

MINUTES
May 15, 2007
Public Hearing
6:45 PM
Town Council Meeting
7:00 PM
Prosperity, SC 29127

Council Attendance: Mayor Larry Spotts, Councilmen: Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, & Derek Underwood

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Clerk Treasurer; Chief Benji Sease, Sgt. Scott Wilson, Prosperity Police Officer; Hank Bufkin, Attorney

Mayor Spotts announced the time 6:45 and called the Public Hearing on the 2007-2008 budget to order. There being no Town of Prosperity residents present the discussion was closed at 6:50.

Mayor Spotts called the regular meeting to order. He then announced an addition to the Agenda under new business; item b. Rezoning of Hamm Property. 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 April 17, 2007 meeting for approval.

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

OPEN SESSION

No one signed up to speak in open session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins stated that the Forest Hills issue of low hanging lines was corrected. He reported that Fred was going to add the extra lights from the Williamswood project to various areas around Town. There are a few line items on the budget that are over, however the overages are justified by capital projects expenditures. Good progress is going on at the new fire station. The rescue squad reported a successful spaghetti supper and thanked everyone for their support. The parade Committee met Wednesday night to establish some rules and regulations for participants and a Frequently Asked Questions list to help

communicate the rules and regulations as well as answer questions concerning the parade. Mr. Hawkins asked that we take for information that the parade float floor has been replaced and other repairs have been completed. Hamm's Hardware will donate the plywood to make 5 new reindeer for the float. Chad has asked the Community Committee to come up with some ideas to promote Pride in Prosperity and help the Town control the litter issues we are having.

Councilman Underwood reported on the dim lights at the walking trail and asked if the extra lights from the Williamswood project could be added at the walking track. Councilman Hawkins will talk with Fred to see if a larger watt bulb can be used in the walking track lights and if not if the extra lights can be used.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Councilman Dawkins was absent from the meeting. Mayor Spotts reported on his behalf that there were no major issues. Councilmen Gallman stated that we as a Council we need to take a look at the buildings around town that are in need of repair. Mr. Bufkin stated that the Prosperity Business Association is concerned about the Downtown area being used as a warehouse. Councilman Gallman said it is not just limited to Downtown; Langford Street and Potato House Road are also in need of some repair or demolition. Mr. Bufkin asked that the Council take a look at our ordinance and if Council wants to go after property owners who do not clean up or tear down unsightly, dilapidated property, then we will need to have money in the budget to back up the lawsuits. Discussion Followed. Councilman Underwood asked that the ordinance be reviewed by Council and discussed at the next council meeting to see what direction the Town wants to take. Ms. Livingston will put a copy of the ordinance in each council members box for review. Mr. Bufkin will make a report to Council at the June meeting and make recommendations as related to the ordinance.

Councilman Underwood stated a need to look into getting sidewalks on N. Wheeler, Miller Street, and S. Main. He stated that Chapin had received a grant to join a new development to their Downtown area and asked Mrs. Livingston to look into what type of grant they received. Councilman Hawkins interjected that the SCDE offers grants for a "Safe Path to School" grants. Ms. Livingston stated that she had researched a grant through Walk/Ride.org that also grants money for safe paths to school. Councilman Hawkins added that he had emailed Kevin McLaughlin with the SCDOT about adding a solar flashing light at Prosperity Rikard Elementary School. Mr. McLaughlin indicated that we are slated for review in the next school year.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that he had not received a monthly report from Mr. Sexton, who is absent due to illness; therefore he had a short report with nothing major to report at this time.

Police Department: Officer Wilson reported 81 calls for the month of April, 51 moving violations, 30 non moving, 10 arrest warrants were severed, 8 male 2 female. Officer Wilson stated that several complaints were received concerning signs on public right of way. Mayor Spotts stated that if the signs are on public right of ways, remove them.

Recreation & Parks: Councilman Gallman stated that baseball was going good. He added that we had contacted Representative Walt McLeod concerning a PARD grant, which we have submitted in the amount of \$10,000. Mrs. Livingston stated that the grant could be reduced to \$8,000.00 depending on the recommendation of the Newberry Legislative District. Mr. Gallman stated that we are on course for the basketball court on Langford Street and the \$10,000 grant would be used for the tennis court. Councilman Hawkins and Councilman Gallman discussed the basketball court vs. the tennis court repairs.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton was absent due to illness.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated he had no special report at this time.

Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Livingston stated that the competitive grants and sidewalk grants for S. Main, S. Wheeler, and Miller Street, would be updated and resubmitted if necessary. Ms. Livingston stated that at the present time the Town pays for beepers for all police officers at a cost of \$17.00 per month per beeper. Ms. Livingston asked Council about canceling beeper service and adding cell phones for each officer at a cost of \$29.00 per officer, per month. After discussion;

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to reimburse each Police Officer \$20.00 per month toward their personal cell phone and cancel pager service on all police pagers; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of 07/08 Budget: Mayor Spotts called for a motion to have a second reading on the 07-08 budget.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve second reading of the 07/08 budget. Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase of Backhoe: Councilman Hawkins relayed several points to Council concerning the backhoe bids that were received and reviewed by Council last month. Discussion followed. Mayor Spotts reiterated that all bids were on the same type vehicle (2WD) with the same buckets (24"). Wilson Tractor submitted a bid for \$44,000; however, it was late and was not accepted by Clerk. After more discussion it was decided that the bids presented last month were legitimate bids submitted in accordance with our Procurement Policy and are the only bids to be considered. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to purchase a new backhoe based on the lowest bid received from Briggs in the amount of \$47,500.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to accept the lowest bid presented by Briggs Construction for \$47,500; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts asked that Ms. Livingston call Briggs and see what type of financing could be arranged to best utilize the Town's reserves in regard to interest.

Rezoning of Hamm Property: Mr. Glenn Hamm has requested rezoning of property located on Elm Street from NC - Neighborhood Commercial to CC - Core Commercial. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to have the first reading on an ordinance to rezone the Hamm Hardware Property located on Elm Street from NC - Neighborhood Commercial to CC - Core Commercial.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to have the first reading to rezone the property on Elm Street from NC - Neighborhood Commercial to CC - Core Commercial; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Executive Session: Mayor Spotts stated the need for an executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that Council discussed Weather's Contracting repairs during the Executive Session and asked for a motion to have Mr. Bufkin write a letter to Weather's concerning the completion of the work in the Civic Center.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to have Mr. Bufkin write a letter to Weather's Contracting concerning the completion of repairs to Civic Center; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts voiced his concern over the Adopt-a- Highway Program this past weekend. Councilman Hawkins thanked the few people that helped with this Program and hopefully next time we will have more participation.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston/Clerk Treasurer