

**Minutes
Town Council Meeting
June 21, 2005
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
6:15 PM**

(Public Hearing Regarding Zoning Map amendment)

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

Mayor Connelly called the Public Hearing to order at 6:15pm. He stated that Mr. Leon Kibler had requested that the property at 235 Kibler Street be rezoned from NC to CC. Ms. Cantrell stated that this rezoning was reviewed and approved by the Joint Planning Commission. He asked for any public input. There were no comments or questions. Mayor Connelly closed the Public Hearing at 6:20pm.

**(Public Hearing Regarding 2005/2006 Fiscal Year Budget)
6:30 pm**

Mayor Connelly called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM. Ms. Cantrell stated the overall budget for the Town was in balance at \$418,540.00. The Utility budget is not in balance at this time. She stated that after going back through the revenues a discrepancy was found in the electric service amount, the correct amount should be \$770,000.00. This leaves the utility revenue balance at \$1,211,055.00 and expenditures at \$1,261,958.00 a difference of about \$50,000.00.

Councilman Spotts asked what percentage was figured for raises for all employees. Ms. Cantrell stated that there were no raises figured into the budget. She also stated that there was a slight increase in Sabrina Manning's salary under the Recreation Department due to the increased number of hours she has been working. Councilman Spotts asked what percentage raises the state gave their employees this year. Councilman Underwood stated they received a 4% increase.

Councilman Spotts stated that since there was not a reassessment in Newberry County this year the millage will remain at 49 mills. Ms. Cantrell stated that County Council would still need to have a third reading on the reassessment issue. County Auditor, Nancy Owen, stated that it would probably be August before a final decision will be made. Ms. Cantrell stated that if reassessment takes place then the Town's millage would roll back to around 45 to 46 mills. Discussion followed regarding reassessment. Mayor Connelly asked if there were any questions or comments on the deficit in the electrical department. Ms. Cantrell stated they had to adjust the electrical contract line item due to the increase in special contracts with Duke Power. Ms. Grubbs stated that we would have a 10-18 % increase in our Duke power bills come October. This expenditure line item increased to cover this amount. Ms. Grubbs pointed out the line item in question. She stated that this expenditure had increased from \$425,000.00 to \$480,000.00. Ms. Grubbs explained the

increases from Duke Power. Councilman Underwood pointed out that no money had been budgeted for reserves. Ms. Grubbs stated that all revenues were reviewed again for accuracy and existing figures are a good reflection of 12 months.

Mayor Connelly recommended Council review the information presented and call a special meeting to resolve the numbers. Ms. Grubbs stated they needed the budget figures by June 30. She also advised Council to look at each department and know which departments that are not covering their expenditures. Mayor Connelly stated that we needed to look at increasing garbage rates. Discussion followed on how much to raise commercial and residential rates. Mayor Connelly stated the special called meeting would be held Tuesday June 28 at 6.00 PM.

Mayor Connelly closed the Public Hearing at 6:50pm.

**Minutes
Town Council Meeting
June 21, 2005
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
7:00 PM**

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

Administrative Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator; Missy Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer; Fred Sexton, Public Works Director; Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney; Sabrina Manning, Recreation Director; Benji Sease, Chief of Police

Mayor Connelly called the meeting to order. Councilman Gallman opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the May 17, 2005 council meeting to Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of May 17, 2005; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the May 26, 2005 Special Called Meeting to Council for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of May 26, 2005; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

WELCOME NOTE:

Mayor Connelly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked all in attendance for coming.

OPEN SESSION:

No one had signed up to speak tonight.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Fire Department, & Parade: Councilman Underwood stated that we had some power outages a week from last Sunday due to transformer problems. Circle Drive was out of power for about 3 hours and the Piggly Wiggly's outage was prior to business hours so they were not affected. Councilman Underwood stated that the fire chief had asked if they could put one of the fire trucks under the Town bays. It was determined that the fire truck could be placed under the two end bays, if it did not block the concrete wash area.

Sanitation and Street: Councilman Dawkins stated that the trash truck needed to be refloored. He stated that Mr. Sexton had received a bid from Gallman's Welding. Councilman Dawkins also stated that the ditch along U.S. 76 (Wheeler Avenue) from the walking track to the roadside park has been holding water and encouraging mosquitoes. SCDOT has looked at the ditch and have plans to check the elevations on the ditch to see if it can be corrected. Councilman Gallman asked if we had anyone to spray for mosquitoes. Mr. Bufkin stated that the subject of mosquitoes and air born diseases is a matter of public health and that would not be a miss placement of public money if we wanted to have private property with standing water sprayed. We would not be spraying it for the landowner but for the public's health. Mayor Connelly stated that last year Anderson Drive was sprayed all the way down to the gully. He stated that the problem is water collects in that area like a pond. Mr. Bufkin asked who was responsible for the storm drains in the town. Mr. Sexton stated that the State was responsible for all the ditches and storm drains in the town.

Building, Recreation and Parks: Councilman Gallman stated that we needed to get back in touch with the man who owns the building between Pecking and Romas restaurants. Mr. Bufkin stated that he would send another letter to the owner. Mr. Gallman stated that Mr. David Bedenbaugh's building on North Main Street is looking great.

