

MINUTES
May 20, 2008
Public Hearing
6:45 PM
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; Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Tim Savidge, Bufkin Law Firm, Craig Nelson, Police Chief

Administrative Absence: Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney

Mayor Spotts called the public hearing to order and stated the budget was the only subject on the agenda for the public hearing. With no questions or comment from the public; the public 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.

Mayor Spotts recognized County Councilman Mike Hawkins and Benjie Chapman who were in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OPEN SESSION:

No citizens signed up to speak during Open Session.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during the birth of his third son, Will, and recovery of his wife, Kelly. He stated his appreciation for everyone's thoughts and prayers during this special time in the life of his family. Councilman Hawkins stated that the utility department had done some tree trimming on Armfield Street and throughout Town. The light at the NAPA store was repaired. The parade committee will be meeting on June 1, 2008. Councilman Hawkins stated that the power was out in Town for 3+ hours on Saturday due to a transformer blow out in the Duke substation. The

budget line item special contract with Duke Power is running 100 per cent and we will be over spent for the year due to rising cost passed on to us from Duke Energy.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Mr. Dawkins stated he had no report however he mentioned that Fred's crew would be repairing some tile on the sidewalk on Sunday morning. Councilman Gallman asked that Main Street be swept once a month. Fred stated that they clean the streets every three months as needed. Ms. Livingston asked that the sidewalks on North Main be sprayed for weeds since many citizens use the sidewalks. Councilman Hawkins stated that the Post Office traffic reroute will be done Monday, May 26, 2008. The traffic will enter and exit on Main and only exit on Brown Street.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood stated that several budget line items are up, however, the overage has been documented as repairs to lift stations, etc. Councilman Underwood stated that he would be out of state and absent for the July Town Council meeting.

Police Department: Chief Nelson reported 5 arrests with 17 counts. Eighty-eight tickets have been written for June Court. As of January we have arrested 27 people.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman thanked Fred and his crew for cutting the grass at the parks. Councilman Hawkins noted that Mr. Mills from Hamm Hardware was donating tennis nets to the Town of Prosperity. Ms. Livingston stated that Debbie Murphy would teach an art camp on June 9-13 and 23-27

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton had no report.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin was absent due to a prior engagement. Tim Savidge reported that the first reading on the fire station was still moving forward and hopefully would be ready for the next council meeting.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston stated that she and Fred talked with Lori Longshore about trimming some trees on the sidewalk in front of her shop. The insurance company of the people that hit us has replaced Fred's truck. Town Offices will be closed on May 26 for Memorial Day.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Property Ordinance Action Plans: Action Plans were late being held out but will be out later this month. Two citations will be written to property owners for June Court.

NEW BUSINESS

Swearing in of Chief Nelson: Mayor Spotts stated that it is his pleasure to swear in Craig Nelson as Prosperity's new Chief of Police. Chief Nelson asked his father, Lonnie

Nelson, to hold the bible while he read his oath after which time his wife Suzanne pinned his chief chevrons onto his collar.

First Reading of 2008-2009 Budget: Mayor Spotts stated that we need a first reading of the 2008-2009 budget. The Town Budget is \$414,300.00 and the Utility Budget is \$1,459,455.00.

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to approve the first reading of the 2008-2009 budget; seconded by Councilman Gallman so approved unanimously.

First Reading to amend ordinances related to utility rate increases: Mayor Spotts stated that there is a need for a first reading to amend ordinances related to utility rate increases, and called for the reading. The water rate will increase 4.5 per cent due to Newberry County Water and Sewer rate increases. The electric rate will increase 8 percent due to the cost of Duke Power.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the first reading to amend ordinances related to utility rate increases; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Prosperity Depot Update: Mike Bedenbaugh brought information before council that the Palmetto Trust will get the building donated to them; the building will have to be moved off the 100-foot right of way of the railroad. Which means it will have to be moved 26 feet away from the track toward Jenny and Earle Bedenbaugh's place. When the building is moved, there is a lease of \$100.00 per year. Mr. Bedenbaugh has requested that a committee be formed to oversee the movement of the depot to ensure that it stays in the square. The condition of the depot is restorable. Mike Bedenbaugh also passed out some information on the downtown district being designated a historic district. Discussion followed. Mayor Spotts stated that all discussion would be taken for information by council at this time.

Sidewalk Resolution: Mayor Spotts presented the sidewalk resolution for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the sidewalk resolution; seconded by Councilman Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mileage Rate Reimbursement for 08-09-budget year: Mayor Spotts stated that there is a need to increase the mileage rate reimbursement in accordance with the South Carolina State Rate for 08-09 budget year from .445 to .505 per mile.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the 08-09 mileage reimbursement rate of .505 per mile; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts reminded Council that Office Personnel are not your personal secretary to do your research and asked that if you have a rough draft that needs fine-tuning or research to be done, please do what you can on your own before asking the office staff.

Mayor Spotts reminded Council also of Ordinance 31.4F stating that council should go through the Town Administrator instead of directly to a department head with request.

Prosperity is the fifth cheapest city in the SCAMPS system for electricity.

Mayor Spotts thanked all the folks that came out for the Pride in Prosperity trash pickup. Nineteen bags of trash were picked up.

Our Police Department is fully staffed and we are almost back to 24-hour service.

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

A MOTION by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator