stoppage on Langford Street and a water meter on Brown Street and Elm Street. There was an abnormal water leak on Shealy Drive. All were repaired in a timely manner. The equipment is in for the water system for the new Piggly Wiggly and will be installed soon. Mr. Gallman complimented Mr. Sexton and the entire utility department on the excellent job they were doing.

**Police Department:** Chief Sease reported that he had put in each councilman box a 2005 executive summary from SLED, showing cleared cases. Chief Sease's pointed out in the report that we had 7 indexed violent crimes; cleared by identifying the subject and arresting the subject. We had 46 indexed non-violent crimes with 23 cleared non-violent crimes with a 50% clearance rate. Overall we had 57% clearance rate. Very high clearance rate attributed to the outstanding officers we have. The Town should be very proud of our clearance rate since other departments in the state are at 30%. Mayor Spotts addressed Chief Sease on the sign ordinance enforcement. He wants the police department to be very strict with the ordinance and remove signs that are not in compliance. Councilman Gallman thanked the police department for the fine job they are doing and complemented them on serious work they are able to do for the size of their department.

**Recreation:** Spring season has started and all sports are underway. Town Center hosted a pitching camp, which was very successful. T-Ball and Coaches Pitch kicked off tonight to a big crowd. Mr. Gallman reported that his team had won their opening 24-1. Councilman Dawkins stated that he would like to see the Town do something for senior citizens in the recreation department.

**Utility Department:** Mr. Sexton reported the low bid for the ice machine in the utility building at \$1691.00. Mayor Spotts asked if Fred wanted a decision on the ice machine tonight.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to purchase the ice machine from Price Refrigeration for the stated bid of \$1691.00; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

The meter cans at Pine Ridge Apartments are in bad shape. Some meters are probably being tampered with. Mr. Sexton is gathering pricing information on meter cans. Mr. Sexton spoke with manager at Pine Ridge, if we buy the cans they will handle the installation.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to accept the lowest bid to purchase 20 meter cans; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

**Town Attorney:** Mr. Bufkin had no report.

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Ms. Livingston thanked the fire department for their quick response during a recent computer overheating issue. Ms. Livingston stated that an air conditioner unit had been purchased for the computer room to protect the system that we have in place. Council was polled and unanimously approved the purchase. Mayor Spotts asked Ms. Livingston about the new Purchase Order System and Ms. Livingston responded that each council member had been furnished a copy of the Purchasing Ordinance as a reminder of the procedure. She went on to state that a Purchase Order Log system has been implemented to ensure all Purchase Orders are organized in chronological order. Mr. Bufkin asked if this was a change to the ordinance or if changes were needed to the ordinance. Mayor Spotts stated that the amounts are the same. Ms. Livingston stated that no change was needed at this time. Councilman Hawkins asked that the Voting Ordinance be looked at to remove surplus language in the ordinance to prevent issues that surrounded the recent special election. Mr. Hawkins also asked that Trey Duncan replace him on the planning commission. Mayor Spotts asked that this item be placed on the agenda for May Council Meeting.

Mayor Spotts stated that Council needed to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues in the police department and office. Mayor Spotts asked Chief Sease to attend the executive session.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Hawkins to go into executive session; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to come out of executive session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that one item is to be added to New Business – Equipment repairs. Mr. Underwood will take care of that item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Spotts assigned the recreation and parks to Councilman Hawkins.

Mayor Spotts stated that May 1 – 5 is Spring Clean Up Week for the Town of Prosperity.

Mayor Spotts and Council scheduled the budget workshop for Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the training room.

Councilman Underwood asked that Spring Clean Up Week be added to the May bills to get the word out to Town Citizens as well as put it on the sign at the Railroad Track.

Mayor Spotts excused himself from the meeting and Councilman/Mayor Pro-Tem Underwood led discussion pertaining to equipment repairs. Discussion followed regarding Spotts Tractor doing business for the Town without conflict.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to use Spotts Tractor on an emergency basis as long as the price is competitive and the work is done in a timely manner; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved 4-0 vote unanimous based on quorum present.

Note: Mr. Bufkin will get a written opinion on the above motion for the next council meeting. This opinion will be based on new Ethics laws governing conflict of interest for elected officials doing work for the entity to which they are elected.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Livingston stated that the broken windows in Town Center would be taken off the agenda until more bids are received.

Councilman Underwood brought up the dead trees in the parking lot across from Town Center. The property is owned by The School District of Newberry County. Ms. Livingston will contact Rufus Rogers to get the trees addressed.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mayor Spotts officially welcomed Mr. Hawkins as a councilman as did Mr. Gallman. Mr. Hawkins stated his appreciation and thanked Council for the warm welcome.

Mayor Spotts asked that all citizens, church organizations, civic organizations that would like to help with the clean up please do so. All assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Town of Prosperity Council Meeting  
April 18, 2006

Mayor Spotts stated that old town hall has been cleaned out and County council has been notified that the building was ready for demolition. We are quite anxious to see the new building sitting there.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

*Karen L. Livingston*

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Karen L. Livingston/Clerk Treasurer