He stated that the Mid Carolina Dixie Boys are hosting the Dixie Boys Sub-District Tournament starting June 25th in Prosperity. He encouraged everyone to go out and watch the youth play. Mayor Connelly stated we don't need to forget the upcoming camps sponsored by Prosperity Recreation.

Police Department: Chief Sease stated that Scott was doing a great job training the reserve officers, and they were ready to take the test at the Law Enforcement Academy. Councilman Gallman stated that the manager at Pine Ridge Apartments said the officers were doing a great job of patrolling that area and keeping the problems down. Mayor Connelly asked if they would increase patrols around the Town Center during construction. Councilman Spotts stated that they were still having problems with people riding horses on the sidewalks. Chief Sease stated that he would take care of the problem.

Water and Sewer Department: Councilman Spotts stated that all sewer taps have been installed at David Bedenbaugh's place. He stated that they had a sewer stoppage behind the Post Office and the Bank, and the crews got it cleared to the railroad tracks. The starter had to be replaced on lift station #5, one of the pump motors is back in, and the controls still need work. Mr. Sexton stated this work had been completed.

Town Administrator: Ms. Cantrell wanted to remind everybody that Prosperity's Hoppin' is August 19th and 20th, and they can use everyone's help. Councilman Spotts stated this fiscal year is almost up and we do not have an audit for 2003-2004. Ms. Cantrell stated that the audit was complete and had been delivered that day. Copies could be picked up after the meeting. Councilman Spotts asked what the business license fee for Weathers Contracting would be. Ms. Cantrell stated that the Town waives all business license fees for anyone doing business for the Town. Attorney Bufkin reminded Council that this waiver was also included in the Request For Proposals. Councilman Spotts stated that last council meeting, comments were made about him doing work on town vehicles/equipment without a business license, and his business is located out of town limits. Ms. Cantrell stated that Councilman Spotts' business would not have to get a license if doing business with the Town, but would if he were doing business with anyone else in the town.

Town Attorney: Attorney Bufkin stated that at the last meeting we approved the bonds for the utility shed and Town Center. We engaged bond attorney, Margaret Pope to assist in the bond process. He stated that two banks bid on the bonds. The loans are for a \$430,000 revenue bond; the other is a \$165,000 general obligation bond. The bids came in this past week, and the lowest bidder was BB&T at 3.85%. He stated that they would have a pre-closing June 22, 2005 on the revenue bond, and the funds would be available the next day. The pre-closing on the general obligation bond will be on the 26th of July. The bid that was accepted has a ten-year term, what that means is that we will make payments, and at the end of the ten years there will be a balloon payment if its not taken care of before then. It is the plan that in the first five years we will make our regular payments, and in the second five we will make larger payments to get rid of the balloon payment. The fifteen-year term offered had a significantly higher interest rate of 4.65%. Mayor Connelly stated that Council needed to show their appreciation to Ms. Cantrell and Mr. Bufkin for their hard work in saving the town money on these loans, approximately \$56,000 in interest. Mr. Bufkin stated that the true thanks goes to Ms. Pope.

Old School Renovations: Mayor Connelly stated that demolition has started on the old school. The auditorium seats have been removed, the plaster has been removed and the restrooms have been demolished.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in of Municipal Election Commission Member Opal Kelly: Mayor Connelly stated that Ms. Opal Kelly could not be here tonight and the swearing in will be moved to next month's council meeting.

Stocking Procedures for Transformers: Councilman Underwood stated that Mr. Sexton had approached him on what types of procedures need to be used to keep up with our transformers. He also stated that currently, we keep the transformers in stock and when we use them we pay for them. Councilman Underwood recommended that we keep a log of when we used them, where they were used, and serial numbers. Mr. Sexton stated that they do not keep three phase transformers on hand, but they can get them overnight.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to keep an inventory on all transformers (serial numbers, where they are used, and dates); seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of 2005/2006 Fiscal Year Budget: Mayor Connelly stated that council agreed during the public hearing that they needed additional time to review the utility budget. He stated council has agreed to come back on June 28th at 6:00pm for a Special Called Meeting to hold the second reading of the fiscal year budget.

Second Reading of Zoning Map Amendment for Leon's Barber Shop: Mayor Connelly stated they had a public hearing earlier that night with no comments presented.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the rezoning for Mr. Leon's Barbershop; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Mayor Connelly stated that recently councilmembers have told him that they are still being asked about the disposition and progress of the Town Center. Mayor Connelly thanked Ms. Heather Hawkins of WKDK and Mr. Paul Gable of The Newberry Observer for such detailed reporting of the events as they have taken place. Mayor Connelly stated that this is such an important event for the citizens, and he feels we must do more to advise the public and keep them informed, so he is authorizing our administration to mail each utility customer a copy of the May 17, 2005 Minutes. This will be just as Council has approved unanimously. Mayor Connelly continued by stating, should council disapprove he would entertain a motion at this time. This is another attempt to keep the

citizens informed, and hopefully we can reach out to those that still do not know. Mayor Connelly advised that the floor was open if anyone desired to make a motion opposing the mailing of the minutes. Ms. Grubbs estimated the postage on mail outs to be about \$1.50 each in their present format. There being no objection, administration was instructed to proceed.

Mayor Connelly asked if there was anything else to come before the council.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn at 7:44pm; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Andrea Cantrell
Town Administrator