

MINUTES
October 16, 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, Town Administrator; Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney, Acting Chief of Police, Scott Wilson

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 to be approved. He presented the minutes from the September 18, 2007 meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2007 meeting as written; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that even though it is not on the agenda he wanted to recognize the three good candidates running for town council and give them a few minutes to speak if they wish. Mr. Hawkins was recognized as an incumbent and spoke briefly about his appreciation to the Council and Staff of Prosperity for their support throughout his term. He stated that being on the recreation committee was a highlight of his term and by working together we can get so much done such as the PARD Grant for the tennis court and thanked the Mayor for the confidence in him to oversee the electrical, fire dept, parade and rescued squad committees. He also voiced his appreciation to the council for their support on the upgrade to the infrastructure throughout town. Mr. Hawkins is going to continue to work with Mr. Gallman to bring a football program to Prosperity.

Mr. Dawkins stated he enjoyed being on council and thanked the council and Mayor for their support throughout the years. Mr. Dawkins stated he had been on the street committee for many years and mentioned the new trash truck, backhoe and streetscape. Mr. Dawkins stated he had served to the best of his ability and looks forward to serving another term.

Mayor Spotts recognized Catherine Eldridge as the third candidate for Town Council, however, Ms. Eldridge was not in attendance.

OPEN SESSION

No one signed up to speak during open session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins stated that limb clearing is continuing throughout Town. AT&T will be replacing poles throughout Town. Thank you to the utility department for their help with the Octoberfest at Ms. Wendy's. The fire department is happy in their new home. The rescue squad has to upgrade the old fire department building due to some cracking in the floor of the kitchen and meeting area. Councilman Hawkins stated that Robert Dennis wants to talk with council about the money needed to make the upgrade and he will also be talking with the County of Newberry. The parade committee is moving forward and letters will be mailed before Friday. The float has been reworked, re-lumbered, and is scheduled to be stored in the old fire department for decorating. Mr. Hawkins thanked acting chief Wilson for his help with the traffic letter and routing of the parade. Mr. Hawkins announced the 2007 Grand Marshal for the parade as Retired Chief Benji Sease.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Mr. Dawkins reported that Fred and his crew are keeping up with the sanitation very well and are also keeping the limbs cut and picking up the debris. The sidewalks repair work is at 80 percent. Mr. Dawkins stated that the sidewalks on Brown Street have been cleared of the grass grown over them. Mr. Dawkins asked if any follow-up had been done on the rerouting of the post office traffic. Mr. Hawkins stated that there had been some discussion but no definite plan had been put into action. The Prosperity Post Office has to send the recommendation to their landlord and we are awaiting an answer.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood thanked Karen, Fred, and Ed for the weekly report. The report is a good way to keep in good communication. #4 lift station lost both motors and we had to contract with Brigman's Septic Tank Company to pump 17 loads of sewage (approximately \$2,000.00). One of the motors has been repaired and installed the other is being repaired. Follow up on the Clinic Well insurance claim Mr. Underwood thanked Ed West and Fred Sexton for weekly updates that keep him informed as how cost relate to the budget. Mayor Spotts asked about the insurance on the Clinic Well. Ms. Livingston responded that the claim had been made, however, no follow-up had been done.

Police Department: Officer Wilson reported 51 calls for the month of September - 34 moving violations, 17 non-moving. 15 arrest warrants were served 10 male and 5 female. The City of Newberry has been gracious enough to let us borrow their speed sign for traffic enforcement. Capt. Chuck Counts has the sign charged and ready for us to pick up. Councilman Dawkins asked if we could park an empty police car in Town to slow traffic down. Discussion followed as to where the car should be parked.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman stated that soccer season was underway and going good. Mr. Gallman spoke with Mike Bedenbaugh concerning the Depot and he reported that negotiations with the railroad were going well and he hopes to have some good news in the coming months. Fred and his guys were thanked for cleaning up the graffiti off the sidewalk and building downtown. The lights at the walking track look good and the citizens have made positive comments. Mr. Gallman asked that football be worked on for next season. Ms. Livingston stated that the City of Newberry had contacted her about starting registration earlier to ensure we have enough players in each age group. We hope to start the sign ups with the younger groups and let the children follow their age group throughout the program. This should eliminate some of the issues we had with registration this year where a child that had been playing football with the City of Newberry wanted to continue on his previous team instead of moving to the all Prosperity team. Councilman Hawkins reported that Eugene Priviot on behalf of Mid-Carolina High School have donated 50 football helmets to the Town of Prosperity. Mr. Gallman stated that a called baseball meeting was needed.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton had no report at this time. Mr. Hawkins asked how our wells are holding up with the lack of rain. Mr. Sexton answered that the wells are doing well. Councilman Underwood thanked Fred and his crew for their help with Octoberfest at Ms. Wendy's.

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

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston stated that the Prosperity Business Association will be hosting the Newberry Chamber of Commerce for Business After Hours On Thursday October 18 at 5:30 and invited everyone to come and bring a friend. Ms. Livingston stated that the weekly report was working well and asked the council to make any changes to the format that was needed. Ms. Livingston reported that the open enrollment meeting would be held Friday, October 19 and that Mr. David Reid would be here to do individual signup or make needed changes to their current program.

Ms. Livingston stated that several citizens had requested a litter sign be placed in their yard, and asked Council if they had any extra signs that could be given out or if we wanted to purchase 25 signs to distribute to interested citizens.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to purchase 25 litter signs as long as they are at the same cost as previous signs were purchased for; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Old South Partners Bill: Ms. Livingston is going to meet with Mr. Bufkin and get this thing resolved.

Sealed Bid Awards Update: Mayor Spotts reported that one item was not picked up from the sealed bid sale. Mayor Spotts asked if we could go to the next highest bid. Ms. Livingston will notify the next highest bidder and offer the box blade to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Fines for Property Ordinance Violators: Mayor Spotts asked Mr. Bufkin to report on his recommendations for fining property owners who do not comply with the ordinance to cleanup and or repair their property. Mr. Bufkin stated that we can send certified letters from the Mayor stating our intention to cite them for a misdemeanor to include a fine or we can just fine them. After discussion the council agreed to inspect the violators properties and send the letters out. Mr. Bufkin's has the letter ready and Ms. Livingston will have the properties inspected and letters sent to the noncompliant owners certified with the council's intention to have the police department issue citations for non-compliance. Once issued, the citations will become a part of the court docket and Judge Koon will assess fines during court proceedings.

A MOTION by Councilman Hawkins to issue fines for violating property owners effective November 5, 2007; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Announce Adopt a Highway Trash Pick-up: November 10, 2007 is set up for the Adopt A Highway program trash pickup. Mayor Spotts asked Fred to have an extra trash pickup on this day. Trash pickup will begin at 8am.

Bids on Forest Hills Upgrade: There are two bids that have been received for this work however; the bids need some clarification to ensure that they are for the same scope of work. Fred has been asked to clarify the Pike bid vs. the Lee Electrical bid. This item is to be added to the Agenda for November. Also, Fred may get another bid.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The state is still in severe drought being 17 inches below normal. Please conserve as much water as possible during this drought season.

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

Executive Session: Mayor Spotts stated the need for an executive session to discuss two issues, a legal matter and a personnel matter in the police department.

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

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A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to come out of Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins 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 8:40 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator