

Minutes
Town Council Meeting
March 21, 2006
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
7:00 PM

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

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Clerk Treasurer; Hank Bufkin, Town Attorney; Benji Sease, Chief of Police; Sgt. Scott Wilson, Prosperity Policeman; Fred Sexton, Utility Director; Sabrina Manning, Recreation Director;

Mayor Spotts called the meeting to order. Councilman Gallman opened the meeting with prayer. Mayor Spotts then welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Spotts stated that there is one set of minutes that need to be approved. He presented the minutes from the February 21, 2006 meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2006 meeting; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Spotts asked if anyone was signed up to speak. Karen Livingston presented the sign in sheet to Mayor Spotts. Mayor Spotts stated that there was several people signed up to speak and each person would have a three-minute time limit.

James Mills was first to speak. He thanked the council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Mills statement was as follows: According to the SC Law 13 60 The Town of Prosperity decided to provide electricity to the shopping center on Hwy 76. According to SC Law 5857- 1360 the town has to pay Newberry Co Op just compensation, which was estimated at that time to be 382,000 dollars. Here is the question. At this time has the town received any contact or notice from the Newberry Co Op about this matter? Mr. Spotts responded that the Town had not received any information or anything from the Co Op. We are still waiting to hear from them. Mr. Mills indicated that he had read on the Internet from the minutes of January 2005 that the Council has opted to supply the power to the shopping center and is concerned that the Co Op will elect to pursue a lawsuit against the Town. Mr. Bufkin stated that the Co Op does have the right to pursue compensation against the Town; however, it is not a forgone conclusion that there will be a lawsuit and hopefully they will not exercise their rights under the law. Mr. Mills stated

that his concern was the best interest and welfare of the Town of Prosperity and that is why he had asked this question.

Chad Connelly was next to speak. He praised our recreation program and thanked Sabrina Manning for the fantastic job that she does. He introduced a group called PROMPT (Positive Role Models for Prosperity Today).

Glenn Hamm, II was next to speak. Mr. Hamm addressed Council about the 1977 fire truck that is going to auction. Mr. Hamm asked that Council take into consideration donating the fire truck to his class at the Newberry County Career Center to use for training. Mayor Spotts told Mr. Hamm that the Truck has been committed to be auctioned in May however, if a bid is received for more than the auctioned price, the council would accept the higher bid.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Electrical, Fire Dept., Parade Comm. & Rescue Squad: Councilman Underwood stated that one of his platforms when he ran for council was that he give the Rescue Squad representation on the council and one thing we did was commit to giving the rescue squad the old fire department building. Mr. Underwood asked that the council consider helping the rescue squad with utilities because the fire department will be given additional utilities consideration during budget planning. At this time he is not making a motion, he is only asking council to consider the rescue squad when the budget numbers are being looked at and hopefully funds will be available for both departments in the next budget year.

Councilman Underwood stated that there was no report from the fire, electrical or parade committees.

Sanitation, Streets, Buildings & Parks Departments: Councilman Dawkins stated that we had gotten our trash truck back. Mayor Spotts asked that a letter be mailed to the City of Newberry to thank them for letting us use their truck. Mr. Dawkins stated that he had received a call from the Highway Department concerning the draining from the Methodist Church to where it goes under the street. The Highway Department is waiting for the area to dry out completely before they begin work to correct this problem. Mr. Dawkins made a suggestion to see if we can do the work on Anderson Drive (Gina Mayes) property ourselves since the Highway Department feels like there is nothing they can do to help this matter. Mayor Spotts asked Fred to call Billy Caldwell and Dale Epting to see if they can give us a price to extend the drainage pipe to the sewer line. Councilman Dawkins stated that he had talked to John Pugh and the drug store will be opening mid to late April. Councilman Dawkins went on to report that we would be using a one-application ant treatment. The tiles on Main Street need to be looked at for replacement. Mr. Dawkins asked that we have an alternative shop to repair lawn mowers etc. The shop we are using takes two – three weeks and that is not acceptable. No motion was made at this time to allow Spotts Tractor to work on town equipment. Mr.

Gallman asked the status of two buildings that were in bad shape, one on Langford Street and The Potato House. Mr. Bufkin stated that the Lang Wise House was being foreclosed probably complete in May. Prosperity Holdings has the mortgage on The Potato House. At this time, the owner is incarcerated and Prosperity Holdings is acting on their behalf. Mr. Bufkin is going to prepare letters for Council's signatures to be sent out to the owners of these abandoned houses.

