

MINUTES
October 17, 2006
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;
Hank Bufkin, Attorney; Sabrina Manning;
Benji Sease, Chief of Police; Scott Wilson; Craig
Nelson; Jonathan Silcox

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

Mayor Spotts announced that the Newberry Exchange Club is recognizing Officer Craig Nelson of the Prosperity Police Department as Officer-of-the-Year for Newberry County. Congratulations to Officer Nelson. He received a round of applause and individual congratulations from Mayor and Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There is one set of minutes to be approved. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2006 minutes.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2006 meeting as written; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

No one signed up to speak in open session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Underwood stated that the electrical department budget is in line. Wiring prices jumped up last month and after several necessary purchases we are back in line this month. For the Fire Department, the bids that came in on the new building were quite different than anticipated. At this time we will wait to see what happens next through the county. The Fire Department is holding a steak supper Saturday night, October 21, 2006, and all are encouraged to come to support the Fire Department fundraising efforts. Applications are ready and letters to dignitaries are out for the 2006 Prosperity Christmas Parade. Upgrades to float are in process. Thanks go to Stoney Hill Fire Department and the chief

for allowing us to house the float in their building during the preparation for the Christmas Parade. The mayor has agreed to put a new hitch on the float. Councilman Underwood verified the price of \$50.00. Councilman Underwood having nothing specific to report from the Rescue Squad at this time closed his report.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins stated that the tile replacement project has begun. Our guys are learning as they work with the new epoxy system but it does not seem to be as easy to build up around each tile. Grout may still need to be added in some areas. Due to an excess of regular daily work and lack of manpower at this time it will be a while before we can apply the yellow paint to the curbs. Councilman Dawkins would like council to consider the purchase of a new truck in the future for the Utility Department. The recent truck was purchased because it was already set up as a work truck with bins, had relatively low mileage, the price was good, and appeared to be well taken care of. Governed by need, the next truck purchased should be a regular pick-up and the prices for a new one versus a used one may be cost effective. Mayor Spotts inquired about the list of building owners that need to receive letters about the condition of their buildings. On buildings, Mr. Hank Bufkin said that the approved letters had been generated, brought to the mayor for signature (he has signed the majority of them) and are being sent out in the normal course of business.

Councilman Underwood interjected that he did not pursue the Parade Grand Marshal nomination during his department presentation. He then asked each councilman to write down three selections for the 2006 Christmas Parade Grand Marshal so that he could tally a vote during the course of the meeting.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Gallman stated that the water and sewer departments are running smooth. He thanked Mr. Fred Sexton and his crew for their continued devotion to the town. He also thanked Mayor Spotts for helping the guys out as needed and thanked Mrs. Karen Livingston for her input.

Police Department: Chief Sease stated that Officer Scott Wilson had gone with Officer Nelson for the Officer-of-the-Year presentation so there was no report at this time. After inquiries about his health Chief Sease replied that since his surgery he has good days and bad days before the surgery there were no good days.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Hawkins stated that soccer is about half way complete, however the rain today put a small bump in the road, but it did help out one soccer coach. Those games will be played Thursday Night. Shag and Line Dance applications are beginning to come in. Park signs are being investigated at this time.

Utility Department: Utility Director, Fred Sexton stated that we have a good many old transformers in sizes (seventy-fives and fifties) that we do not use anymore. We have six seventy fives and one fifty on the ground now. An additional fifty is out being repaired. We have been told we can get approximately \$3.50 per KBA for each transformer. Remanufactured transformers cost about \$500.00 each. The used transformer situation was taken for consideration for later action.

The transformer at Town Hall is still leaking and is out of warranty. Utility Services has agreed to send a representative to evaluate this transformer, come back on Monday to fix it, and split the cost of repair with the town.

Mayor Spotts noted that we have received twelve applications for the utility worker's job. Karen Livingston and Mr. Sexton will begin the review process in the morning.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that as stated in the memo he sent to Mayor and Council the Town has been sued. It is a Federal lawsuit pertaining to an arrest that was made. By all accounts it was a righteous arrest and everything appears to be okay. The state insurance defense group (the reserve fund) has been notified. They are picking up the cost of defense for us. Mr. Bufkin accepted service on behalf of the Town and on behalf of the officer. Everything is very preliminary. The cost of the defense such as the attorneys that handle the case - all that will be picked up by the state reserve fund. As more information is available Mr. Bufkin will relay it to the council. In regards to the Newberry Electric Coop, Mr. Bufkin has not heard anything. He has spoken with the Mayor and he has not heard anything further either. We are waiting for a response from them.

