

MINUTES
February 20, 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; Officer Jonathan Silcox

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 January 16, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilman Underwood noted one change in the minutes before approval to include the wording as noted in the excerpt below:

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.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting as corrected; seconded by Councilman Dawkins 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 & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins reported that the electrical department budget looks to be in line. Mr. Sexton reported the commercial readings to Mr. Hawkins and they will be reviewed. Mr. Hawkins reported that Mayor Spotts and Ms. Livingston have been in contact with Duke to talk about the demand charges and any need for rate increases. Mr. Hawkins will inform citizens and Council of his findings. The Forest Hills project has not been completed due to there being issues with dogs. One dog was removed but the other was not. As soon as the dogs are moved, the repair to the line will be done. Mr. Sexton stated that a note was left for the owner of the property in need of repair and has reiterated that when the dogs are moved, the work

can be done. Mr. Hawkins has asked Fred to compile a priority list for replacement of poles and streetlights around Town. Fred has contacted BellSouth and they are going to start swapping out approximately 100 poles. Councilman Hawkins asked that we look into adding a line item to the budget for infrastructure. Mr. Hawkins stated that there was nothing to report for the Fire Department from Chief Bowers. However, a moment of silence was observed for Ms. Jackie Wise and her family who suffered loses due to a fire last night. The Parade Committee met on February 7; during the meeting Thaddeus Davenport was elected chair, Glenn Hamm II is Co-Chair, Ms. Kathryn Eldridge is Secretary, Karen Livingston is Treasurer, and Ms. Linda Spence is Float Manager. Mr. Hawkins thanked Mr. Underwood for laying the groundwork for a smooth transition for him into the Parade Committee. Having nothing specific to report from the Rescue Squad, Mr. Hawkins closed his report.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins stated that the streets of Prosperity were getting a little trashy and dirty, and has asked Fred to have an extra cleanup on Sunday morning. Councilman Dawkins noted that we were going to have to add dumpsters to our budget list for the 07 08 budget. These dumpsters cost \$800.00 for a small and \$1,100 for a large. Currently the Town has 10-12 roll carts in stock. Mr. Dawkins was reminded that dumpsters are durable goods and would come out of the reserves instead of the budget. The sidewalk repairs are complete for the most part. Having nothing else to report, Mr. Dawkins closed his report.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that the budget line items looked good for the most part however, he had a question for Mr. Sexton about the meters, parts, and fittings. Mr. Underwood asked if this was an inventory account or if we ordered as we needed. Mr. Sexton responded that this account is used every two to three months to order parts that are needed for use now, not inventoried. Councilman Underwood then reported on sewer line blockages for the month to include, McNeary Street, Eureka Drive, and Langford Street. Freezing temperatures caused water Service Line issues that were reported on Shealy Drive, Wessinger Drive, McNeary Street, Church Street , The Asbury Bedenbaugh Center and Langford Street. Mr. Underwood noted that the Professional Services line item on the budget was over however, he stated that was understood based on necessary repairs. Having nothing else to report, Mr. Underwood closed his report.

Police Department: Officer Wilson reported that for the Month of January the Town served 18 warrants, wrote 69 citations, (51 moving, 18 non-moving), and made 4 adult arrest. Officer Wilson also stated that a \$500 grant had been received from Wal-Mart. Officer Navarrete was congratulated for completing his field training. Officer Wilson stated that with Navarrete's field training completion, we are now fully staffed in the Police Department for 24/7 service. The Overnight Club on Kibler Street has had no calls or complaints since the last council meeting. Having nothing else to report, Officer Wilson closed his report.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Gallman stated that we are entering into a new era with recreation by partnering with Newberry County and the YMCA to provide quality recreation to our citizens and to incorporate a family oriented basis to our program. He also stated that Dixie Baseball has been a part of Prosperity Recreation for a long time and it will continue to be. Mr. Gallman thanked Councilman Hawkins for his guidance of the recreation program and thanked Mayor Spotts for allowing him to be the Councilman overseeing the recreation now. He stated that he loved baseball and was looking forward to the season starting. Councilman Gallman turned to Councilman Hawkins to update Council on the Hwy 76 park and tennis courts. Councilman Hawkins stated that he had sent Ms. Livingston some grant information that needs to be completed and sent in to secure us a chance at a PARD Grant for the Hwy 76 Park. The tennis court grant has been completed and prices have been secured from Tennco. Several local citizens have showed interest in helping to raise money to recover our tennis court and hopefully it will work out that private citizens will raise all monies and nothing will have to come from our budget. Having nothing else to report, Councilman Gallman closed his report.

