

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 18, 2023

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Chad Hawkins, Mike Hawkins, Allen Gallman and Robert Martin.

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer and Wesley Palmore, Police Chief.

Administrative Absence: Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Underwood called the Regular meeting to order and asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from June 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and Minutes from June 27, 2023 Special Called Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve the Minutes from June 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and the Minutes from June 27, 2023 Special Called Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in Open Session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Prosperity Business Association is sponsoring a wine walk on October 21st. She stated there will be a car show on that same night.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there are no updates.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Mrs. Livingston stated they met with Newberry Electric and Carolina Connect and we still have some right of way clearing to do. She stated Expert Tree would be coming back in a couple of weeks because they got called off due to a storm in Chapin that took down some trees. She stated they would be communicating with Comcast and AT&T on moving their lines. Mayor Underwood stated we have received calls from Hamm Hardware, the Gin on 391 and State Farm about AT&T going up on their internet charges for businesses and is interested in getting Carolina Connect at these locations.

Prosperity Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary 1873-2023) Event Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Gala was a fun night. She thanked the Bedenbaugh family for the video of the history of Prosperity. She stated our next event would be the flag contest and the beard contest would be Shopper's Walk night. She stated cookbooks are in and we are selling a lot. She stated Mr. Mike Bedenbaugh is working on updating the history book and has ran into some obstacles so the time will be pushed back. She stated we are hoping to have the book to the publisher by the end of the year to have it published and ready to sale by Hoppin' in May.

Summer Fair:

Mayor Underwood stated there would be radio ads to get the word out. Mrs. Livingston stated the fair would be August 24th through August 27th and they would be setting up on August 20th. Chief Palmore stated we have lots of volunteers and Troop 316 would be parking people.

NEW BUSINESS:

Promotion of Sgt. Philip Hunter:

Chief Palmore presented a certificate and a pin promoting Officer Philip Hunter to Sergeant.

Swearing in of Corporal Corey Jones:

The Oath of Office was presented by Chief Palmore and Corporal Corey Jones recited the Oath as his wife Emily and son Brooks held the Bible.

Retirement Recognition of Connie Johnson, NCSO Victims Advocate:

Chief Palmore recognized Connie Johnson as Employee of the Year for the Town of Prosperity with a certificate and a plaque for her twenty years of service with Newberry County Sheriff's office as Victims Advocate.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated the utility department has been busy and has cleared most all their projects they were behind on. He stated Green Acres Farm will be starting the project at the substation the second week of August.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there were no updates. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the landscaper did a much better job on McNary Street. He stated we have got to do something about the big trucks coming from Main Street to Dominick Street. Discussion followed. Council agreed we need to contact DOT or County on putting up signage for these trucks.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated there were no updates.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated our sports are doing great.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He attended the PBA meeting and meetings on the Fair. He stated they are planning National Night Out which will be August 2nd. He stated they attended a Law Enforcement appreciation lunch at Pleasure Craft Engine who are supportive of our Police Department. Mrs. Livingston stated Trey Townsend is at the Academy and will return the middle of September.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn was absent from the meeting.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston thanked everyone for attending the Gala and thanked the Bedenbaugh family for the video that was shown at the Gala. She stated most of the street signs are up but we are having to order some because we did not get enough. She stated all the equipment is in the Police truck and it is striped. She stated the landscaper will cut the shrubs at the stop sign right across from the Depot because we have had some complaints not being able to see at this location.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilize Fencing at Substation:

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed earlier in the meeting.

Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:

Mrs. Livingston stated the County is in their last days of assigning engineers to do the inflation study. She stated we have no dates at this point but we will need to decide where we want to start with this project first. Discussion followed.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated he was glad to have Corporal Jones back and glad the Chief promoted Hunter to Sergeant. He thanked the Chief for being a great asset to the Police Department. He stated the annual meeting would be next week in Greenville and looked forward to networking with other municipalities.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:39p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer