

MINUTES
Special Called Town Council Meeting
May 27, 2009
6:00 PM.

Council Attendance: Mayor Larry Spotts, Councilmen: G.W. Dawkins, Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Derek Underwood

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Timothy Savidge, Bufkin Law Firm, Craig Nelson, Police Chief, Fred Sexton, Utility Director

Administrative Absence: Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts called the Special Called Town Council Meeting to order and asked Councilman Gallman to open the meeting with prayer.

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one item to address tonight; the discussion and decision on a franchise fee to NEC customers located in the town limits.

Councilman Hawkins stated that he would start since he is the reason for the called meeting. Mr. Hawkins stated that this needed to be discussed and read a letter from Mr. Bennie Bennett, Superintendent of Newberry County School District. (Attached). After reading the letter discussion followed as to whether a franchise fee should be waived for the Prosperity Rikard School. Mr. Hawkins went on record that he is not in favor of imposing a franchise fee on any non-profit organization including, government entities, schools, churches, and civic groups. He further stated that the town has never received revenue from the school for electricity and has never been budgeted. Mayor Spotts stated that for the record, the School District does pay a franchise fee to the Town of Little Mountain collected by South Carolina Electric and Gas. Mr. Hawkins stated that SCEG was not a government entity. Discussion followed concerning the City of Newberry vs. the School District. No information was available about who they do not pay a franchise fee to, he only knew who they did. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Hawkins to word the franchise fee ordinance to impose a five percent (5%) residential franchise fee on electricity and a seven percent (7%) franchise fee on electricity to non-residential excluding all property owned by the School District of Newberry County; seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Underwood clarified that the only exemption is the School District of Newberry County and no other civic organization.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Karen L. Livingston, Town Administrator