

MINUTES
December 16, 2008
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; Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney, Tim Savidge, Bufkin Law Firm, Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Chief Craig Nelson, Prosperity Police Department

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts stated that there are two sets of minutes to be approved. He presented the minutes from the November 18, 2008 regular meeting and the minutes for the special called Town Council Meeting on December 11, 2008 for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting and the December 11, 2008 meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There were no citizens who signed in to speak.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins thanked the electrical department for their work before, during and after the parade. The parade went off without a hitch and we should start the shed project soon. There are a few lights that need to be repaired. The budget looks good we are still running behind with revenue vs. expenses in the electrical department. Councilman Hawkins asked that the Town Council keep Mark and Karen Bowers in their prayers as they go through the difficult time during the death of their nephew.

Mr. Hawkins thanked Cub Scout Pack 400 for their help planting trees around Town.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Mr. Dawkins stated that sidewalk work has been done for the past two Sundays and will continue. Mr. Dawkins asked Ms.

Livingston to comment on the handicap ramp on Elm Street. Ms. Livingston stated that she is working with the owners of the property beside the dry cleaners to create some handicap parking due to the current ramp being too steep for wheelchair customers to use. Ms. Livingston will get with Mr. Bufkin and work out the particulars.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that the weekly reports were received by everyone and other than the usual sewer line jettings we had a truck for a transmission repair and a fitting for a pump that had to be ordered. Our water and sewer budget is in line with the exception of a few line items that have already been addressed in previous meetings.

Police Department: Chief Nelson stated that he will be attending the eighth circuit LEN Program luncheon where Prosperity will be in the running for one of 16 Dodge Chargers that are to be given away for participating and reporting in all months of the program. Prosperity Police Department has already been awarded a participation prize of a fully stocked checkpoint trailer complete with cones and LED lights.

Councilman Underwood asked if sobriety check points have been scheduled for the holiday season. Chief Nelson stated that at this time there were no scheduled checkpoints, however, he was working with the Sheriff Department and Whitmire PD to try and get some thing scheduled. Chief Nelson also stated that the reserve program would be started up in March.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman stated that there was not much going on in recreation this time of year.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton stated that he had nothing at this time. Councilman Gallman thanked Fred and the Utility Department for their repair of the retaining wall behind Bowers BP and repairing the manhole on Langford Street.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin stated that he had some things to discuss during the scheduled executive session.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston reported that the meeting held with Mr. Bennie Bennett, Sheriff Lee Foster, Chief Craig Nelson, Ms. Jenny Rohland, Councilman Chad Hawkins, Principal Tim Lyden, Kevin McLaughlin and herself very successful, the outcome was that the Newberry County School would assume the responsibility for the traffic control at Prosperity Rikard School beginning January 1, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Buildings and Citations: We have two active summonses to be heard in January court on the Potato House and McNeary Street properties. The Elm Street property on the square is looking much better and will continue to be monitored until the project is complete. Discussion followed as to what can be done with the Argo and Chinese Restaurant Property. Both of these properties are not the common clean-

up/abatement category but rather fall into the category of health hazard. Several suggestions were made and Ms. Livingston and Mr. Bufkin will work together to see if a health inspector or fire marshal can shed some light on what our next step should be.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Presentation: Ms. Toni McKinley stated that this was a clean unqualified opinion and highlighted several areas of the financials with Council. (Copy Attached) .

Mayor Spotts reiterated that the audit was clean and unqualified and thanked Ms. McKinley for their service and looks forward to working with McKinley Cooper next year for the audit.

Tire Disposal Fee From Newberry County Transfer Station: Mayor Spotts stated that we are now being charged for tire disposal and we need to make a decision whether we want to pass these charges on to the citizens. Discussion followed.

Mayor Spotts stated that at this time we would take this for information and look at the cost during the budget session.

Moving Prosperity Voting Poll to the Civic Center: Mayor Spotts stated that the council is not voting to move the polling location, but only to write the letter. Ms. Livingston stated that she had been approached by the Election Commission to move the voting poll from the Rescue Squad Building to the Civic Center. After checking with Brenda Rogers with the Newberry Voter's Registration, a letter must be written to ask permission to move the polling location. At this time, Ms. Livingston asked for a vote of Council to write the letter to request that the polling location be moved to the Civic Center.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to write the letter to request the polling location be moved from the Rescue Squad to the Civic Center; Seconded by Councilman Gallman so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated a need for an executive session for a legal update and personnel issue in the police department and clerk treasurer administrator position.

A MOTION by Councilman Hawkins to go into executive session; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to come out of executive session; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated that no decision was made in executive session only and update on Newberry Electric Co Op.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts expressed his thanks to the Utility Department for their work to ready the Town for the parade and clean up after the parade. He also thanked Ms. Karen for the employee meal and wished the entire Town and Council a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season.

Mayor Spotts asked that everyone keep the underprivileged people in our thoughts during the Holiday Season and was joined in that thought by Mr. Bufkin who asked that the Boys Farm be in everyone's thoughts throughout the year.

Mayor Spotts ended the meeting with reminding everyone that this is your town and please do your part to keep it clean.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator