

MINUTES
January 16, 2007
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; Fred Sexton,
Utility Director, Hank Bufkin, Attorney; Acting
Chief, Scott Wilson; Officers Craig Nelson and
Adrian Navarrete, Benji Sease

Mayor Spotts called the regular meeting to order and asked Councilman Gallman to open the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that no one had signed up to speak during open session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Underwood reported that the electrical department budget looks to be in line and that most items were on track for the budget year. One complaint has been received from Forest Hills where the lines coming into the residents' houses are hanging extremely low. Councilman Underwood and Mr. Sexton inspected the lines and agree that the lines will be repaired as soon as two dogs are removed to ensure our employees safety. The lines on Forest Hills came on the system in the 1970's and are due for replacement or repair in the near future. Mr. Underwood suggested that Council look at replacing the poles in the next budget year possibly in phases. Mr. Sexton stated that the poles are too far from the houses and that the poles are rotten so the line cannot be tightened, they need to be replaced. No wire will need to be purchased just poles. Mr. Sexton stated there is 30-40 poles on both sides of the road, needing repair and that there may be 10 to 15 poles that need to be added. Tree Trimming has started and will continue. Mr. Underwood stated that all commercial meters in town except one have been programmed to accept the demand charges so there will be no upgrade cost involved if we vote to pass along some of the demand charges to

our commercial customers. Having nothing specific to report from the Rescue Squad or Fire Department at this time, Mr. Underwood closed his report.

Fred is to get a count of the poles in the Forest Hills development. He also suggested we do a three-year plan to replace the poles on the three-phase line on Hwy 76 and upgrade all three-phase line poles in Town. BellSouth owns most of the poles so our cost would be for cross arms and conductors and poles owned by the Town that needed to be replaced. Fred stated that the Town does not have the manpower to do the three-phase work and we would need to hire a contractor to do the work.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins stated that the utility department is caught up on projects. He reported that Martijn was to fix the tile in front of the antique store.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Gallman thanked Fred and his crew for their continued work. He recognized Ed West for the extra work he had done to save the Town money by repairing in house our trucks and equipment. Mr. Gallman reported repair work to a lift station and the motor needs repair at the clinic well. Council agreed that Fred is going to send off the #1 motor for repair and use the motor in stock until the repair is done and keep the repaired motor for stock. Fred also asked about changing out a check valve on the well #1 pump and was given the go ahead. Discussion on the street litter followed.

Police Department: Officer Wilson talked about starting a neighborhood watch program that would include a litter control program. Mayor Spotts asked that tickets be written for people littering. Calls for service totaled 53 for December with 25 moving violations, 10 adult arrests, 12 warrants served and 1 drug arrest. Officer Wilson noted that Adrian Navarrete had graduated from the academy and as of February 1, the police department would be on a 12-hour rotation with 24-hour coverage including He and Navarrete on day shift and Officers Nelson and Silcox on night shift. The Overnight Club on Kibler Street has had no calls or complaints since the last council meeting. Mr. Boyd, the owner, met with Prosperity Police and Mayor Spotts and what ever he is doing to contain the public nuisance it is working. Prosperity Police Department hosted a fraudulent document class in our training room. Twenty-five officers participated and the class was very successful. The yearly total for calls was 1346 and 109 arrest for 2006.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Hawkins stated that Benjamin Odom, who is working on his Eagle Scout badge, has decided to go with another project due to time constraints for his badge. Mr. Hawkins is working with Alishia Cushman with PARD to secure a grant for the roadside park upgrade on Hwy 76. Baseball season is right around the corner and Mr. Hawkins asked that anyone wanting to coach or sponsor get in touch so we can get started on the season. Mr. Hawkins stated that several mothers wanting to use our facility for a Mother and Baby day out have approached him. Mr. Hawkins is gathering information and will report to Council when received. Councilman Hawkins asked Officer Wilson to get some information on a bike rodeo. Officer Wilson stated he would get with the Sheriff's Department to see what information is available.

Utility Department: Utility Director, Fred Sexton reported the Town had its sanitary survey today and all went well.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that we had had some written correspondence with the Electric Co-Op. Mr. Bufkin passed out to Council information that he had collected from other towns about fees charged for water services.

Clerk/Treasurer: Mrs. Livingston stated that our bids have been mailed for the 06/07 audit with a deadline of February 28, 2007. We have received one tax check from the county however; we need to still watch our spending. Councilman Hawkins asked about the vacant position and was told that a current part-time person moved into that position.

OLD BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Spotts announced a legal matter, an insurance matter and a contractual matter for discussion in executive session.

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

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that no decisions were made in Executive Session only information was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Spotts announced committee changes for Council members as follows:

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad – Chad Hawkins
Sanitation and Street Department & Buildings - G.W. Dawkins
Water and Sewer Department - Derek Underwood
Recreation and Parks - Allen Gallman

Officer Navarrete was sworn in by Chief Benji Sease (oath attached). Mayor Spotts welcomed Officer Navarrete and Chief Sease congratulated him.

Mayor Spotts stated that we have been offered \$300.00 for the old fire truck that is parked at Ackerman's to Ernest Schnider.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to sell the parked fire truck at Ackerman's for \$300; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts is going to contact Ernest Schnider and asked him to come by Town Hall to pay for the truck. He will then take his receipt to Ackerman's and pick up the truck.

Mayor Spotts introduced a countywide recreation program where all current recreation sports, T-ball, Coaches Pitch, and Soccer would be played on Town facilities but would be administered by County Staff in regard to uniforms, umpires, and equipment and field representation. All field maintenance, utilities, and concessions would be the responsibility of the Town. The Town cashier would collect registration fees and a monthly check would be cut to Newberry County minus \$5.00 per registration.

Mayor Spotts polled Council and all members were in favor of moving forward with a countywide recreation program. The contract will be voted on when received.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The entire Council will be attending the Governmental Association Meeting at the new conference center hosted by the City of Newberry on January 29, 2007.

April is Spring clean up month in Town and Mayor Spotts challenged each Council member to come up with some kind of plan to help clean up trash throughout our Town by including Schools, Churches, civic organizations to get involved with the cleanup.

Littering has become a terrible problem in Town and it is not getting better. We do not want our Town to become trashy. Mr. Gallman asked that littering signs be placed throughout town. Councilman Underwood asked what the fine was for littering and was told it is up to \$100.00. Mayor Spotts would like to see tickets written for littering if we can catch the people that are doing it because we need to get the word out that we are serious about people trashing our Town.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston Clerk- Treasurer