

MINUTES
March 17, 2009
Public Hearing
6:45pm
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, Craig Nelson, Police Chief, Fred Sexton, Utility Director

Mayor Spotts called the public hearing to order and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to hear public comment on a comprehensive ordinance to acquire and transfer property at the fire station to Newberry County. Since no public was present for input, the hearing was closed at 6:50 pm.

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 is one set of minutes to be approved. He presented the minutes from the February 17, 2009 regular meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Diane Folden owner of Diane's Stable Steak House asked to serve beer at the annual Prosperity's Hoppin' Festival. Mayor Spotts asked that this item be added to the agenda for the April Meeting for discussion.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Fire & Rescue: Councilman Hawkins stated the budget was ahead in both revenues and expenditures in the electrical department. Hawkins then thanked the utility department for restoring power as fast as they did after the train wreck on March 12th.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings: Mr. Dawkins stated that the streets would be cleaned and the sidewalks washed down and the sidewalks will be cleaned as well starting next week. Mr. Dawkins stated that sidewalk grants have been prepared for S. Main to Miller Street Apt, an ADA compliant ramp on Elm Street, sidewalk to Prosperity Rikard School from Grace Street, and Brown Street to Williamswood. Mr. Allen asked about the railroad cross bars on Brown Street but not on Hwy 391. Councilman Hawkins stated that CSX is in the process of putting the cross arms up on Main Street and Hwy 391. The arms should be up within two months. Discussion followed concerning the cross arms and track repairs.

Mayor Spotts asked about the tile on Main Street availability and was told by Mr. Sexton that we currently have them in the warehouse and if needed they were readily available.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood reviewed the weekly reports and talked about the aging motors on the lift stations. Councilman Underwood shared the estimates on the motors with council and asked council to consider purchasing a spare motor. Mr. Bufkin asked if rebuilding motors was an option and was told that it has become more expensive to rebuild than to purchase a new motor.

Mr. Sexton stated the need for new lift stations throughout Town.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to purchase the lower bid motor; seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Underwood ended his report by stating that the budget line items are in line.

Police Department: Mayor Spotts welcomed Chief Nelson back from his illness. Chief Nelson thanked the Sherriff's Department for their help during his recent illness and acknowledged them for looking after the Town when there was not an officer on duty. Mrs. Livingston stated that an ad for a certified officer was running and hopefully we will be able to hire one. Chief Nelson has also started his reserve training.

Recreation, Parks and Parade: Councilman Gallman stated that Dixie Baseball, T-Ball, Coaches Pitch and Girls' Softball registrations have closed and practice will be starting soon. Mr. Gallman stated that Mr. West has not given an update on the float shed. Mayor Spotts asked Mr. Gallman to take a look at the dead trees in the parking lot and report next month recommendations as to cutting the trees.

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

Town Attorney: Mr. Savidge stated that there are two items to update the Mayor and Council and both are later in the agenda. He also stated that the Stafford claim is being negotiated by the insurance claim he further stated that the Daniel Hare appeal had been heard and Mr. Hare has lost his appeal in Central Court, however, Mr. Hare is going to appeal his case to the supreme court.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston stated that Royce Bundrick has been called up to serve in the National Guard in Iraq and as a result we have hired a temporary person.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Buildings and Citations: The Potato House property is looking much better, however we do need to take the backhoe and clean up the massive pile of debris left behind from the cleanup.

Fire Inspection Report: The Prosperity Fire Department does not want to conduct the property checks and suggested we use the county building inspector. Ms. Livingston stated that she would get with Mr. Bufkin and see what we can do to put more bite in our ordinance and/or appoint someone within the administration to conduct safety inspections. Mayor Spotts asked that we add this to the agenda next month for an update.

Update on Handicap Access and parking behind Elm Street Buildings: Ms. Livingston stated that grants have been written and we are hopeful that the Town will get one.

Second Reading of an Comprehensive ordinance to acquire and transfer property at fire station to Newberry County: Mayor Spotts presented the second reading of an Comprehensive ordinance to acquire and transfer property at fire station to Newberry County.

MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve second reading of a Comprehensive ordinance to acquire and transfer property at fire station to Newberry County; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Railroad Crossing Repair: Ms. Livingston reported on this subject in Administrators report.

First Reading of Ordinance to Close State Road S36-583 at Prosperity Fire Station: Mayor Spotts presented the first reading of an ordinance to close state road S36-583 at the Prosperity Fire Station.

MOTION by Councilman Hawkins to approve first reading of an ordinance to close state road S36-583 at the Prosperity Fire Station; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and 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.

Town of Prosperity Council Meeting
March 17, 2009

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 and all that was discussed was the 1360 action by the NEC.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts stated that the truck train accident could have been much worse and he thanked all the business owners, Sherriff's Department and Town Personnel for their work during the outage.

Pride in Prosperity will be held on May 2, 2009.

Remember, this is your Town and please do your part to **KEEP PROSPERITY CLEAN.**

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator