

MINUTES
June 19, 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; Chief Benji Sease, Sgt. Scott Wilson, Prosperity Police Officer; Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Hank Bufkin, Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes that need to be approved. He presented the minutes from the May 15, 2007 meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2007 meeting as written; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Spotts announced that Newberry County Councilman John David Dawkins would like to speak. Mr. Dawkins thanked Council for the opportunity to share some good news with Prosperity that was announced earlier today in Paris, France. Today was the World Aerospace Convention where it was announced that Aerospace would be adding their North American Headquarters to the new Mid-Carolina Commerce Park located on Hwy 773 in Prosperity. Aerospace will move and begin production in a current facility in Newberry, and construction will begin immediately in the Commerce Park for their new facility. Approximately 70 people will be employed by Aerospace, with an average pay in the high 40's. Their major business is to make precision parts for, nuclear missiles, space vehicles, parts for medical machines and car manufacturers. Mr. Dawkins added that Newberry County had been working on this deal for a while and are proud to be able to bring this news to Prosperity.

Next to speak was Mr. Mike Bedenbaugh, Palmetto Trust Historic Preservation, Executive Director, who addressed Council concerning the Depot. Mr. Bedenbaugh explained that his role was to protect the Depot from extinction by preserving their architectural heritage. He is in negotiations with Norfolk Southern Railroad to gain possession of the Depot by the Palmetto Trust to historically preserve the Depot where it

stands without it being moved or destroyed. Mr. Bufkin asked Mr. Bedenbaugh if the Historic Preservation was an organization that was going to work for its own goals or work with the Town of Prosperity to ensure the Depot is protected? Mr. Bedenbaugh ensured Mr. Bufkin to create relationships within the communities to ensure the preservation of architectural heritage and empower communities to help the Palmetto Trust do the job they are mandated to do. Mr. Bufkin asked if there were grants to aid in the renovations. Mr. Bedenbaugh said he would help the Town to secure the grants and work hard to put the information together to get the Depot renovated and protected.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins stated that there was one major power concern at Grace Lutheran Church and underground line went bad and Fred and his guys had to replace all three phases of wire to get it working again. Thank you Fred for jumping right on the issue and correcting it. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Sexton have talked about the lighting at the walking track and are researching what needs to be done to ensure the track is illuminated properly. A representative from Wesco is coming to look at our options for the type of bulbs and shades that can be used to add light to the walking track. Mr. Hawkins asked Fred to address demand charges in his report. The fire department has recommended cleaning up and painting the fire hydrants. Mr. Hawkins is going to get with Glenn Hamm II to see what cost will be involved and will report to Council on their findings. The fire department is pleased with the progress on the building and hopes to move in soon. Mr. Bufkin asked what the plans were concerning the current rescue squad building. Councilman Hawkins stated that there were no firm plans on the building, however, before the move firm plans will be in place. Mayor Spotts stated that when the rescue squad moves into their new building we would not pay utilities on both buildings. Councilman Underwood stated that there is some diversity among the rescue squad members concerning what to do with the building when they move. The rescue squad owns the building and there has been talk of selling the building to offset the cost of the new firehouse. Other members think that the building should be used for storage. The Parade Committee will meet the second week of July.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins reported that Fred needs some help in the sanitation department and suggested we run an ad to see if we can hire someone. Ms. Livingston stated that the ad was already running and hopefully we would have someone in place before the next council meeting. The sidewalk is being worked on but it is an ongoing process. The railroad banks will be sprayed to kill grass and the Town will be sprayed for mosquitoes after the rain stops. Councilman Gallman asked that Council keep working on abandoned buildings and junk in yards.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that there had been a couple of small water leaks in Town. The Clinic well is in need of major repair and is not being used right now. The walls have caved in on the well and Fred is of the opinion that no motor will be put in until the well is repaired. Mayor Spotts suggested closing the well down

and buying the water. Fred reminded Council that a good well has been closed down on Forest Hills Blvd. And perhaps we could work with NCWSA to trade wells with them since they no longer use that well. A 4in line was upgraded to a 6in line on Eureka Street. Mr. Underwood then announced that we were behind on three DHEC reports and asked Mr. Sexton to elaborate. Mr. Sexton stated that we were behind on three major DHEC reports. The Flushing and Valve Programs were not done in 2006 and has asked that Ed and an inmate work some overtime to get the programs completed. Council agreed that the programs have to be completed and have asked Fred to schedule the work. Councilman Underwood brought up the third program, Smoking Manholes. Councilman Underwood asked Fred to get some numbers on the cost to smoke the manhole.

Mayor Spotts stated that the State is under a drought alert and he has asked the Prosperity Citizens to limit water use voluntarily. Fred has talked with Newberry County Water and Sewer and we have plenty of water right now.

Police Department: Officer Wilson reported 58 citations issued for the month of May 33 moving violations, 25 non-moving, 14 arrest warrants were severed, 10 male 4 female. Officer Wilson stated that all officers had firearm re-certification and is scheduled to re-certify again in October. Officer Wilson is to contact the Public Service Commission concerning the State Police weighing trucks at the entrance to the Piggly Wiggly. Councilman Dawkins stated that there are cars pulling off in front of First Community Bank blocking the view for motorist pulling out of Grace Street at Hwy 76. Discussion followed concerning the traffic at the post office. Councilman Hawkins is going to talk to Kevin with District 2 at the DOT and see if we can paint an X on Brown Street at the Post Office entrance as a no parking zone.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Gallman stated that baseball season was over and there was no all-star team from the 13-14 year olds because of a mis-communication and a deadline was missed. Mr. Gallman asked that the Town support the all-stars teams. Discussion followed concerning the Dixie Youth League and the impact the County Recreation would have on the Town of Prosperity vs. other municipalities. Councilman Gallman announced that the grant to repair the tennis court has been approved from PARD in the amount of \$10,000. The USTA Grant for the matching funds has been denied and Mr. Hawkins is working diligently to get the matching money for the Grant from private citizens. The Langford Street basketball court is on track for completion by June 30, 2007.

Utility Department: Chapin Engineering Company has contacted Fred about the 70-house development off of Langford Street. Fred has a meeting with them Thursday at 10:00 am. McFall Lift Station has been cleared to provide service to the development. Mr. Bufkin reminded Council that we have a new impact ordinance and be sure to review it before any final decisions are made. John Bagwell will be glad to come and give us an idea on demand charge using Piggly Wiggly as an example for demand charges. Mayor Spotts stated that Steve Smith with Duke Energy has been talked to about demand in the past but we would be glad to talk with Mr. Bagwell and see what he has to say.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that we have a couple of criminal prosecutions scheduled for July 25 at 4pm. He also stated there is a Tort Fund case that is working it's way through the court system. Charles Verner is defending the Town in the case.

Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Livingston stated that the annual audit is scheduled for July 26 with McKinley Cooper Company. Ms. Livingston stated that the Depot Project is important to the Town and we need to stay on top of any buzz concerning the Depot we hear so the Depot is not bought out from under us.

OLD BUSINESS

Piggly Wiggly Bill: No report or update. Brodie is working on resolution.

Rezoning of Hamm Property: This item is going to be postponed due to proper procedures not being followed as far as posting etc. This will be put on hold and added to the agenda next month

NEW BUSINESS

Park Patrol: Citizens who would like to monitor the parks for any damage to property or trouble brewing and report the incidences to the Police have contacted Mayor Spotts. The Mayor suggested that we buy t-shirts for them identifying them as Park Patrol. These people will only monitor the parks and not enforce ordinances. Mr. Bufkin suggested we contact the neighborhood watch program to see if we can get funding to help with the cost of the shirts.

Unsightly Property Discussion: Council reviewed the ordinance and discussed options available to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Bufkin is going to write a strong letter and the council will come up with a list by the end of the month to Ms. Karen and she will get them to Mr. Bufkin for follow-up.

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

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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts stated that the Town of Prosperity is fifth cheapest electrical rates in SCAMPS cities.

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Mayor Spotts stated that two buildings on Main Street had work started and are looking good.

Mayor Spotts stated that most of the Town Council would be in Greenville, SC for the MASC Annual Meeting July 11- 15.

Councilman Hawkins asked about the Dixie Youth Tournament. Ms. Livingston stated that the game would be played at the Dixie Youth Field with the gate receipts going to the Prosperity Dixie Youth. Mr. Bufkin noted that Little Mountain turned the tournament down by vote of the Ruritan, Little Mountain did not know anything about the tournament until last Wednesday.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston/Clerk Treasurer