

MINUTES
September 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, Craig Nelson, Police Chief

Administrative Absence: Fred Sexton, Utility Director

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 August 19, 2008 regular meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Timothy Lyden, Principal, Prosperity Rikard Elementary School addressed the council concerning traffic issues at the school. Mr. Lyden would like to see our officer direct traffic each morning between 7:32 am and 7:40 am when the traffic is backed up. Mayor Spotts asked Chief Nelson to direct traffic each morning unless he is on a call. Chief Nelson agreed to do this.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Hawkins commented about the seventeen hour power outage we had in Prosperity earlier in the month. He stated that Ms. Livingston was working on a disaster recovery plan to better communicate with our customers should there be another power outage. Different phases are being labeled to reduce the possibility of an outage. The utility department has continued to trim trees. He pointed out that the budget is over in capital additions as well poles and crossarms. Ms. Livingston pointed out that the capital addition expense was the line truck purchase that was not budgeted and was taken out of reserves.

The parade committee will meet September 21st. Ms. Livingston stated that the parade entry forms have been put online and at least ten have been picked up from the lobby. Councilmen Underwood asked if the recovery plan was in written form; Ms. Livingston stated that the plan would be distributed when it was complete. The recovery plan will include various plans for various scenarios. Mr. Gallman stated that he had talked with Mr. Herbert about helping with the float shed. Councilman Hawkins stated that the Parade Committee would discuss the float shed at the meeting.

Sanitation, Streets, & Buildings Departments: Mr. Dawkins stated he had no report however he asked Councilman Underwood and Hawkins to report on the CTC. Discussion followed about getting a figure that the Town could match and apply it to the priority list to let the CTC know which project we could match the funds twenty per cent. Councilman Gallman asked about paving Washington Street. Discussion followed concerning paving roads. Mr. Bufkin stated that a formula was used by the CTC to determine which streets were paved. The mayor added that several streets have been given to the CTC in the past.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Underwood noted that there were a couple of budget items that were over for the month, however they should work out to balance with the approved budget for the year.

Police Department: Chief Nelson reported that Ms. Cathleen Dennis' house burned last night and she passed away as a result. Chief Nelson stated that they are writing tickets with discretion and the officers are taking advantage of many training opportunities. Chief Nelson commented on some new procedures that the police department is implementing. Councilman Underwood stated that he was proud that we were going to start directing traffic at the school. Mayor Spotts reiterated that we would only direct traffic if there were no other calls and we were not committing to traffic control every day. At this time, Ms. Livingston asked for an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

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

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

Mayor Spotts stated that he thought the Chief was doing a great job and he supported him and the department one hundred percent. Councilman Hawkins reiterated what Mayor Spotts stated and added that in light of the two young officers we have do we have the resources we need to handle the open cases on record. He then asked if Chief Nelson and Ms. Livingston could work together and come up with a plan to utilize the resource we have and possibly use our greatest resource, Benji Sease to work on reducing the pending cases. Ms. Livingston stated that she and Nelson would take a look at it and come up with a plan. Chief Nelson stated that he needed an investigator.

Recreation and Parks Department: Councilman Gallman stated that there was not much going on except soccer registration and football registration. Mr. Gallman brought up the possibility of building a concession stand and replacing the roof on the dugouts on the Dixie Youth Field. Mr. Gallman also asked Mr. Bufkin to check and see if we can hire someone to write grants and pay them from the grant proceeds.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton is out and Ed West gave the report on behalf of Mr. Sexton. Mr. West reported that a generator would be hooked up in the Town Hall; Stanley Dominick is in lineman school. Mr. Gallman complimented the utility department on their good work throughout Town. Councilman Underwood asked when the lights would be taken out of the park from Hoppin' and was told it was on the to do list and would be taken care of as soon as possible.

Town Attorney: Tim Savidge reported that the Wilson case is in the discovery phase and depositions are upcoming in that case. The fire station transfer is underway. A meeting was held with Mr. Adams, County Administrator, the County Attorney, and John David Dawkins to tour the proposed site for the parking lot and transfer of property.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston expressed her condolences to the family of Ms. Cathleen Dennis and thanked the fire department for their fast response to the fire. Ms. Livingston stated that a generator had been purchased for Town Hall that runs off butane instead of gasoline. The police department was awarded a five hundred dollar grant by the Alcohol Enforcement Team. The line truck has been purchased for \$1000.00 under the budgeted amount of (\$20,000). A Dodge Charger was purchased for the police department for \$15,868.

Councilman Hawkins asked about the competitive grant award we received and was told that we have not received the check but it should be here anytime.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Property Ordinance Action Plans: We have two active summonses to be heard in October court on the Potato House and McNeary Street properties.

Painting of Fire Lane on Pearl Street: Councilman Hawkins suggested that the Fire Department be furnished the paint to paint the lane. Council agreed and Mr. Hawkins will inform the fire department.

Ordinance on Fine for Rundown Buildings: Put on the agenda for next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Smoking Ban Presentation: Tyler Ellis, a third year medical student, working with Dr. Lovelace presented to Council a recommended ordinance for a smoking ban. Council took the presentation as information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts thanked Duke Energy for their help during the power outage as well as thanks to Newberry Electric Co Op for their help and use of a recloser to get the Town up and running.

Mayor Spotts stated that the Hoppin' Festival was well organized and thanked Ms. Karen and her staff for their hard work to make the festival a success. He noted that the rain may have kept some folks away Friday night, however, we managed to sell out of frog legs.

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

Councilman Underwood thanked Councilman Hawkins for his help during the outage. Mr. Hawkins came out and worked with the utility department during the outage.

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