Clerk/Treasurer: McGregor and Company, LLC has picked up the paperwork and the 05-06 audit is underway. After they are here for two weeks we should have it in hand by mid-November. It is time for annual enrollment so all employees should look over the information to determine if they want to make the changes that can be made during an annual enrollment. Due to County Council's decisions on millage rates, the Town of Prosperity is looking at a rollback. The County Auditor, Mrs. Nancy Owens, will meet with us to share information and help us post our information so that we are properly set up for the rollback. The utility truck voted on in last council meeting is on the road. Due to a number of internet outages that Backroads cannot seem to overcome, they have suggested that we consider Bellsouth as a provider. We are presently using several different providers for different services. Bellsouth offers them all; therefore a package bundle may be our best option. This change may include the Nextels. Councilman Underwood inquired about state retiree information, however at this time due to the main source of state research information being via internet it is unavailable.

OLD BUSINESS

ADDITION OF STREET LIGHTS

Mr. Fred Sexton estimates an additional twenty street lights are needed for Williamswood, Shealy Drive and Wessinger Drive combined. The three types considered are the 175 Mercury Vapor which will not be in production next year, low-pressure sodium lights and the 150 watt Metal High Light. Council agreed that the 150 watt Metal High Light would be the best for the project with cost breakdown being: \$120.00 for the low profile cutoff, \$50.00 for the 6 foot arm and \$12.00 for the bulb for a

total cost of \$182.00 per light. Mr. Sexton pointed out that the cost per light may be a little over that due to the need for additional hardware.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to add twenty lights to the Town streetlight system at a total cost of no more than \$4000.00 for the project and the funds to come out of reserves; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Because the light system is durable goods the funds qualify to come out of the reserve account.

In discussion, all agreed that some type of solar lights would be effective for the front of the Town Hall Building and the flags need to be illuminated. This will be researched. Mayor Spotts inquired of Mr. Sexton about the Town Square flag light and the light post at the NAPA Store. Mr. Sexton replied that the wire is burned up underground possibly damaged by lightning. Mr. Sexton will research a solution for these two lights.

INFORMATION ON TRASH ORDINANCE (UPDATE)

Councilman Underwood reported that Councilman Dawkins, Officer Wilson and he had met to go over the material supplied by Officer Wilson. It was the consensus of the group that a coupling with a "Crime Watch" would probably make the trash project enticing to more citizens. In talking with citizens about the possibilities, the local Masonic Lodge Members would like to adopt Main Street. The final details have not been worked out. The Council is aware that Grace Church already does a regular trash pick-up. The Masonic Lodge would also like to initiate a "Welcome" sign that recognizes local organizations. Councilman Underwood was given permission to request a proposal from the group.

Councilman Dawkins inquired as to the budget placement of the \$1960.00 "Herbie Curbie" purchase funds. This is also considered a durable good purchase.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to take the dumpster purchase total out of reserves and replace the amount in the sanitation budget; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST AUTOMOTIVE PROPOSAL

Council was asked to take the proposal they were given for information and consideration. A representative, Steve Breeden, will come to council to answer any questions regarding the proposal if council desires him to do so.

SWEAR –IN OFFICER JONATHAN SILCOX

Council asked Chief Benji Sease to perform the task. He proudly accepted the invitation. Chief Sease stated that Mr. Silcox came to us with good qualifications and recommendations.

The OATH. (See Attached)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts thanked Mr. Wayne Achelpohl with Achelpohl Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. for applying the screws needed to straighten the cupola on the Town Hall Building and at this point at no charge.

Mayor Spotts stated that Civic Center Committee served 195 bar-be-que dinners at the first Music Festival, considered it a success and is anticipating organizing another event in the spring.

On October 30, 2006, the Town of Silverstreet will be hosting the Governmental Association Meeting. Council will meet at Town Hall around 6:15 to leave for the meeting. After Mrs. Owens meets with the clerk treasurer regarding the rollback, we will be required to hold a special called meeting that will probably be scheduled for October 30.

Councilman Underwood announced council's nomination of Mr. Claude Amick as Grand Marshal for the 2006 Christmas Parade. Mr. Claude has served the Prosperity Fire Department for just over fifty years.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 19:45; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston Clerk- Treasurer