Water and Sewer: Councilman Gallman complimented Fred Sexton and his crew for the great job they do. Brookside Drive pump station number three had a lift station rebuild and shaft rebuild. The sewer was stopped up on McNeary Street and Langford Street that was corrected in good fashion. A new water tap on Brown Street was completed. Councilman Gallman read excerpts from a letter from DHEC commending our Utility Department on the excellent job they are doing.

Police Department: Chief Sease had no report at this time. Mayor Spotts mentioned that a new scheduled had been implemented during Chief Sease's medical leave so we would have an officer on duty during the day.

Recreation: Ms. Manning stated that the Prosperity Dixie Youth would start their regular season in April with five (5) teams. The Mid-Carolina Dixie Boys will have three (3) teams this year. The programs that are administered by the Town will begin in April as well. This season the Town will have six (6) - T-ball teams for 4-5 year olds, six (6) - Coaches Pitch teams for 6-8 year olds, four (4) Soccer Teams for 4-11 year olds and four (4) Dixie Softball for girls 8-15 year olds. The Softball mini-camp was a big success and Ms. Manning thanked Mr. Murphy and the Lady Rebel Softball team for their help with the Camp. We are looking forward to a great spring season.

Mr. Gallman thanked Ms. Manning for the fantastic job she is doing with recreation and also thanked her husband Gary for the job he does as the president of Mid-Carolina Dixie Boys. Ms. Manning stated that the Dixie Boys baseball schedule will be added to the web site so everyone can come out and support the Nu-Image Baseball team that he coaches.

Utility Department: Mr. Sexton stated that Dean Shealy was to put in the new fuel station and has been contacted three times with no definite date to start the project. Mr. Sexton asked Council if he could get more bids for the moving and security of the fuel tanks. Hank Bufkin stated that if we were not going to use the person that was awarded the bid then we needed to re-bid the project. Mr. Sexton also asked about an ice machine for the new utility building. Fred is to get bids on an ice machine and bring to Council next month.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bufkin addressed a rumor that is circulating about the former mayor and himself holding secret meetings with the Newberry Electric Co-op for the Town of Prosperity to provide power to the new Piggly Wiggly for \$350,000. These rumors are completely false and he encouraged anyone who was spreading the rumors to stop immediately or there would be serious consequences.

Clerk/Treasurer: Ms. Livingston stated that Town Hall salvage brought in \$617.00. Councilman Underwood asked about the YMCA membership drive. Ms. Livingston reported that to date we have three families of town employees that are interested in joining the Y and letters are being drafted for employees to take to the Y to get the 10% discount on membership fees to be deducted from their paycheck.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Livingston stated that two bids for replacement windows for Town Center are not in so this item will be added back to Agenda for April.

Mayor Spotts stated that due to illness, George Harvey Caldwell was unable to attend meeting.

Ms. Livingston stated that Town Employees Observed Sunshine Week, March 12 – 18. During this week all Town Employees reviewed the Freedom of Information Act.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to approve the second reading of the fuel adjustment cost clause; Seconded by Councilman Gallman and so approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Arnold Lingle from Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority read a letter asking council to agree to a three-year commitment to maintain the current sewer rate for the Town for three years from the first date of operation of the new pump station located on Conifer Drive; in return the town agrees to maintain the electrical rates that the Authority pays at this pump station for the three year period.

A MOTION by Councilman Underwood to accept the agreement with Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority as stated in attached letter; Seconded by Councilman Dawkins and so approved unanimously.

Ms. Livingston is to draft a letter accepting the proposal from NCWSA.

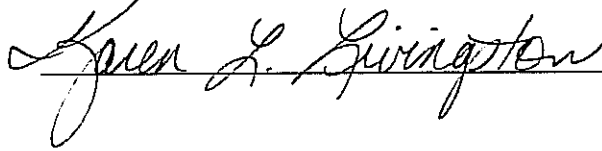
GENERAL INFORMATION

Mayor Spotts announced that SC Association of Municipal Power Systems (SCAMPS) ranked Prosperity fourth lowest provider of electric rates.

Mayor Spotts stated that Weathers Construction had completed all contracted work on the Gym and all that is lacking now is the work committed to by the Auditorium Committee.

Mayor Spotts stated that the Town Council would be attending the Spring SCAMPS meeting/supper in Columbia on Wednesday, March 29.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm; Seconded by Councilman Underwood and so approved unanimously.

 _____ Karen L. Livingston/Clerk Treasurer