Utility Department: Utility Director, Fred Sexton had nothing to report at this time.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that he had done some work on the impact fee ordinance and reviewed the recreation contract that would be discussed later under old and new business. Having nothing else to report, Mr. Bufkin closed his report.

Clerk/Treasurer: Mrs. Livingston stated that our fuel adjustment rate has changed to .0032 per KWH. This rate is set by Duke Energy and passed on to our customers just as it is billed to us. The new rate reflects a .0011 per KWH increase. Ms. Livingston asked all departments to be thinking of any budget items needed for 07/08-budget year, as prep work will start March 1, 2007. Ms. Livingston has requested that Mayor and Council include Good Friday Holiday as an approved paid day off on our Holiday Schedule. Council took this for information and will vote on it at the next council meeting. Mr. Gallman added that he would like to see us add this holiday so employees could plant their gardens. With nothing else to report, Ms. Livingston closed her report.

Addition to Agenda: Mayor Spotts asked that an item be added to the agenda and asked Mr. Willie Boyd to come to the front. Mr. Boyd was recognized as the first Black Officer to patrol in Prosperity as part of Black History Month. Mr. Boyd patrolled from July of 1965 to August of 1972. Mayor Spotts thanked him for his service. Mayor Spotts also recognized Mr. Allen Gallman as Prosperity's first African American Councilman. Mr. Boyd was given the opportunity to say a few words and he stated "It was tough times breaking the ice to become the first black officer, but I made it." He went on to tell the crowd of a time when he encouraged Sheriff Lee Foster to go into law enforcement.

OLD BUSINESS

Countywide Recreation Agreement: Mayor Spotts stated that all Council had copies of the proposed agreement and all members had had the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the Countywide Recreation Agreement; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Mr. Bufkin stated that his only question about the agreement was the ability of Prosperity to receive financial reports from the County Recreation. Mayor Spotts and Ms. Livingston assured Mr. Bufkin that the financial reporting process was in place and Mr. Bufkin was satisfied with the remainder of the agreement.

Council ideas for trash issue(s) throughout Town: Mayor Spotts stated that in last month's meeting he had ask each council member to come up with some ideas on how to keep Prosperity beautiful. Councilman Gallman suggested fining offenders. Discussion followed. Officer Wilson suggested using cameras to catch littering offenders. He is going to check into getting some of these cameras on loan and see if we can utilize this technology in our efforts. Ms. Livingston suggested putting informational flyers in the bills and making positive efforts to get citizens involved in our trash. Mr. Hawkins suggested letting area neighborhoods and civic groups to adopt a highway. Mr. Gallman offered the three Pony League teams to pick up trash and in return the Town furnish hotdogs and drinks to them. Councilman Dawkins suggested an ad in the Newberry Observer to state we would be fining people who trash our Town. Discussion followed.

Land Sale: Mayor Spotts stated that someone wanting to purchases a piece of property owned by the Town had approached him. The 25x25x25x25 piece of property is located on Hwy 76 (Tax Map 462-1-1-34). Mayor Spotts asked Ms. Livingston to put an ad in the paper that bids would be accepted for this piece of land, and add this item to the March agenda.

IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE: Hank Bufkin discussed the background of the Impact Fee Ordinance as it relates to our established fee ordinances. Mr. Bufkin stated that our current ordinances state fees as they relate to commercial and residential and since they are currently in place we are in need of an avenue to assign additional fees as they apply to interested parties who wish to develop within the Town boundaries. The Impact Fee Ordinance (attached) is Ordinance number 55.01 and is ready for first reading.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the first reading of the Utility Impact Fee Ordinance number 55.01; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The entire Council will be attending the Municipal Association Winter Meeting on February 28, 2007.

Prosperity is the 4th cheapest power supplier in South Carolina.

Let's work together to make Prosperity the cleanest city in South Carolina

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston Clerk- Treasurer