

MINUTES  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
PROSPERITY, SC 29127  
November 14, 2005  
6:00 PM

Council Members Attendance: Mayor Bruce Connelly, Councilmen Allen Gallman, G.W. Dawkins, Larry Spotts & Derek Underwood

General Attendance: Andrea Cantrell, Town Administrator; Melissa Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer; Chief Benji Sease; and Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney.

Councilman Allen Gallman opened with prayer.

**Define Mayor's Job Duties and Responsibilities:** Mayor Connelly stated that this meeting was called to define the Mayor's responsibilities so that every employee would know exactly where they stand throughout the rest of the 2005 year. This meeting is the result of questions posed by the Mayor-Elect last Friday morning. He stated that no changes would be made in the Towns procedures through the year 2005 unless Council chooses to do so. Mayor Connelly read the following prepared speech:

“We as Americans have watched world events in the past few years since 9/11 with a new eye, one bent on trying to understand why some people would so hate us that they have dedicated their lives to destroying others' lives. In that time, we have learned that the militant Muslims that have committed themselves to terrorist lives absolutely hate our freedom. It's been discovered that one of the things that they hate is that we can have different people, different parties and even different belief systems, and yet our type of government marches on. I've read that they simply cannot comprehend how we can have such a smooth transition of power when we change over leaders after free elections. It happens at all levels: federal, state, and local. It happens because our forefathers created the document called the U.S. Constitution, that when applied along with the Declaration of Independence and our other founding documents, has created almost 230 years of the longest standing constitutional republic in history. Contrary to popular teaching, we don't live in a “democracy” but in a republic. Article 4, section 4 of our Constitution guarantees that we have a representative republic form of government at all levels in America. That Constitution gives us a set of guidelines and rules that we all can follow. The idea also carries with it a responsibility, one that we all share. We get to vote in the people of our choice and the people have spoken here in Prosperity. That guarantee also requires class and honor on the part of all the participants, class and integrity on the part of the outgoing administration and class and integrity on the part of the incoming administration. If Prosperity were in some other country where turnover only happens with a military revolt or coup, we would expect harassment, intimidation and low class behavior on the part of the winners of the last election, but since we have rules and class and honor, we won't have to endure that here. Our rules are simple, and anyone can

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follow them, as long as they adhere to the idea of integrity. We often can witness the actions of either the outgoing or incoming administrations and know whether or not they have the class needed to operate a successful administration. We're going to follow the rules of order and ensure that this town remains dignified and continues on in the American tradition of smooth and problem-free transitions. The new administration has no authority until it actually takes office in January. Therefore, until the new mayor gets sworn in, the new administration does not begin. Let there be no confusion, neither the new Mayor nor myself can hire or fire, or make demands of current staff. The current staff still has a responsibility to carry out a job and that job will be done in the same manner that it's been done in the past few years that allowed this town to grow and thrive.

Now that is why we are here tonight. To insure this transition is smooth and with integrity. Just as I have stated everything here is status quo and will be until after December 31, 2005. Last Friday's events that were displayed cannot be accepted especially in this administration of 2005. Employees please note that no changes will be made or accepted through the end of this year. This current Council did set policy and they will continue to set policy for this Town. Neither myself nor the incoming Mayor has the authority to make policy. We don't have the authority to hire or fire anyone. Only this Council has that authority. It is the responsibility of the Mayor to enforce policy not create it.

There you have it. Now we already have one of the best run organizations in the Country for a Town our size. And you didn't just hear that from me, you heard it from several attorneys that are reputable in this County. No one in his right mind should want to change what is already the best.

Please note again that the incoming Mayor has no power until he is sworn in. Then he can only operate as you the Council will allow him to do so."

Mayor Connelly then asked for questions. Mr. Bufkin asked for permission to speak. Mayor Connelly recognized him to speak. Mr. Bufkin stated that he had reviewed the Town ordinances for the proper rules and regulations. He presented Council with a memo and a copy of the section of the ordinances that he had reviewed.

Mr. Bufkin reviewed the ordinances labeled "Town Administration" with Council. He stated that in paragraph 30.04, subsection "B" it states the following: Newly elected officers shall take office January 1 following the general election. In case the results of the election are contested, the incumbent who fills that contested office shall hold over until the contest is finally determined. Mr. Bufkin then congratulated Councilman Spotts for winning the election. He went on to explain that this ordinance reviewed basically means that during the next meeting Council can set a special called meeting for January 1<sup>st</sup> to swear in the new Mayor. He stated that in addition to this there would be questions regarding the vacancy on Council. This will be resolved with a special election. Mr. Bufkin stated that it is clear that the existing Mayor and Council will stay in place until January 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that he would be glad to answer any questions.

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Mayor Connelly stated that Council could overrule the Mayor's decision anytime with a simple majority vote. He stated that the floor is open should anyone wish to make a motion that the current policy be changed. No motions were made.

Mayor Connelly stated that Council could also change the form of government in Prosperity with a majority vote. He stated that if Council does not like the leadership of the Mayor they could pass a motion to change the type of government that is in place. Council could request a vote from the people and that would be final. The Council is a powerful body.

Mayor Connelly stated that he would like to hear from each Council member. He posed the question: "Do you wish to continue the policies in place or do you wish to change them between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>."

Mayor Connelly recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Allen Gallman, who has one more year left on his term. Councilman Gallman stated that he would like to continue the policies currently in place. He stated that the current policy is working great and should remain that way. He also stated that he had enjoyed working with Mayor Connelly the past seven years and ten months. He stated that Mayor Connelly shows a great attitude. He stated that he has never come in with demands or intimidation. He stated that Mayor Connelly always listens to Council and lets them make decisions. He stated that he hoped it would continue to be this way.

Mayor Connelly thanked Councilman Gallman for his comments and recognized Councilman Dawkins to speak. Councilman Dawkins stated that he would like to see things stay as they are currently going. He stated that he felt he could work with all of Council and the new Mayor. He stated that he will continue to do what he felt was right at the time. He congratulated Councilman Spotts for being elected as the new Mayor.

Mayor Connelly recognized Councilman Spotts. Councilman Spotts stated to leave things as they are.

Mayor Connelly recognized Councilman Underwood. Councilman Underwood stated that he supported the current policies and the current direction that the Town is headed. He stated that he hoped the transition would be smooth. He stated that he would work with the new Mayor for the betterment of the Town. He stated that he would continue to do what he felt was right and stand by his morals and convictions.

Mayor Connelly thanked each Council member for their comments and integrity. Mayor Connelly directly addressed the Town employees and stated that if they have any questions regarding changes, as he stated in his memo to all of the employees, any changes between now and December 31<sup>st</sup> would come from him in writing. He asked for questions from the Town employees. None were presented.

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Mayor Connelly stated that Prosperity would continue to be a great town because Council is in control. He challenged each Council member to be involved with the employees and the expenditures in the future.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Underwood to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

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Melissa Grubbs  
Clerk/Treasurer