

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Prosperity Town Council
June 28, 2005
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
6:00PM

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

Administrative Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator

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

Mayor Connelly stated this is a special called meeting specifically to discuss the 2005-2006 budget and to hold second reading of the budget if possible. The Mayor opened the floor for any comments from Council on the budget. The budget being considered is out of balance by approximately \$50,000. The reason for this is Duke Power's rate increase effective October 2005 (see attached).

Discussion followed reviewing individual department's revenues and expenditures. Ms. Cantrell explained that the "to-date" utility revenues were a reflection of 12-month's of utility billings and could be used to project 2005-2006 anticipated utility revenues.

Mr. Dawkins questioned if the sanitation revenue included the rate increase previously proposed. Ms. Cantrell stated that it did not, but was a source of additional revenue.

Discussion continued on line items that could be adjusted to save on utility expenses. It was discussed that two vacant positions, one in sanitation and one in water, could be eliminated to assist in balancing the budget. Ms. Cantrell encouraged Council to consider the impact this reduction in force would have on the utility department as a whole. Councilman Spotts recommended utilizing inmates for the labor that would be eliminated. Mayor Connelly stated that inmates are not always available. Councilman Gallman and Councilman Underwood volunteered to speak with the utility employees to see if any are interested in becoming licensed to assist as Mr. Sexton's backup water distribution operator.

Council discussed if the frequent fuel adjustment increases by Duke Power could be passed on to the Town electric customers. Mayor Connelly stated that could be considered in the future.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue; seconded by Councilman Dawkins.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to come out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Dawkins.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to increase residential garbage rates by two dollars; seconded by Councilman Dawkins. Councilman Spotts stated that he would vote against the motion, because he cannot ask the public for more money when there are other things that can be cut from the budget. The motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Spotts opposing.

Councilman Spotts stated that action should be taken to stop Town vehicles from going out of Town or taken home by employees. This would reduce the fuel expense for the Town.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve the Town budget at \$418,540.00; seconded by councilman Gallman. Councilman Spotts stated he would vote against the budget, because something needed to be done to lower the expense of people driving vehicles home. Councilman Underwood asked if the bonuses are included in the budget. Ms. Cantrell stated that if the intention was to have the bonus funds taken from the 2004/2005 budget, it would need to be determined if excess funds were available. If so, they could vote on the bonuses at the next meeting. The motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Spotts opposing.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the Utility budget with the following changes to be included: remove the vacant water salary and vacant garbage salary, include the garbage rate increase and place any residual in Utility Capital Additions with the option to reallocate the funds if needed; seconded by Councilman Gallman. Councilman Spotts stated he would vote against the budget, because there were other avenues to reduce the budget. The motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Spotts opposing.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to adjourn at 7:25p.m.; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Andrea F. Cantrell
Town Administrator