

MINUTES
January 20, 2009
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 Reverend Kirk Bellesen, with Hannah African Methodist Episcopal Church to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Hank Bufkin asked to add two items to the Agenda. He asked to add item 7a, which will be a vote after the executive session and the fire station to be addressed in open session. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to add item 7a. to the Agenda

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to add item 7a to the Agenda of the January 20, 2009 meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes to be approved. He presented the minutes from the December 16, 2008 regular meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 meeting; seconded by Councilman Gallman 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 stated that the budget is looking good. Mr. Hawkins has arranged through Kevin O'Donnell to have an engineer work with Fred to gauge the efficiency of our line and system and make recommendations as to what needs to be done to help the Town. The Parade Committee will get together and set a date to assemble the float shed.

Councilman Underwood commended Chad Hawkins and Karen Livingston for looking at the budget numbers and finding the dollars that are needed to keep us going.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Mr. Dawkins stated that the packer truck is in the shop in need of repair. The sidewalk tile project will be done when the weather gets warmer.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated all looks good in the water and sewer budget. Normal monthly repairs and jettings were completed as well as we repaired Cedar Drive with gravel that had washed out and a fire hydrant needs repairing at the fire department on McNery Street. Mr. Sexton stated that Bishop Fire Hydrant Repair has been contacted and will be here soon to repair.

Police Department: Chief Nelson stated that all was running good. Ms. Livingston stated that traffic control at Prosperity Rikard School was done for early release and we were glad to help out when asked.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman asked Fred to talk with the County and see if they can cut a swell ditch at the little ball field. Mr. Gallman announced the registration through the County as January 15 through February 18 for all spring sports including Dixie Youth and Dixie Boys baseball, T-Ball, Coaches Pitch, and Soccer Academy..

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton stated that he had nothing at this time.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin reported on the Fire Department and the ongoing transfer of the property to Newberry County. He has two other items to discuss but will wait until they come up on the agenda.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston reported that the letter to the voter's registration concerning the moving of the polling place to Town Hall had been written and the Election Commission had come and toured the facility and we will be notified if the change is to take place. Float shed poles are set and we have been removing meters that are not being read and storing them in the warehouse.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Buildings and Citations: We have two active summonses and both properties are looking better. Ms. Livingston stated that old Chinese Restaurant is unlocked and has been sold at the tax sale. The police department needs to know who the key holder is so arrangements can be made to secure the building. The Argo Building was not purchased through the delinquent tax sale. Ms. Livingston stated that she is researching to see when the property will go back up for sale or if bids can be accepted on the property since the original sale date.

Mr. Gallman asked about the Pool Hall and Café property. Ms. Livingston stated that the Council would have to make a decision as to how to enforce the ordinances. The ordinance that citations are written under is for debris and unsightly property, which neither of these properties falls under. Mr. Bufkin stated that we need some assistance from the fire department as to the depth of hazard to the community. Ms. Karen was charged with contacting Keith Minick from Newberry Fire Department and see what could be done.

Update on Grant to Replace Windows in Town Center: Scott Green was contacted and the windows should be delivered tomorrow and project should start Monday and be completed by the end of February.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Committees: Mayor Spotts announced that it was time to make appointments to committees for 2009. The appointments are as follows:

Mr. Hawkins – Electrical, Fire, & Rescue
Mr. Gallman - Recreation, Parks and Parade
Mr. Dawkins – Sanitation, Streets & Buildings
Mr. Underwood – Water and Sewer
Ms. Livingston – Town Administrator

Handicap Access to Elm Street: Mr. Bufkin passed out the tax cards and an aerial photograph of the property in question. After discussion, Mr. Bufkin informed Council that there might be an issue that we need to research concerning chemicals in the ground from the dry cleaner. Mr. Bufkin will research and report to Council next month. Councilman Underwood recommended looking into the Superfund.

First Reading of ordinance ratifying annexation of Prosperity Rikard School: Mr. Bufkin reported that throughout our dealings with the Newberry Electric CoOp an issue has come up with the annexation of the Prosperity Rikard School and it appears that the annexation was done properly, however, the annexation paperwork and ordinance was not filed with the proper offices. An ordinance has been drafted and is ready for a first reading. Mayor Spotts asked for a motion to have a first reading on the ordinance to ratify the annexation of Prosperity Rikard School

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to accept the first reading of the ordinance ratifying the annexation of Prosperity Rikard School; Seconded by Councilman Hawkins so approved unanimously.

Mayor Spotts stated a need for an executive session for a legal update.

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 Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mr. Bufkin asked that the Council would take a vote on the existing working agreement and to take a vote to affirmative support of the working agreement, which was discussed in executive session.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to support the agreement; Seconded by Councilman Gallman so approved unanimously.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Remind everybody that we are starting a new year and during these tough economic times that all of the departments work together.

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

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