

MINUTES
Town Council Meeting
August 18, 2009
7:00 PM.

Council Attendance: Mayor Larry Spotts, Councilmen: G.W. Dawkins, Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Derek Underwood
Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Craig Nelson, Police Chief and Fred Sexton, Utility Director , Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney, and Timothy Savidge, Bufkin Law Firm

Mayor Spotts called the regular meeting to order and asked Councilman Underwood to open with prayer.

Mayor Spotts stated that the 2010 Census needs to be added to the Agenda under New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes to be approved. He presented the minutes from the July 21, 2009 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2009 Regular Council Meeting for approval; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

No one signed up to speak.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Fire & Rescue: Councilman Hawkins reported on some power outages and repairs made throughout town. He further reported that trees are hanging dangerously close to the power lines and we may want to think about hiring a tree service to cut the limbs. He asked Mr. Sexton and Ms. Livingston to look into getting bids for the project. Mr. Hawkins stated that budget line items were in line with the new numbers however, the transformers line item are high due to the Grace Church Project. Mayor Spotts stated that the Army is scheduled to clear the lines as a training exercise in September or October.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings: Mr. Dawkins stated that all railroad crossings have been paved and the new garbage truck has been repaired under warranty. He further stated that Pearl Street patchwork has been completed by the SCDOT this week and that

bids for the ADA Ramp Project will be taken beginning in December and the project should start in January or February.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that there are five line items that are high on the new budget in water and sewer; oil and lube, lift station repair, professional services, and work on park well. He further stated that this is the new budget year and there was nothing new to report.

Police Department: Chief Nelson stated that the police department would direct traffic at Prosperity Rikard School the first few days of school and for early release as requested for the remainder of the school year. He further stated that he was waiting on grants.

Recreation, Parks and Parade: Councilman Gallman is under the weather due to a dental procedure so Ms. Livingston is reporting. Ms. Livingston reported that the Dixie Youth baseball field is under renovation. The fence is being replaced and an irrigation system is being installed. The Town will have some labor cost involved. The float shed has been completed except for the finishing gate on the front. The Parade Committee is being given Three Hundred Dollars to repair the float.

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

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin has no report at this time.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston reported that the Prosperity Business Association is in attendance tonight to address the challenge of parking in the square. Discussion followed. This item is to be added to the agenda for September for further discussion.

The sidewalk repairs have received favorable reports from the merchants. Councilman Hawkins stated that he had an engineering firm coming to look at the downtown sidewalks to aid us in writing grants for renovations.

Marlene Spurgin, Business Support Services Owner, commented on the parking as did Tony, Owner of Roma's Pizza.

OLD BUSINESS:

Property Update on Buildings and Citations: Ms. Livingston thanked the Newberry Observer for printing the article concerning the abandoned cars and that a letter would be sent out on September 1 for violators.

Rental of Parks and Ball Fields: Ms. Livingston stated that with the help of Mr. Savidge, a festival event application has been compiled with a stipulation that each festival organizer will provide a certificate of insurance with the Town of Prosperity shown as an additional insured. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to allow Wildlife Banquet to rent the facilities on September 10, 2009; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Update on Bids on Circuits and Fuses: Mayor Spotts stated that Duke Energy went up on the approved bid to \$27,000 and asked that we take a look at awarding the bid to McCall-Thomas Engineering and ratifying the vote from last month.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to accept the bid from McCall-Thomas for \$3900.00 for circuit sectionalizing study and ratify the vote from last month; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Prosperity's Hoppin' Update: The festival was great and there is not enough thanks for everyone who helped. We had over 100 runners. We profited 2800+ for next year's festival. Ms. Livingston reported that the festival would be a one-day festival with local entertainment performing Friday night before the headline band.

NEW BUSINESS:

Service Award Recognition: Stanley Dominick was recognized for 15 years of service. Mayor Spotts presented Stanley with a certificate.

Swear in Election Commission: Mayor Spotts stated that Ms. Neva Risivich was unable to attend the council meeting but will be sworn in at a later date.

Census Bureau 2010: Mayor Spotts introduced Bob Gabbard with the US Census Bureau. Mr. Gabbard introduced the 2010 Census procedure to Council and to solicit help to get the word out to the public that this is a complete short form census. Mr. Gabbard stated that there are list of items that can be done to help the Census 2010 team to get the word out and encourage them to come to the BE COUNTED CENTERS as well as send in their forms.

Mr. Gabbard asked that a representative from Prosperity be part of the County Census Committee by calling Laurie Renwick, Clerk to County Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Spotts announced an executive session is needed for a legal update on Personnel Matters in the Police Department.

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that Police Department sickness and injuries were discussed during executive session. Mayor Spotts stated that as a result of these discussions the following motions were made.

A MOTION by Councilman Hawkins to create a temporary light duty position for employees who are unable to perform regular duty as noted by a licensed health care provider; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that we would be short some officers and he had talked with the Sheriff's office about contracting some officers for Twenty-Five Dollars per hour.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to contract with Newberry County Sheriff's office to contract officers for Twenty Five Dollars per hour until Town officers are back at work and healthy; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Underwood stated that due to the turnover in our police department, and the anticipation of grant funding he would like to see us approve to hire a third officer.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to support the theory of hiring a certified officer as funding becomes available; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved by a vote of 3 yea and 2 nea (Mayor Spotts and Councilman Dawkins).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Mayor Spotts and Council thanked Ms. Karen for the hard work with Hoppin'.

Mayor Spotts stated that the Town Council would be hosting the Governmental Association Meeting Monday, August 31st in Prosperity.

Mayor Spotts also thanked the Utility Department for cleaning up before and after Hoppin'

Remember, this is your town and let's keep it clean.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator