

MINUTES
September 18, 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 August 21, 2007 meeting for approval. One correction was noted, to change the wording from Piggly Wiggly bill to Old South Partners.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2007 meeting as written; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Daniel Hare voiced his concerns on the registration for youth football with the City of Newberry. Mr. Hare demanded to know who authorized the City to pull the Prosperity Children to play for the City. Mayor Spotts informed Mr. Hare that he would have to check with the City of Newberry concerning how players were placed on a team. Councilman Gallman asked Mr. Hare what he meant by “pulled” players. Mr. Hare stated that Prosperity children were pulled to play on Newberry teams causing Prosperity not to have enough to play. Discussion followed between Mr. Hare and Council concerning who had given authority for Newberry to pull players.

Councilman Hawkins stated that no one from Prosperity had given them permission, however, if we did not have enough in each age group to play then the City of Newberry accommodated the children by placing them on a team. Mayor Spotts reiterated that the City of Newberry has the only football league and Prosperity is welcome to play with them we do not have a Football league. Mr. Hare discussed an incident that happened several years ago concerning football in Prosperity. Councilman Hawkins asked if all the boys that registered properly with the City of Newberry are playing football. Mr. Hare

answered no and proceeded to define poverty and cited poverty as the reason for no youth football in Prosperity.

Mr. Eugene Privott asked to speak on behalf of youth football. He introduced himself as a coach for Mid-Carolina High School and stated that practicing with young children it is hard to get them to and from practice and he asked if as a community and Town we could establish a team in Town to mold and build the kids where they learn to play together. As a whole we are seven years behind other communities in youth football. Mr. Privott asked that the Town write a letter to Mr. Caldwell at the City and ask him to put all Prosperity players together and not pull them to play with Newberry teams. The Council took this for information.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins stated that we had replaced a 50KVA at Miller Street Apts. The poles and hook ups have been removed from Prosperity's Hoppin'. Some secondary poles and underground service have been replaced on Forest Hills. Fred is to get additional proposals to repair and replace 11- 40 ft poles, 4- 30ft poles and 6 KVA transformers. The railroad is going to put a crossing arm at S. Main, however, a pole has to be moved since it is in the visual way for the cross arm, and will be paid for by the Department of Transportation. Fred asked if one more bid would be acceptable if it is in line with our procurement regulation. The budget is looking to be in line. The Fire Department is happy in its new home. The rescue squad is excited about moving into the old fire station. The parade committee has painted the float and should have the new reindeer in place before next month. The next Parade meeting is September 26 at 6:30pm. Councilman Hawkins has asked each Council member to nominate three people to be Grand Marshall by the end of the meeting. The Committee has also looked into getting porta-johns for the parade route. Mayor Spotts stated that the Grand Marshal of the parade should be kept quiet until the winner has been notified and accepted. The parade float should be moved into the old firehouse to be worked on by the end of October.

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 will continue this Saturday. Mr. Dawkins stated that we have had response to our clean up letters and we are coming along with this project. Mayor Spotts asked Mr. Bufkin what our next step was toward the property owners who have made no effort to comply with their letters. Mr. Bufkin stated that he would write a draft letter and state the fine based on the ordinance. Mr. Bufkin will make his recommendation within two weeks of this meeting so Ms. Livingston can provide a list of violators. Mayor Spotts mentioned the sidewalks on Brown Street being grown over and the dead tree in Town Square. Ms. Livingston stated that the tree was going to be replaced by Hospice in October.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that there was a water leak on 934 Langford Street. A sewer connection was installed at Washington and S. Main,

reconnected water by installing a new meter on Langford Street and a service repair on Main at Mr. Bufkin's Office. 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 99 calls for the month of August, 76 moving violations, 23 non-moving, 8 arrest warrants were served. Two officers attended training classes, one is DUI certified and the other attended Court Administration Conference.

Councilman Underwood asked for discussion on our police department running stationary radar in Town. Councilman Hawkins suggested a stationary sign that would flash the speed as a driver passed. There was concern voiced over the cost of renting one of these signs. Councilman Hawkins will get some prices for renting one of these signs. Ms. Livingston suggested that the officers change their schedule to patrol heavily trafficked areas during the morning hours. The Town is receiving many complaints concerning speeders on Elm Street when our officer is directing traffic. This option will be evaluated by the Police Department and Administration. Another suggestion was to park an empty police car where traffic needs to be slowed down. Officer Wilson noted that hand held radars be purchased to enforce the speeding laws without being stationary.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman asked that the Town allow the O-Zone Team to put a metal sign up at the Dixie Youth field. The O-Zone Team would purchase the sign.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to allow the O-Zone Baseball Team to hang a sign at the Dixie Youth Field as long as it adheres to the sign ordinance in place and as long as all fields that comprise the O-Zone All-stars, (Pomaria, Prosperity, Little Mountain, and Whitmire), are asked to hang a sign at their field as well; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Gallman expressed his concern over the black marks that have been left on the basketball court on Langford Street and has offered a reward for any information leading to the identity of the person who did this. Mr. Gallman continued to express concern over the vandalism that has taken place at the Town Center Rest Rooms, picnic shelter, and the gang graffiti that is on a Main Street business. Mr. Gallman challenged the low life scumbags to come out during the day instead of coming out at night and sneaking around messing up our Town. Mr. Bufkin suggested the Town purchase cameras to be placed on the basketball courts and other high traffic areas.

Mr. Bufkin asked that the members of the O-Zone Team come to council and explain what they are all about and to know what rules they play by and operate by. Councilman Hawkins discussed the difference between O-Zone and Dixie Youth as being under the same organization the only difference is the length of the bases and the ability to run off of the base.

Councilman Gallman stated that perhaps an answer to our vandalism issue would be to make more patrols after 11pm. Discussion followed concerning the curfew that is currently in place and the enforcement of the particular ordinance. Mr. Bufkin stated that the police department should give Council a proposal of what tools are needed to enforce our curfew and keep our Town safe.

Ms. Livingston stated that a gang awareness program was going to be held at the Civic Center on September 27, 2007. Councilman Underwood asked that we get information on the Neighborhood watch program so we can pass it on the citizens of Prosperity. Tim Bedenbaugh, State Constable, stated that our Citizens are our most useful resource for crime prevention. They are our eyes and ears and if we educate and listen to them and ask them to report suspicious activity if they see something call 911. Officer Wilson interjected that recently calls would come in from Forest Hills that there is a fight in progress to lure police away from Town so unlawful activity could take place else where in Town.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton had no report at this time.

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

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston stated that the cost of the monthly draft is \$8.08 and is asking Council if the Town could absorb the cost. The fee could be offset with NSF check revenue.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to absorb the \$8.08 monthly bank charge; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Ms. Livingston advised Council that should the fee increase; I will notify council to revisit the motion.

Ms. Livingston commented that in regard to football with the City of Newberry, no player from Prosperity was pulled to play with another team. All players that returned from last year were given the option to play on their former team or to play with the Prosperity Team. Most players opted to play with their former team leaving Prosperity with not enough to make a full team. Ms. Livingston has committed to working directly with the city next year to ensure a successful program with the City.

Ms. Livingston addressed Council concerning a new policy she wishes to implement. A weekly report will be furnished to each council member to include water, sewer, police, finance, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Sealed Bid Awards: Ms. Livingston read the attached list in its entirety.

GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 5th the State of South Carolina declared a severe drought situation. Please conserve as much water as possible during this drought season.

Benji's retirement drop in was a success with a good turnout.

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.

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