

**MINUTES**  
**June 20, 2006**  
**Public Hearing**  
**6:45 PM**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Prosperity, SC 29127**

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

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Clerk Treasurer; Sgt. Scott  
Wilson, Prosperity Police Officer; Fred Sexton,  
Utility Director; Hank Bufkin, Attorney

Mayor Spotts announced the time 6:45 and called the Public Hearing on the 2006-2007 budget to order. There being no Town of Prosperity residents present the discussion was closed at 6:55.

Mayor Spotts called the regular meeting to order. He then welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. 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 May 16, 2006 meeting for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2006 meeting as written; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

There being no one to sign up for public session, Mayor Spotts announced the need for an early executive session reason being legal, contractual and police personnel.

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that no decisions were made during Executive Session.

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad:** Councilman Underwood informed the council that there were several line items in the electrical budget that were in the red, however, it should balance for the year. Mr. Underwood explained the infrared scanning system being offered by SCAMPS at cost of \$475.00 per day. The scanner would detect loose connections and thermal imbalances. The system would reveal potential “hotspots” before they become a real problem to save the Town money.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to accept the SCAMPS infrared scan system service; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

No report from the fire department and the parade committee will be discussed in old business.

**Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments:** Councilman Dawkins stated that work had been done by the SCDOT to clean the ditches and improve the ability for water to flow in the ditches at the roadside park on Highway 76. Councilman Dawkins is still in the process of getting bids on repairing the ditch between Gina Mays property and Anderson Drive. Mr. Dawkins is going to check on a different adhesive product to attach the tiles on the sidewalks. Henry Bufkin drafted five (5) letters to owners of abandoned and run down property with hopes to get positive results. Mayor Spotts stated the street sign had been stolen from Harmon Street and was being replaced. Research into the left turn arrow at the Bowers BP red light determined that it would not accomplish what we need to accomplish. No further research had been done on the entrance/exit at the Post office.

**Water and Sewer:** Councilman Gallman stated that there were five (5) new water taps and two sewer stoppages, one on N. Main, the other on Pine Street. Councilman Gallman conveyed thanks from Bishop James to the Mayor and Council for the assistance with his project.

**Police Department:** Officer Wilson stated that this Friday we would have five cases to go before the Grand Jury: three (3) weapon charges, one (1) drug possession charge and one (1) failure to stop for a blue light. May Calls for Service Report: served 11 warrants and made 24 arrests that equaled 40 charges. Of these, one (1) was female and the rest were male. In May the Prosperity Police Department received a total of 95 calls for service. Officer Wilson stated that he had talked to Alex Harold at McKechnie about donating wheel covers to us for the police cars. Officer Wilson requested the Council consider establishing hours for use of town properties including park hours.

Mayor Spotts called for a motion to appoint Officer Wilson acting Chief during Chief Sease’s recovery period.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to appoint Officer Wilson acting Chief during Chief Sease's recovery period; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

**Recreation & Parks:** Councilman Hawkins stated that the adult stretching is going through additional planning procedures. Councilman Hawkins expressed gratitude to Coach Stone for working with the Coaches Pitch All Stars. The Girls' Softball All Stars will begin tournament play in Batesburg this weekend. Dixie Youth Minor All Stars will start play July 6, 7, and 8th. We will be hosting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Prosperity's Hoppin' is coming up August 18 and 19. We are currently looking into hiring a new recreation director. As programs are added we may need to consider loosening the budget and increasing the hours that are required for the recreation director. Councilman Hawkins suggested putting up a sign at the basketball court addressing language and park hours. He stated that we would put this on the agenda for next month. Councilman Hawkins stated that the concerns expressed by Kathy Kearsse had been addressed. She addressed the Mayor and Council with her gratitude during the public forum. Councilman Hawkins made a suggestion to allow him to start up a community committee to help oversee the parks and recreation to get the people involved in what is going on in the area. Mr. Hawkins asked that this item be added to the July Agenda.

**Utility Department:** Mr. Sexton had no report at this time.

**Town Attorney:** Mr. Bufkin stated the letters that were requested of him were in progress. Property owners have to be located in some cases. Some are property previously addressed; others are new to the list. Mr. Bufkin is still in progress of researching and firming a position for this council on Mr. Spotts doing work through his business for the Town of Prosperity.

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Ms. Livingston will address the dead trees in old business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Spotts called for a motion to have a second reading on the 06-07 budget.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve second reading of the budget. Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts took an opportunity to thank all for the hard work on this budget with no raises to the citizens of Prosperity.

**Christmas Parade Float Shelter:** Bids have been taken for \$2300 - \$2500. More will be taken before a decision is made. Councilman Underwood stated that after speaking with Mr. Jimmy Counts, he had secured a spot in a shed near Counts Sausage at no cost. After discussion it was decided to utilize this space with the knowledge that we would still be investigating other options.

**Dead Trees:** Mr. Rufus Rogers from the School District of Newberry has agreed to cut the dead trees on the Town side of the small paved parking area at the same time the ones belonging to the school district are handled at no charge to us. Mr. John Rhett Frazier, a coach with our recreation department and a forester, has informed us that we would get approximately \$750.00 for the sale of the trees. After discussion it was decided to table any decision at this time. Mayor Spotts stated it would be added to the agenda for next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Mayor and Town Council held the second Town Talk Public Forum. Mayor Spotts stated that he was somewhat disappointed that more people did not show up. Council hoped this meant that the citizens are pleased with the way things are going.

Mayor Spotts stated that the Piggly Wiggly Grand Opening would be June 28, 2006.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 20:38; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

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Karen L. Livingston/Clerk Treasurer