

**Minutes**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**July 19, 2005**  
**PROSPERITY, SC 29127**  
**7:00 PM**

Council Attendance: Mayor Bruce Connelly, Councilmen Larry Spotts; Derek Underwood; Allen Gallman; G.W. Dawkins

Administrative Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator; Fred Sexton, Public Works Director; Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney; Benji Sease, Chief of Police; Becky Paul Administrative Assistant; Officer Craig Nelson

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the June 21, 2005 council meeting to Council for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of June 21, 2005; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Connelly presented the minutes of the June 28, 2005 Special Called Meeting to Council for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of June 28, 2005; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

**WELCOME NOTE:**

Mayor Connelly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked all in attendance for coming.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Mayor Connelly stated that occasionally we have people that want to speak or give short messages of three minutes or less in our open session. He reminded the public there could not be any interaction with council. Topics would be taken as information.

Jonathan Jackson requested to speak on abandoned houses.

Mr. Jonathan Jackson stated his name and his address as 201 Church Street. He stated his concern was abandoned buildings and homes, and whether there was a statute concerning them. Specifically, he questioned why a house on Langford Street has been abandoned for so long without anything being done to address its condition. Mayor Connelly stated there could be no interaction with council, but that the town is working on abandoned structures throughout Town. The Town must follow legal procedures. Mr. Jackson asked if the Town could notify the homeowner to have no trespassing signs put up. Chief Sease stated he would help him with that issue.

Daniel Hair requested to speak regarding recreation.

Mr. Daniel Hair stated his name and his address as 340 Langford Street. Mr. Hair requested that the council bring basketball and football programs to the Town of Prosperity. Mayor Connelly stated that these programs needed to be organized and approved by the recreation department.

Mayor Connelly requested that an executive session be added to the agenda to discuss contractual issues regarding the Town's auditing services.

**A MOTION** Councilman Underwood to amend the agenda to add an executive session before New Business; seconded by Councilman Dawkins, and so approved unanimously.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

##### **Electrical, Fire Department:**

Councilman Underwood stated at this time there was no report on the fire department.

Mr. Underwood stated that it had been brought to his attention that the Conifer Drive electrical upgrade for the Newberry County Water and Sewer lagoon cost the Town about \$30,000. Councilman Underwood requested that a portion of this be billed back to NCW&S as services rendered. Mayor Connelly asked Councilman Underwood to research this more and make a recommendation at the next council meeting.

**Sanitation and Streets:** Councilman Dawkins stated that he had no report on the streets, but they are getting behind on picking up our once a month pickup. Mr. Sexton had requested that two men work on Saturday mornings from 7-10 a.m. Councilman Dawkins stated it should only take two days to catch up with debris pick up.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to bring the workers in for two Saturday mornings to catch up the debris pick up; seconded by Councilman Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**Building, Recreation and Parks:** Councilman Gallman stated that dilapidated and abandoned buildings are being addressed. The Town cannot arbitrarily tear down

abandoned buildings without following state and local laws. The Town along with others involved are working very hard to remove the abandoned and dilapidated buildings and homes, but it takes time to do this. Councilman Underwood stated that when someone complains we will send out letters to the property owners about the complaints. Councilman Gallman stated that the town is working on basketball facilities, and when the town center is finished we will have a court inside and outside for basketball programs. He also stated that the town has done a lot for recreation and is working on other sports to come.

**Police Department:** Chief Sease stated he had no report other than advising Councilman Spotts that he had spoke to the horse owners that had been riding on Town sidewalks and this should not be an issue in the future.

**Water and Sewer Department:** Councilman Spotts stated that lift station #3 is back in service. Lift station #4 needs both motors to be pulled and the pick up pipes need to be replaced as they did to #3. There has been one sewer and one water tap installed in Williams Wood.

**Town Administrator:** Ms. Cantrell stated that they need additional sponsors for the festival that they are about \$4,200.00 behind our budget last year. The Prosperity's Hoppin' staff has dropped from 9 to 6, so additional volunteers are needed to sit at tables not any labor work. There is a sign up sheet if council knows anyone in the community to help.

**Town Attorney:** Mr. Bufkin stated that at the last meeting he was asked to write a letter to a storeowner whose property is abandoned and in disrepair. This letter was sent about a week ago. Councilman Underwood questioned if the Town had researched an availability fee for the abandoned buildings. Mayor Connelly asked Councilman Underwood and Mr. Bufkin to look into rates on availability fees for abandoned buildings and to report the findings at the next meeting.

**Old School Renovations:** Mayor Connelly stated the renovations are going well, and the crews are running ahead of schedule. There were some problems in the wall structure, those problems have been fixed and the walls are studded up. They are ready for the plumbers and electricians to come in and do their part.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual agreement with the auditor and legal issues; seconded by Councilman Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood come out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Swearing in of Municipal Election Commission Member Ms. Opal Kelly**

Ms. Opal Kelly was present and was administered her oath.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Auditor for 2005-2006**

Mayor Connelly stated that requests for proposals were made for the auditing services and we received two back: One from Mr. Leonard Jackson and one from the McGregor Company. McGregor has been our auditor for eight years; I think council is pleased with his results, but not the timing.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to accept the McGregor Company proposal with an added clause for a timely report. This proposal will be for a one year extension; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

**Mid Carolina Dixie Boys 13-year old Request for Donation**

Mayor Connelly stated that the Dixie Boys 13-year-old All Star team would be playing in the State tournament in Bluffton this coming week and the Dixie Youth Minors All Star Team was currently playing in the State tournament in Conway. Ms. Cantrell stated that in the past Council took up donations among themselves, and did not take the donation out of the Town's budget. Discussion followed.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to give \$100.00 to each team; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

**Mid Carolina Basketball Coach request for sponsor**

Mayor Connelly stated the Mid Carolina Basketball coach had asked the Town to sponsor a banner for \$150.00 dollars. The Banner will have the Town Logo on it and will be hung in the gymnasium at Mid Carolina High School. Discussion Followed.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to pay 150.00 dollars this year for a banner for the Mid Carolina High School Gym; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mayor Connelly stated the most important thing a council member can do is to plan a budget and to work a budget and keep the town's expenses in order. I would like to congratulate all of you for doing an outstanding job with the budget. Towns all around us have raised taxes, water and sewer rates as much as 15%. You have found ways to support our budget, even though we might not always agree on the decisions we make. We also represent the Town of Prosperity and it is our responsibility to support it. I would like to say Thank You to everyone in helping.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman that we adjourn at 8:37 pm; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

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Andrea F. Cantrell  
Town Administrator