

**MINUTES**  
**August 21, 2007**  
**Public Hearing – Zoning of Hamm Property**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Prosperity, SC 29127**

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

Dignitary Attendance: Senator Ronnie Cromer

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Clerk Treasurer Administrator;  
Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Hank Bufkin, Town  
Attorney, Chief Benji Sease

Mayor Spotts called the public hearing to order at 6:45pm. Mayor Spotts stated that this hearing was only to address the rezoning of the Hamm Property on Elm Street and asked if anyone had any comments. After five minutes and no comments, the meeting was adjourned.

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

Mayor Spotts stated that an executive session needed to be added to the agenda to discuss a legal matter.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to add an executive session to the agenda and seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes to be approved. He presented the minutes from the July 17, 2007 meeting for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting as written; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

Daniel Hare updated council on his meeting with the City of Newberry concerning youth football. Mr. Hare stated that the City could provide uniforms for our kids in the 10, 11, and 12-year-old age group however; they could not for the 8 and 9 year olds. Mr. Hare asked that Council make a motion to give funds to the City to purchase needed uniforms.

Councilman Hawkins stated that Council would take the information and make no decision at this time.

Mayor Spotts stated that we would like to recognize the Mid-Carolina Dixie Youth All Stars for their community service. The Council along with Senator Ronnie Cromer and all the members of Council presented each member of the team and coaches with a certificate of appreciation. Senator Cromer brought certificates and Representative McLeod who could not be present, sent certificates of recognition to the 12-year-old 0-zone team who represented the State of South Carolina in the World Series held in Troy Alabama.

After the presentation, Senator Cromer congratulated the young men for their achievement and thanked them for their representation of South Carolina and the Prosperity Community and expressed his pride and congratulation toward each of them.

Two members of the audience made comments. David Long commented on the fact that there were two potential World Series contenders and if both had went to the World Series that would have been the first time it was done. Ms. Marilyn Bouknight stated that the Troy Alabama teams were good ambassadors for our state and community.

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad:** Councilman Hawkins stated that the system was holding up good considering the 100 degree weather. The budget is in the black and we are looking good. Fred has gotten prices for new lights around the walking track. The cost is \$168 per light. Councilman Hawkins stated that at this time he would like to take the price for information and wait a little longer into the budget before we make a motion to purchase. Councilman Hawkins noted that there is a pole on the end of Forest Hills Drive that needs to be fixed. Fred has put the pole on his agenda as is the Forest Hills Drive capital project. Councilman Hawkins apologized to Councilman Underwood for not reminding him about the open house at the fire department. The station is beautiful and we all enjoyed the open house. The rescue squad is excited about moving into the old fire station. The fire department will be having a country fried steak supper on Saturday August 25. The parade committee will meet next week. Councilman Hawkins has asked each Council member to nominate three people to be Grand Marshall in the Christmas Parade at the September Council Meeting.

**Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments:** Councilman Dawkins reported he and Councilman Hawkins had met with the traffic engineer from the DOT concerning an alternate route in and out of the post office. Councilman Dawkins noted that mosquitoes were sprayed for this month. Mr. Dawkins stated that we have had response to our clean up letters and we are coming along with this project. Ms. Livingston asked Council to follow-up on run down properties and report back on progress or lack of progress made to them. Mr. Dawkins stated that the railroad banks have also been sprayed for grass and weeds.

**Water and Sewer:** Councilman Underwood stated that there was a budget overage on overtime in the water department however, this was agreed on by Council to ensure DHEC compliance and certification. Mr. Underwood tanked Ed West and Fred Sexton for weekly updates all wells and lift stations have been inspected and stated that the pump on well number seven has been pulled due to problems and most likely will need to be replaced. Bishop Fire Hydrant Service has finished with their annual fire hydrant flow test and repair program and all have been found in working order and records will be held for year-end reporting to DHEC. Two seals were replaced at lift station one and meter boxes and pipes have been ordered for Wessinger Drive, repair clamps and fittings have been ordered for stock, and rebuilt lift station 4 at McFall Drive.

Mr. Sexton stated that the volute and impellor is bad on the McFall Drive #4 lift station motor and must be replaced at a cost of \$6300.00. The Mayor wants to inspect the parts that are replaced to make sure they are worn out.

**Police Department:** Officer Nelson reported 62 calls for the month of July 45 moving violations, 17 non-moving, 18 arrest warrants were served. Several request have been received that more patrolling be done during early morning hours on Elm Street and Brown Street due to reports of drag racing. Mayor Spotts recognized Chief Sease and thanked him for being in attendance. Councilman Underwood asked if our Police Department would be directing traffic for the school since it is back in. Ms. Livingston responded that we were going to do this as long as our officer was not tied up on an emergency call. Our Officer will not run radar or do property checks to avoid directing traffic, however if an emergency arises, the traffic will not be first priority.

Councilman Underwood asked if we have had more gang activity in Town. Officer Nelson answered that there have been some incidences of gang related activity such as painting on the side of the liquor store. Ms. Livingston stated that a gang awareness class would be held in the Civic Center on September 27. Mr. Gallman asked if the curfew was being enforced and was told yes.

**Recreation and Parks Department:** Councilman Gallman commented on the completed tennis court and thanked Councilman Hawkins for his help in making it a reality. Mr. Gallman asked Mr. Hare if he had the numbers to have a Prosperity Team. Mr. Hare was unsure. Councilman Gallman asked for a motion to ratify the vote to donate money to the M-C Dixie Youth All Stars.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to ratify the vote to donate money to the M-C Dixie Youth All Stars; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved for ratification with a vote of 4 – 1. Councilman Dawkins stated before his vote, that he was asked about the Town giving the money to the team and he stated to the councilman that called him that he thought they were doing it the wrong way and they should have called a meeting, however, he did not object if the Town wants to give it so, with this being

said, Councilmen Dawkins, Gallman, Hawkins and Underwood voted yes to ratify the vote and Mayor Spotts voted no.

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

**Town Attorney:** Mr. Bufkin stated his report would be given during executive session.

**Town Administrator:** Ms. Livingston stated Hospice has asked to plant a tree in the Town Square for patients that have lost their battle with various illnesses and asked Council for a motion to for them to do so.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to approve the planting of a tree of the Council's choosing in the Town Square by Hospice in remembrance of patients who have lost their battle with diseases; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Ms. Livingston advised Council that the tennis court repairs had been paid for out of reserves and the reserves will be reimbursed when the grant proceeds are received. Ms. Livingston further stated that Darren Mills expressed his thanks to Council for the repair of the tennis court and noted that Darren has raised over \$800.00 in matching funds for the tennis court. Councilman Hawkins noted that Mr. Mills wants to offer free clinics at the courts as well as tennis lessons.

Ms. Livingston expressed her gratitude to the Mayor, Council and her staff that made Hoppin' a success. Although we had a slim crowd the festival paid for itself without using tax dollars. Many comments were made concerning moving the festival to a cooler time of the year and we are going to look into when a good time would be.

Councilman Hawkins thanked Ms. Livingston for her hard work on the festival.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Old South Partners Bill:** No report.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on Rezoning of Hamm Property:**

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to rezone the Hamm Property from Neighborhood Commercial to Core Commercial; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

**Municipal Election Commission:** The following people have agreed to serve as the Municipal Election Commission: James Mills – 6 year term, Joan Mills – 4 year term, and Neva Risavich – 2 year term. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to appoint the named citizens to the Municipal Election Commission.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Hawkins to appoint James Mills, Joan Mills, and Neva Risavich to the Municipal Election Commission; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Equipment list for sale (sealed bid dates):** Mayor Spotts asked Council to set a date for a sealed bid sale. Council set the date as September 3 – September 13 and open bids on September 14, 2007

**Trash Pickup:** November 10, 2007 was scheduled for trash pickup in conjunction with Adopt a Highway program.

**Drop In for Chief Sease:** Mayor Spotts wished Chief Sease a Happy Birthday and announced that he would be retiring on a Medical Disability in September. Mayor Spotts expressed his appreciation for the job Benji has done as Chief and would like to schedule a drop in on Sunday, September 9, 2007 from 3pm – 6pm.

Mayor Spotts asked Benji to help in the search for a Chief and he stated that he would be glad to do what he could. Councilman Gallman thanked Chief Sease and told him that Ms. Gallman had baked him a red velvet cake.

**BCBS Proclamation 2007-01:** Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to approve Proclamation 2007-1.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve Proclamation 2007-1; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

**Underage Alcohol Sales Enforcement Agreement:** Ms. Livingston stated that Westview Behavioral met with Officer Wilson and herself concerning underage people purchasing beer, wine, or cigarettes from local merchants. Westview will provide the youth to go into our Town merchants and see if they will sell them illegal items quarterly. Our police will enforce the agreement by working with Westview and assist them with the arrest if necessary. Our officers will not be asked to enforce the agreement outside of the Town limits. In return for our services, the Town will receive a grant up to \$1000.00 to pay for the officer's time.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Hawkins to accept the Underage Alcohol Sales Enforcement Agreement; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Prosperity is the 4<sup>th</sup> cheapest city in the SCAMPS cities.

Hoppin' was a good success and a special thanks to Ms. Karen and her staff.

Town of Prosperity Council Meeting  
August 21, 2007

Please conserve as much water as possible during this drought season. We have not been issued mandatory water restrictions; however, please conserve as much as possible.

Remember this is your Town and please do your part to **KEEP PROSPERITY CLEAN**.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Spotts stated the need for an executive session to discuss two legal matters and a personnel matter.

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that no decisions were made in executive session.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

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Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator