

MINUTES
March 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

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 February 20, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007 meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that two people had signed up to speak during open session.

Frank Owens introduced himself as Executive Director of Special Needs and Disabilities in Newberry County and he addressed an incident that is ongoing in Williamswood. Mr. Owens gave a history of the DSN and then the history of the DSN residence in Williamswood. He explained that the house was purchased with the seller aware of the situation of the new owners.

Daniel Hare introduced himself and asked questions about the Town's recreation and auditorium committee. He voiced his concerns that the Prosperity Rikard School does not have an gymnasium. He was asked to call the School District concerning the gym.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins reported that their was no electrical department report, no new service ect. The budget looks to be over in some areas, wire, transformers and poles, however all charges were in line with reported and approved installations. Mr. Hawkins thanked the utility department for getting all the lights installed in Williamswood and commented on how good the lights looked and how pleased the residents of Williamswood were to have them. The Parade Committee has not met since February, however planning and organizing is underway to

update the entry form and have some new reindeer made. The Rescue Squad is hosting a spaghetti supper fundraiser on May 5, 2007, and has invited everyone to participate. The Fire Department is having a steak supper fundraiser on Saturday, March 24, 2007. Mr. Hawkins stated the fire department building is coming along good and is on schedule for completion in May. With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Hawkins closed his report.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins stated that last month he charged the Utility Department with cleaning the street, however, the pressure washer is broken so as soon as the pressure washer is repaired, the streets will be cleaned. Mr. Dawkins asked that Fred check into getting paint from the Highway Department to paint the parking lot. Mayor Spotts asked about the tile repair on Main Street and was told that the project had been completed. Councilman Underwood mentioned that we are once again having issues with signs in the Town right of way and a flashing sign in a residential area. The police are to look into these issues and report back to Council. 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 reported one water leak on Brown Street that took longer than usual to repair due to the location. Having nothing else to report, Mr. Underwood closed his report.

Police Department: Officer Wilson reported that for the month of February the Town served 6 warrants, wrote 58 citations, (43 moving, 15 non-moving), he further stated that four officers attended 5 different professional development-training classes. Officer Wilson also reported that he had met with Ron Abrams and has scheduled a Bike Rodeo in Prosperity for May 26, 2007. Officer Wilson stated that business owners and citizens have commented on the added visibility of the Police Department in Prosperity and are concerned that Prosperity may be getting a reputation for being a "Speed Trap". Officer Wilson stated that the intention of the officers running stationary radar is to slow cars down not to write tickets, he gave statistics as it related to speeding tickets and careless operation tickets in Town limits, that when Prosperity had 2 officers there were an average of 34 tickets written in a month, 3 officers there were an average of 31 tickets written in a month, 4 officers, as we have now, 48.5 tickets written in a month. Councilman Hawkins passed along some thank you's he had received from Prosperity Citizens for the Police Department directing traffic at Prosperity Rikard Elementary School. Councilman Underwood thanked Scott for his report and for the great job the entire Police Department does. Having nothing else to report, Officer Wilson closed his report.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Gallman thanked the YMCA for the job they are doing with our recreation program. He then thanked Mayor Spotts for the use of his tractor to spread sand on the pony league field. Mr. Gallman reported that the light bulbs had been replaced on all the fields. He also stated that a new basketball court was being

built on Langford Street beside the ball field and that it would be completed by June 30, 2007. Mr. Gallman stated that Representative Walt McLeod had picked up our PARD Grant paperwork for the Hwy 76 Park renovation. The South Carolina Wildlife Federation is having a motorcycle ride on May 31, 2007. The 200-motorcycle ride, "ONE WILD RIDE" will begin at Lexington Town Hall and travel through Prosperity around noon. They have asked for some traffic control so all bikes can travel together. Councilman Underwood stated that he has had reports from concerned citizens about dogs (rottweiler and pit bull) being tied or chained to the fence in the Town Center Park. Councilman Underwood made assurance that he nor Council had any problem with people walking their dog(s) in the park, however the dog must be leashed, attended by the owner, and cleaned up after, at all times. Councilman Gallman asked that a sign be placed in all the parks. The Mayor asked that the Police Department monitor the situation and if it does not improve we will talk about it again. 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 he had nothing in particular to report and apologized for being late. Having nothing to report, Mr. Bufkin closed his report.

Clerk/Treasurer: Mrs. Livingston stated that a survey was going to be sent out with the utility bills to see what kind of interest there is to pay bills by draft. There is some cost involved that will be passed on to the customers of the Town (\$20.00 fee per transmittal and .15 per transaction). Ms. Livingston then stated that the bids for the 06/07 audit were in and at this time she would like to ask Council to vote on the results. Mr. Hawkins was called out of the room due to a family emergency. With nothing else to report, Ms. Livingston closed her report.

OLD BUSINESS

Litter Campaign and Signs: Councilman Underwood introduced a sample litter sign and bids from three companies. These signs will aid in the determent of litter throughout Town.

At this time Councilman Hawkins returned to the meeting and asked to be excused due to his emergency. Mayor Spotts asked him to stay for a vote on the Audit Bids.

Ms. Livingston read out the bids for the annual audit. Mayor Spotts stated that all Council had copies of the bids and all members had had the opportunity to review.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to accept the audit bid from McKinley Cooper from Greenville, SC in the amount of \$15,000 all-inclusive; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

After voting, Mr. Hawkins was excused. Council then returned to the litter sign proposal from Mr. Underwood. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to purchase 25 anti-litter signs from The Sign Shop at \$8.50 per sign; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously by all members present.

Ms. Livingston is to call and order the signs.

Collection of \$36,000 Bill: Mayor Spotts stated that the Town has a \$36,000 Utility bill that is owed and at this time we are going to write a letter to try and retrieve the money. Ms. Karen is to send the letter out to try to negotiate a settlement and recoup some of the money that is owed to the Town. Council is in agreement to proceed in this manner and this item will stay on the agenda until it is resolved.

Adding Paid Time Off – Good Friday Holiday: Mayor Spotts stated that the Administrator had requested that Good Friday be added to the paid holidays for Town Employees.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to add Good Friday as an official paid holiday for the Town; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously by all members present.

Land Sale: Mayor Spotts stated that a bid had been received to purchase the 25x25x25x25 piece of property located on Hwy 76 (Tax Map 462-1-1-34).

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to accept the bid of \$300.00 from Ladison Hamm for the sale of the 25 square foot property on Hwy 76; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously by all members present.

IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE READING: Mayor Spotts stated that the Impact Fee Ordinance number 55.01 is scheduled for the second reading.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Set Date for Budget Workshop: The Budget is ready for presentation in a budget workshop and we need to set a date. After limited discussion, the date is set for April 3, 2007 at 6:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The new fire station is looking good and if all goes well, the fire station should be completed in May.

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

We will host German visitors from Newberry's Sister City in Prosperity on April 16, 2007 for lunch at Stable.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved by all present unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston Clerk- Treasurer